

Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of the World

TUNISIA

TUNISIA, PROVINCE OTTOMAN EMPIRE TUNISMINT			
8 KHAROUBS	18MM	.835 FINE	1.55 GRAMS

(1865) AH 1282	u/m
(1866) 1283	u/m
(1867) 1284	u/m
(1870) 1287	u/m
(1871) 1288	u/m
(1872) 1289	u/m
(1873) 1290	u/m
(1874) 1291	u/m
(1875) 1292	u/m
(1876) 1293	u/m

^OV: Arabic inscription (Mohamed / Sadok / **Tunis** (mintmark) / AH DATE in arabic) within wreath of laurel tied with ribbon below.

^RV: Arabic inscription (Sultan / Abdul Azia / Khan) within wreath of palm tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **TUNIS** = TUNIS

REFERENCE: C-176, S-17, KM-160

FOOTNOTE: The listings from 1865 through 1891 AD of Tunisia were minted at the Provincial mint at Tunis. With the French administration, starting with 1891 AD all the coins were minted at the Paris mint. Listings are in date order.

FOOTNOTE: Tunis formed part of the Roman province of Africa. In 1575 AD Sinan Pasha conquered and incorporated Tunis with the Ottoman Empire, and gave it a new constitution. The government was placed in the hands of a Turkish Pasha, a divan or council, composed of the officers of the Turkish garrison, and the Commander of the Janizaries. After a few years, however, an insurrection of the soldiery broke out, and a new government was established, the head of which was a "Dey" possessing very limited authority; the chief power being at first exercised by the military divan. Gradually, however, an officer with the title of "Bey", whose original functions were confined to the collection of tribute and taxes, acquired a supremacy over the other authorities and finally obtained a King of sovereignty, which Murad Bey succeeded in making hereditary. The family of Murad Bey ruled Tunis for 100 years, and gained considerable renown both by their conquests on the mainland, and their piratical enterprises against Christian powers at sea. During the 18th Century, it became tributary to Algiers. About the beginning of the 19th Century, Hamuda Pasha threw off the Algerian yoke, subdued the Turkish militia, and created a native Tunisian Army; in consequence of which Tunis virtually attained independence. The rulers, Achmet Bey (1837 AD), Mohammed Bey (1855 AD) and Mohammed Sadok Bey (1859 AD), have proved liberal, enlightened, and reforming sovereigns. By a firman of October 25, 1871 AD, the Sultan renounced the tribute formerly exacted, and fixed the future relations of the Sublime Porte to Tunis. The "Bey" is to receive his investiture from Constantinople; without the Sultan's authority, he can neither declare war, conclude peace, nor cede territory; the Sultan's name must appear on all the coinage; the army must be at the disposal of the Porte. In internal matters, however, the power of the Bey remains absolute. Tunis the capital has population stated at 120,000. *Library of Universal Knowledge, N.Y., 1880.*

TUNISIA, PROVINCE OTTOMAN EMPIRE TUNISMINT			
1/2 PIASTRE/8 KHAROUBS	18MM	.835 FINE	1.52 GRAMS

(1879) AH 1296	u/m
(1880) 1297	u/m
(1881) 1298	u/m

^OV: Arabic inscription (Mohamed / Sadok / **Tunis** (mintmark) / AH DATE in arabic) within wreath of laurel tied with ribbon below.

^RV: Arabic inscription (Sultan / - El Ghazi [1 for denomination] Abdul / Hamid Khan) within wreath of palm tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **TUNIS** = TUNIS

REFERENCE: C-193, S-39, KM-181

FOOTNOTE: The French Protectorate of Tunis dates from May 12, 1881. Before the French came, there were roving nomads who made a business of stealing.

FOOTNOTE: The unit of value of Tunis is the sebili equal to 16 kharoubs which is also known as 1 piastre

FOOTNOTE: Mohammed VI Sadok, Bey (1859-82 AD) is the nominal head of the government, assisted by nine ministers - seven French and two native. There is also the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is the French Resident General. He is virtually the Viceroy. *New International Encyclopedia, 1910.*

FOOTNOTE: Mohammed VI es Sadok, Bey died October 1882 and was succeeded by his brother Ali IV. This Prince reigned until 1902, the throne then passed to his son Mohammed VII, when his cousin Mohammed VIII en Nasr became Bey.

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate) TUNISMINT			
1/2 PIASTRE/8 KHAROUBS	18MM	.835 FINE	1.6 GRAMS

(1882) AH 1299	u/m
----------------	-----

^OV: Arabic inscription (Struck / in / **Tunis** (mintmark) / AH 1299 in arabic) within wreath of laurel tied with ribbon below.

^RV: Arabic inscription (Mohamed / Sadok / Bey) within wreath of palm tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **TUNIS** = TUNIS

REFERENCE: Y-1, S-46, KM-201

FOOTNOTE: Tunisia was a French Protectorate from 1881 until 1956 when it became an independent sovereign state.



1885 - AH1302 - 1/2 PIASTRE - OBV

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate)
TUNISMINT

1/2 PIASTRE/8 KHAROUBS 18MM .835 FINE 1.6 GRAMS

(1883) AH 1300	u/m
(1884) 1301	u/m
(1885) 1302	u/m
(1886) 1303	u/m
(1887) 1304	u/m
(1888) 1305	u/m
(1889) 1306	u/m
(1890) 1307	u/m
(1891) 1308	u/m

^OV: Arabic inscription (Struck / in / **Tunis** (mintmark) / AH DATE in arabic) within wreath of laurel tied with ribbon below.

^RV: Arabic inscription (Ali Mudah / Bey) within wreath of palm tied with ribbon below.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **TUNIS** = TUNIS

REFERENCE: Y-5, S-51, KM-205

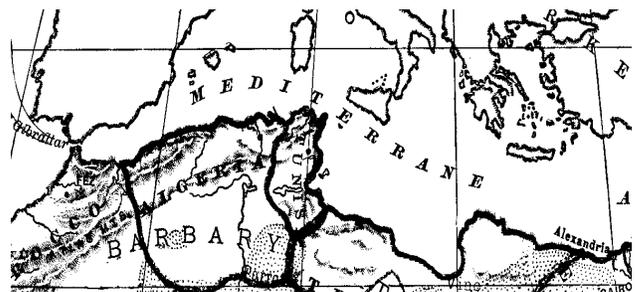
FOOTNOTE: France in 1830 seized the north African Province of Algeria, only slightly smaller than France itself, with a population of over 5,000,000 including 800,000 of European origin. Tunisia lies to the east of Algeria. The Tunisian tribes were accused by the French of trouble on the border and in 1881 France dispatched troops into Tunisia. The Province was occupied and its ruler forced to surrender the administration to the French Government. The French Minister Resident is now the virtual ruler of the country. Under French administration the Tunisian debt has been consolidated, commerce has increased, the means of transit have been improved, and a number of primary schools established. The resident army of occupation numbers 10,000 men.



1885 - AH1302 - 1/2 PIASTRE - REV

FOOTNOTE: The Barbary States occupy all the northern part of Africa west of Egypt, and comprise four countries whose interior boundaries are not definitely fixed. The surface is generally rugged and rocky. Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis [Tunisia] are traversed by the Atlas Mountains, which are covered with fine forests. The coast belt is called the "Till," and consists of undulating arable lands. Tripoli and the interior of the other countries present the surface features of the Great Desert, the Sahara. These countries received their name from the native Berbers who are farmers and form the largest part of the population. Tunis the capital of Tunis [Tunisia] is near the site of the ancient city of Carthage.

FOOTNOTE: Tunis, the capital city, is situated on a salt lagoon connected with the bay of Tunis by a narrow channel, where is the Port of Goletta, there being another salt lake on the other side of the city. Both Tunis and Goletta are built of material of ancient Carthage. Almost the only building of importance is the Palace of the Bey in the Moorish style; the bazaars are also interesting. *Winstons Encyclopedia, 1918.*



Tunis in 1880



1891- AH1308 - 50 CENTIMES - OBV

FOOTNOTE: The reigning family of Tunis, occupants of the throne since 1705, descended from Husseim ben Ali, commonly believed to be a native of the Isle of Crete, who made himself master of the country, acknowledging, however, the suzerainty of the Sultan of Turkey. After the French invasion of the country in the spring of 1881, the treaty of Kasr-es-Said (May 12, 1881), confirmed by convention signed June 8, 1883, placed Tunis under the protection of France. *The Statesman's Year-Book, London 1916.*



1891- AH1308 - 50 CENTIMES - REV

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate)
PARIS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1891 AH 1308 1,470,000 VG-4158

^OV: Arabic inscription (Ali Madah / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic ٥٠ (50) / arabic AH ١٣٠٨ (AH 1308) between palm and laurel branches.

∇RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / 1891 / (cornucopia) **A** (mintmark) (fasces), design with 6 stars, around

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: **A** = PARIS

DIRECTOR: (cornucopia) = Jean-Louis Ruau 1879-91

ENGRAVER: (fasces) = Jean LaGrange 1880-96

TYPE: I - Circulating issue

REFERENCE: Y-15, S-69, KM-223

POPULATION: 1892 - 1,650,000 with capital Tunis.

FOOTNOTE: With the issue of 1891 the coinage of Tunisia was struck at the Paris mint with the same standards as France, the equivalent of the Latin Monetary Union with 100 centimes equal to 1 franc.

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate)
PARIS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1892 AH 1310	1,000	VG-4177
1893 1311	1,000	VG-4197
1894 1312	1,000	VG-4228
1895 1313	1,000	VG-4256
1896 1314	1,000	VG-4283

^OV: Arabic inscription (Ali / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic 50 / arabic AH DATE between palm and laurel branches.

∇RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / DATE / (cornucopia) **A** (mintmark) (fasces), design with 6 stars, around.

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (cornucopia) **A** = PARIS

ENGRAVER: (fasces) = Jean LaGrange 1880-96

TYPE: II - Non-circulating issue

REFERENCE: Y-15, S-69, KM-223

FOOTNOTE: Beginning with the French occupation of Tunisia, a local coinage was minted at Paris starting with 1891. After this one year, a special issue was minted starting in 1892 with a very small mintage of 1,000 each year for most years until 1928. These must have been presented to officials and dignitaries.

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate) PARISMINT			
50 CENTIMES	18MM	.835 FINE	2.5 GRAMS

1897	AH 1315	1,000	VG-4309
1898	1316	1,000	VG-4358
1899	1317	1,000	VG-4385
1900	1318	1,000	VG-4411
1901	1319	1,000	VG-4436
1902	1320	1,000	VG-4467

^OV: Arabic inscription (Ali / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic ٥٠ (50) / arabic AH DATE between palm and laurel branches.

∇RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / DATE / (**cornucopia**) A (mintmark) (torch), design with 6 stars, around

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**cornucopia**) A = PARIS

ENGRAVER: (torch) = Henri-Auguste Patey 1896-1930

TYPE: II - Non-circulating issue

POPULATION: 1900 - 1,900,000 with capital Tunis with 170,000 inhabitants of which 50,000 are Europeans and 40,000 native Jews.

REFERENCE: Y-15, S-69, KM-230

FOOTNOTE; Bedouins, 'dwellers of the desert', a Mohammedan people of Arab race inhabiting chiefly the deserts of North Africa, Egypt, Syria and Arabia. They lead a nomadic existence in tents, huts, caverns, and ruins, associating in families under Shiks or in tribes under Emirs. In respect of occupation they are only shepherds, herdsmen, and horse-breeders, varying the monotony of pastoral life by raiding on each other and plundering unprotected travelers whom they consider trespassers. They are ignorant of writing and books, their knowledge being purely traditional and mainly genealogical. They are lax in morals, and unreliable even in respect of the code of honor attributed to them in poetry and fiction. In stature they are undersized, and though active, they are not strong. The ordinary dress of the men is a long shirt girt at the loins, a black or red and yellow handkerchief for the head, and sandals, of the women, loose draws, a long shirt, and a large dark-blue shawl covering the head and figure. The lance is the favorite weapon. *Cabinet Cyclopaedia, 1896.*

FOOTNOTE: The Tunisia 50 centimes series were dated both with the French AD dates and the Moslem AH dates and as the Islamic calendar is based on the Moon, varies from month to month and year to year with the new year starting at a different time from the Gregorian or Christian New Years of January 1st. The Mohammedan day begins at Sunset, what we call Thursday evening, a Moslem will call Friday evening. The first month of the New Year is called Muharram with 30 days. The second month is named Safar, followed by; Rabi I, Rabi II, Jamada I, Jamada II, Rajab, Sah'ban, Ramadan, Shawwal, Du-I-qua'dah, and Du-I-hijjah. The odd months of the year have 30 days and the even months 29 days. The Moslem calendar was established 10 years after the Flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina. The Moslem Era begins with the Hijra ("Flight for the sake of God") and is therefore called ANNO HIJRA (AH) which means "In the year of the Flight".

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate) PARISMINT			
50 CENTIMES	18MM	.835 FINE	2.5 GRAMS

1903	AH 1321	1,003	VG-4499
1904	1322	1,003	VG-4533
1905	1323	1,003	VG-4561
1906	1324	1,003	VG-4580

^OV: Arabic inscription (Muhammed Al-hadi / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic 50 / arabic AH DATE between palm and laurel branches.

∇RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / DATE / (**cornucopia**) A (mintmark) (torch), design with 6 stars, around

EDGE: Reeded

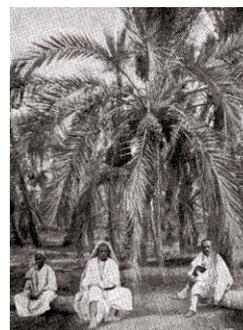
MINT: (**cornucopia**) A = PARIS

ENGRAVER: (torch) = Henri-Auguste Patey 1896-1930

TYPE: II - Non-circulating issue

REFERENCE: Y-15, S-69, KM-230

FOOTNOTE: The Tunisian 50 centimes dated AD 1907 - AH 1325 begins with February 14, 1907 and the issue dated AD 1912 - AH 1330 continues to December 11, 1912, some 10 1/2 and 11 1/2 months respectively. The coins dated AD 1914 - AH 1332 and AD 1914 - AH 1333 cover 322 days and 43 days accordingly with the Paris Mint reporting a combined mintage of 201,006. For some reason there was no issue with dates from January 1 - November 8, 1915 (equal to AD 1915 - AH 1333), but there was a larger production of 707,177 coins dated AD 1915 - AH 1334, the short period, November 9 - December 31, 1915 of 53 days. The following year has AD 1916 - AH 1334 for the balance of this Moslem year AH 1334, followed by coins dated AD 1916 - AH 1335 (October 28 - December 31st, 65 days). The combined mintage was 3,613,799. The last circulating year 1917 was divided; AD 1917 - AH 1335 for January 1 - October 16, 1917 and AD 1917 - AH 1336 for the period October 17 - December 31, 1917 of 76 days with combined issue of 2,139,191. The Paris mint may have records of the individual mintages and some explanation why only these years had both AD and AH dates indicating production over a period of months within the years. As a collector of this series for nearly 30 years, I have never seen the last circulating 50 centimes dated AH 1336 and 1917, which may therefore be rare.



Date Palms



1916 -AH1335 - 50 CENTIMES - OBV

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate)
PARIS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1907	AH 1325	201,006	VG-4596
1912	1330	201,006	VG-4733
1914	1332	201,006	VG-4829
1914	1333	included above	VG-4829
1915	1334	707,177	VG-4842
1916	1334	3,613,799	VG-4859
1916	1335	included above	VG-4859
1917	1335	2,139,191	VG-4879
1917	1336	included above	VG-4879

^OV: Arabic inscription (Muhammed Al Nasr Madah / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic ٥٠ (50) / arabic AH DATE between palm and laurel branches.

^RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / DATE / (**cornucopia**) A (mintmark) (torch), design with 6 stars, around

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**cornucopia**) A = PARIS

ENGRAVER: (torch) = Henri-Auguste Patey 1896-1930

TYPE: I - Circulating issues

POPULATION: Tunisia - 1908 - 1,926,650

REFERENCE: Y-29, S-83, KM-237

FOOTNOTE: The reigning Bey of Tunisia, Sidi-Muhammed Al Nasr succeeded May 12, 1906. He was born July 14, 1855., succeeded his cousin, Sidi Mohammed el Hadi.



1916 - AH1335 - 50 CENTIMES - REV

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate)
PARIS MINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1908	AH 1326	2,006	VG-4622
1909	1327	1,003	VG-4652
1910	1328	1,003	VG-4689
1911	1330	1,003	VG-4709
1913	1332	1,003	VG-4777
1918	1337	1,003	VG-4895
1919	1338	1,003	VG-4913
1920	1339	1,003	VG-4946
1921	1340	1,003	VG-4972

^OV: Arabic inscription (Muhammed Al Nasr / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic 50 / arabic AH DATE between palm and laurel branches.

^RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / DATE / (**cornucopia**) A (mintmark) (torch), design with 6 stars, around

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (**cornucopia**) A = PARIS

ENGRAVER: (torch) = Henri-Auguste Patey 1896-1930

TYPE: II - Non-circulating issue

REFERENCE: Y-29, S-83, KM-237

POPULATION: Tunisia - 1911 - 1,780,526

FOOTNOTE: Tunisia is a French Protectorate under the administration of Bey Muhammed Al-Habib [1922-1928]. He was born August 13, 1858. The government is carried on under the direction of a French Resident General.

TUNISIA, REGENCY of (French Protectorate)
PARISMINT

50 CENTIMES 18MM .835 FINE 2.5 GRAMS

1922	AH 1341	1,003	VG-5009
1923	1342	2,009	VG-5047
1924	1343	1,003	VG-5077
1925	1344	1,003	VG-5119
1926	1345	1,003	VG-5153
1927	1346	1,003	VG-5180
1928	1347	1,003	VG-5199

△OV: Arabic inscription (Muhammed Al-Habib / Bey / Tunis) / value in arabic ٥٠ (50) / arabic AH DATE between palm and laurel branches.

▽RV: Within inner circle, TUNISIE / 50 CENTIMES / DATE / (cornucopia) A (mintmark) (torch), design with 6 stars, around

EDGE: Reeded

MINT: (cornucopia) A = PARIS

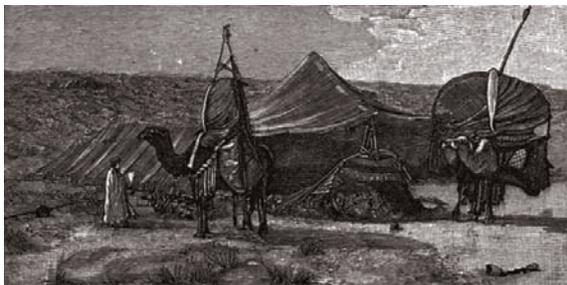
ENGRAVER: (torch) = Henri-Auguste Patey 1896-1930

TYPE: II - Non-circulating issue

REFERENCE: Y-41, S-92, KM-249

POPULATION: Tunisia - 1926 - 2,159,708 with about 60,000 French including the Army of Occupation.

FOOTNOTE: The special yearly issue of around 1,000 - 50 centimes for Tunisia was last struck by the Paris mint dated 1928. Each issue carried the Arabic inscription naming the reigning Bey. As the monarchs succeeded each other, the inscription changed, thus the different type listings. It may be of interest that the author after nearly 30 years of collecting this *Modern Dime Size Silver Coins of Tunisia* has never seen any of these non-circulating coins offered for sale or listed in any price list. All French numismatic catalogues, however, continue to list this series, and it is believed that some may appear on the French numismatic market from time to time.



Bedouin camp in the Sahara

FOOTNOTE: The French have, to a large extent, stopped nomad stealing, built telegraph lines, railways, roads, and now the automobile and bus travel for thousands of miles over good roads in Tunisia, Algeria and parts of Morocco are safe. The chief exports of Tunisia are; wheat, barley, olives and palms. In the south of Tunisia there are about 2,138,598 date palms. The cork forests in the north-west have an area of 348,270 acres.



Tunisian merchant



Arabs at camp

FOOTNOTE: The population of Tunis in 1911 was estimated at 1,780,527, but no proper census has ever been taken. The majority of the population consists of Bedouin Arabs and Kabyles. The French population totaled 46,044, exclusive of the army of occupation. The capital city of Tunis, had 164,608 Moslems, and 43,000 Jews, besides 69,475 French, Italians and Maltese. The chief industry is agriculture. Native industries are spinning and weaving of wool garments, carpet weaving, leather embroidery, saddle making, the manufacture of slippers, pottery (in the ancient style), and matting; tanning and silk weaving are declining.

