

Philatelic Bibliography of Tunisia

By Johan Delbeke

French Post offices were operating in Tunisia from 1845 to 1888. Until 1897, there were also three Italian offices, using Italian stamps. After a French invasion in 1881, the country became a protectorate in May 1881. In 1888 the French post offices formed the basis of a new system that was nominally independent. During WWII, Tunisia was fought over by German, Italian, American, British and French troops. On March 23, 1956 Tunisia became an independent kingdom, and in 1957 a Republic. Because of the independent status of the post office, most of the philatelic literature on the colonies does not apply to Tunisia. Since the country is also not very popular among collectors, the literature is still sparse, and becomes near nonexistent after independence.

Apart from that, there are weaknesses in this bibliography reflecting my lack of interest in certain areas. I am in particular aware of my lack of knowledge on the presence of Serbian troops in and after WWI and foreign troops in WWII (Italian, German, American and British) and of my lack of penetration of the minor French language publications. All the works are in the language indicated by the title, except for the articles in *Le Rekkas* which is published in English and French. I quote them in English. Authors in brackets are not mentioned in article, but were known to R.G. Stone.

Essential literature

- Arthur Maury: *Catalogue de cotations de timbres de l'ex-empire français d'Afrique 2010-2011*, Paris, 2010. (Best catalog for Tunisia collectors. Tunisia on pp. 199-270).
- J. Morat: *Tunisie - L'histoire postale et les émissions de timbres durant la regence 1888 - 1955*, 2000, 146 pp. (comprehensive for the protectorate).
- D. Zanaria, G. Serra, F. Dal Negro: *Catalogo Storico-Postale Dei Francobolli in Uso Negli Uffici Postali Italiani All'Estero 1852-1890* Rome, 2000. (very thorough treatment and catalog for the Italian offices, bilingual Italian and English, Tunisia on pp. 74-159, 326-365).

General

- A. Christenson: "History of Tunisia", *Weekly Phil. Gossip*, v. 54, p. 432 (superficial).
- A.W. Ronald-Hughes: "Tunisia", *Gibbons Stamp Mo.*, Dec 1955, pp. 39-42 (brief but comprehensive general popular survey).
- B. Krause: "Tunisia: An Ancient Land in North Africa", *Global Stamp News* #115, 2000, pp. 20-21.
- R.G. Stone: "A Bibliography of Philatelic Literature on the French Colonies, Protectorates, and Overseas Territories. Div. II Individual Colonies", *Philatelic Literature Review* #115:86, 1982.
- Baron de Vinck de Winnezele: *L'impression des timbres françaises par les rotatives*, 3rd ed. revd by Charvet, Amiens. 1946 (his description of the characteristics of rotary printings applies to certain issues of Tunisia).
- D. T. Smith: "Tunisia Miscellanea", *Jn. of the France and Colonies Philatelic Society*, #44: 4, 1994, p. 194.
- Karoui Samia, *La gestion de la poste en Tunisie : approche comparative avec la Poste en France*, Paris, Oct. 1983, 198 pp.

Le Maghrebophila

French Post Offices

- G. Dutau: "Les débuts de la philatélie tunisienne", *La Philatélie Française*, #534, 1999, pp. 7-9 . (Includes the earliest mail).
- Renollaud: "Les Bureaux Français en Tunisie (1852 - 1888)" *Feuilles Marcophiles*. #209, 2nd trim., 1977, p. 12. (on the opening date of the Sousse post office)
- J. Demaux: "Les bureaux français en Tunisie", *Feuilles Marcophiles*. #211, 4th Trim, 1979, pp. 33 (addendum to art. by Renollaud, *Feuilles Marcophiles* #209, 2nd Trim, 1977, p. 12). (on opening dates of French post offices).
- J. Demaux: "Tunisia", *Feuilles Marcophiles*. #214, 3d Trim, 1978, p. 6 (extracts from the from 1879 and 1880 bulletin mensuel des postes showing which offices were open).
- J. Pothion et al.: *Marques postales et oblitérations - Bureaux françaises à l'étranger 1561-1948...*, Paris, 1982 (priced catalog of all postmarks).
- G. Dutau: "La Tunisie: Des origines a la Regence", *Feuilles Marcophiles* #278, 1994, pp. 29-33.
- M. Langlois et L. Francois: *Les Oblitérations des Bureaux Françaises a L'Etranger*. Amiens, 1924 (Tunisia on pp. 136-139; more data than in Chapier).
- M. Langlois et V. Bourselet: *Les oblitérations des Bureaux de post de l'Afrique du Nord*. Amiens, 1930, (Tunisia on pp. 53-76).
- T.V. Roberts: "French maritime mail in the Mediterranean 1851-72", *Postal History Bull.*, #208, Jan-Feb. 1979, pp. 10-20. (on the organization of the Messageries Maritimes lines in the Mediterranean).
- G. Dutau & J.-P. Mangin: "L'Echange des correspondances entre la Tunisie et la France par la voie des batiments de commerce", *Documents Philatéliques* #164, 2000.
- T. Davis: "Communication Between London and Tunis", *Postal History*, #275, 1995, p.86. (Quoting a letter giving the delays of mail between London and Sfax in 1864).
- Yvert et Tellier: *Catalogue des timbres poste de France et des colonies Françaises. Tome III. Bureaux françaises a L'étranger et territoires occupées*. Amiens, 1940 (use of French stamps in Tunis pp. 296-299) (the best reference on the stamps).
- R. Abita: "Evolution Postale de 1863 au 1er Juillet 1888", *Philatelie Populaire* #429 & 430, April & May 1995.
- R. Abita: "Tunisie: 25 ans avant le protectorat, une lettre de Tunis de 1856", *Philatelie Populaire* #428, March 1995.
- G. Dutau, J.C. Coulon: "Dossier d'un envoi frauduleux en Tunisie", *Documents Philatéliques*, #166, 2000 pp. 24-29.

Italian Post Offices

- C.E.I.: *Catalogo Enciclopedico Italiano 2000/2001 - Antichi Stati...*, 2000 (mentions and illustrates a cover from the alledged Two-Sicilies office in La Goletta).
- S.D. Tchilinghirian and Bernadelli: *Stamps of Italy Used Abroad*, London, RPSL, Parts 1-7, repro 1976 (Tunis in Part 3).
- C. Pilkington & R.A. Dehn: "The Estero Overprints", *Fil-Italia*, #17:4 70, 1991.
- Anon.: "La poste Italien à Tunis", *L'Echangiste Universelle*, May 1923, p. 193 (quotes an article by R. Bach from *Marken und Ganzsachen Zeitung*).
- G. Dutau "La poste sarde et italienne en Tunisie, Une activité organisée (Part 1)", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* #114:1740, 2001 (on the competition between French an Italians mostly in respect to the postal service).
- G. Dutau: "La poste sarde et italienne en Tunisie, Les bureaux italiens en Tunisie (1861-1897) (Part 2)", *L'Echo de la timbrologie*, #114:1741, 2001, pp.36-41.
- G. Dutau: "La poste sarde et italienne en Tunisie, Quelques aspects des relations postales: Poste sarde et italiennes en Tunisie (3e partie)", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* #1742, 2001, pp. 36-40.

Le Maghrebophila

- G. Dutau: "La poste sarde et italienne en Tunisie", *Feuilles Marcophiles* #306 suppl., 2001 pp. 38-39.
- M.C. Dauphine: "The Italian Post Office in Tunis 1852-1897", *Fil-Italia*, #26 : 4 106. 2000.
- B. Crevato-Selvaggi: "Italian Post Offices Abroad", *Fil-Italia*, #16 : 3 65, 1990.
- A. Bolaffi: *The Postmark-stamps and the Postal Cancellations of the Sardinian States Used During the Period 1851-1863*, New York, c1948.
- R. E. Lana: "Italian Postmarks Used in Tunis", *Linn's*, #74:3780, Apr9 2001, p. 22.
- U. del Bianco: *Gli Annulli Marittimi Italiani in uso anteriormente al 1891* (has a chapter on Tunisia).
- G. Dutau: "Le bureau italien de Sousse", *Timbres Magazine*, #1:4, 2000.
- J. de Beaujeu: "Les postes locales privées en Tunisie 1855-1880", *Bulletin Philatelique du Midi*, Oct 1948.
- G. Chapier: "Les postes locales de Tunisie", *L'Echangiste Universel* #11, 1972, p. 415.
- Anon.: "La poste à Sfax - un service postal italien en Tunisie 1868-1881", *Cursoros*, 1981, #1.
- U. del Bianco: "La Posta Sfaxina: un Servizio Postale Italiano i Tunisia nel Secolo Scorso", *Cursoros*, Nov 30, 1980.
- G. Dutau: "Entiers postaux utilisés a l'office italien de Tunis", *Feuilles Marcophiles* #300, 2000, pp. 67-70.

Postage Stamps

- A. Brun: "Les timbres de Tunisie", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. Dec. 1929, Jan. 1930, Apr. 1930, May 1930, Sept. 1930, Apr. 1931, July 1931; Repr. Amiens 1931? 81 pp. (For some issues valuable details not found elsewhere, especially on the dues).
- G. Brunel: *Régence de Tunis: monographie des timbres poste*, Bischwiller, 1925, 15 pp..
- F. Marconnet: *Les vignettes postales de la France et de ses colonies*, Nancy, 1897, 2 vols. (Tunisia p. 210-213, figs. 164-165 in v.2).
- Cte. O. De Pomyers: *Les premiers timbres de Tunisie 1849-1888*, Bischwiller, 1935, 45 pp..
- G. Olivier: "La Tunisie", *Le Philatéliste*, #31, Jan 1943, pp. 1-2 (Overview of numbers issued 1888-1923).
- Yvert et Tellier: *Catalogue des timbres poste de France et des colonies françaises. Tome II. Colonies françaises...*, Amiens, 1936 (Tunis on pp. 788-824).
- Durand *Les timbres des colonies Françaises*, 1943 (not more than in 1936 Yvert).
- Tunisian Post Office.: <http://www.tunisia-stamps.tn/> (lists all stamps and names designers, engravers and printing methods).
- H. J. Calman: "Chronicle", *American Journal of Philately*, #8, 1895, p. 368 (issue news for the 1893 75c stamp).
- S. Strowski: "Tunisie", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 1930, pp. 441-442 (on the imperf var. of the 1888-98 type, is it proof or not?).
- N.L. Rasmussen: "Tunisian First and Second Issues", *Collectors Club Philatelist*, #80:4, 2001.
- Anon.: (reports Tunis stamps being sold at a stamp window in Rue du Louvre P.O. in Paris), *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. 1904, p. 574.
- (A. Maury): "Tunis", *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1905, p.45 (new issue to be designed by Dumoulin).
- Anon.: (plans for new issue), *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 1904, p. 606.
- (A. Maury): "Tunis", *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1905, pp. 108, 235 (quotes *La Dépêche Tunisienne* on subjects of the new issue in preparation).
- Anon.: (Dumoulin presents his maquettes to the Resident-General of Tunis, quotes from *Jn.des Debats*). *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*. 1905, pp. 564, 590.
- Anon.: "Les nouveaux timbres de Tunis", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* 1905, p. 590.
- Anon.: (comments on new Tunis stamps by *La Petite Tunisienne*). *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 1906, p. 620 (see also *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1906, p. 44).

Le Maghrebophila

- (A. Maury): "Tunis", *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1906, p. 44 (quotes comments on the new issue from *La Petite Tunisienne*).
- A. Maury: "Les emblèmes des timbres coloniaux - les nouveaux timbres Tunisiens", *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1906, pp. 1-8 (extended discussion of colonial stamp design, and a topical analysis of Tunis 1906 designs).
- A. Maury: "A propos de timbre Tunisien de 10 centimes", *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1910, pp. 337-339 (comments on design of the 1906 laborers type).
- (A. Montader): "Tunisie", *Le Postillon*, 1905, pp. 103-104 (quotes from *La Dépêche Tunisienne* on the subjects for the new pictorials).
- (A. Montader): (on the new Tunis design, a reply to Maury's comments), *Le Postillon*, 1906, pp. 15-17,20-22.
- (A. Maury): "Les timbres commémoratives d'Adrinople", *Le Collectionneur des Timbres-Poste*, 1914, p. 51 (notes 1906 Tunis issue was first time an Islamic country put a mosque view on its stamps).
- (A. Montader): "Tunisie", *Le Postillon*, 1912, pp. 229-230 (variety of the 5c Yv. #31 without name of engraver).
- (R.G. Stone): "For the Record", *France and Colonies Philatelist*, #45: 1, 1989, p. 25. (on the charity issues 1916-28)
- M. Jamet "Tunisie: les séries de bienfaisance", *Timbroscopie* #108, 1993.
- M. Jamet "Tunisie - paradoxes des émissions de bienfaisance", *Timbroscopie* #44, 1988.
- Anon.: (on reasons for Tunis 1902 surcharge), *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 1902, p. 942.
- R. Abita: "La mosquée Halfaouine: le 60centimes de 1945", *Philatelie Populaire* # 338, Feb 1986.
- M. Lombard: "Les timbres gravés de Tunisie en 1931", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, Sept. 1935, pp. 843-847 (detailed study).
- R.G. Stone: "The Pictorial Issues of French Colonies 1891-1941 - a Half-century of Design and Production in Retrospect", serial *Essay-Proof Journal* 1965-; Ch. B-4, Tunisia 1906-28 Issue, In *EPJ*, #107, pp. 103-106, #108 pp. 162-172.
- M. Melot: "Tunisie: des variétés inconnues des catalogues", *Timbres Magazine* #7, 2000, pp. 91-93.
- Col. G. Lebland: "Les timbres de Tunisie - periode 1945-1956", *Le Monde des Philatelistes*, June-July-Aug., 1971. (listing based on the catalogues) .
- Anon.: "De Gabès au Tchad", *L'Echo de la Timbrologie*, 1928, pp. 474-475 (story of the Tunis-Tchad auto expedition of 1925, subject of the 1928 stamp of Tunisia).
- C. Jamet: "Dés 1931, la Tunisie misait sur la taille- douce...", *Timbroscopie*, #108, 1993.
- R.M. Spaulding: "1938 Semi-Centennials", *Stamps*, Dec 9 1939.
- L. Monosson: "Tunisia", *France and Colonies Philatelist*, v. 1, #1, 1941, p. 7 (on the overprints and National Relief issues of 1941).
- B. Sarallion: "La vérité sur les séries d'Alger", *La Philatélie Française*, #263 Feb. 1976, pp. 501-502; March 1976 pp. 89-90; April p. 137 (on the printing of Tunisia litho issues of 1943-45) (summary in *France and Colonies Philatelist* #171, 1978. pp. 15-16).
- La Cote Philatelique: "Oddity with or without R.F.?", *France and Colonies Philatelist*, #4:119, 1944-45 (on the 1943 liberation stamp showing remnants of engraved RF).
- R.G. Stone: "The Journée du Timbre in the Colonies and Territories", *France and Colonies Philatelist*, # 145, July 1971, pp. 35-36 (Tunisia mentioned).
- P. Lavalette: <http://www.comte-lavalette.com/> (thorough treatment of the philately and topic of the 1954 stampday stamp).
- Yvert et Tellier: *Millésimes & coins datés de France & colonies ; nomenclature extraite du "Catalogue des timbres-poste de France et Colonies françaises"*, Amiens, 1930?
- J.P. Mangin: "Goofs on Stamps", *France and colonies Philatelist*, whole #276, vol 60, #2, 2004, p. 38 (on how the Choiseul stamp is left to right inverted)
- J. Schwartz: (on change in stamp designs from Protectorate to Independence in Tunisia), *La Philatélie Française*, Aug.-Sept. 1977; *France and colonies Philatelist* #171, Jan. 1978, p.15.

Le Maghrebophila

- B.L. Anderson: "Scent on Stamps", *Scott Stamp Monthly* #18:8, 2000 p. 6 (mentions the 1968 flower issue).
- D. Hatton: "Tunisian Lizards", *Linn's*, #71: 3612, 1998.
- D. McCarty: "Tunisian stamp designer", *Linn's*, #78:3979, 2005, p. 22.
- J. Apfelbaum & A.D. Hollins: "Stamps from the Home of a Long-Lost Empire", *Linn's* #68:3492, 1995. (historical and political subjects on Tunisian stamps)
- J. Deledalle-Rhodes: "L'iconographie du timbre-poste tunisien pendant et après la période coloniale", *Prothée*, #30, no 2, 2002, p. 61-72
(<http://www.erudit.org/revue/pr/2002/v30/n2/006732ar.html>)
- A. Colinart: *Histoire de l'image du Maghreb : le timbre-poste au Maroc et en Tunisie XIXe-XXe siècles*, Paris, 2003,
- A. Tessier: *Carnets de Timbres-Poste Française et ses Colonies*, 1956, 125 pp. (Tunisia booklets pp. 90, 103).
- R.G. Stone and P. Dinger: "A list of the French colonies and Algeria booklets", *France and Colonies Philatelist*, #177, July 1979 (Tunisia on pp. 76-77).
- J. Vitrant: "Carnets de Tunisie", *Bulletin de l'Association des Collectionneurs de Carnets et Publicitimbres* #11, 1999.
- P.J.M.: "Carnets des anciennes colonies françaises - La Tunisie", *Timbres Magazine*, first part in #71, 2006, p.76-80, third part #77, 2007, p. 72-74.
- Dr. J. Braun: *Catalogue des Publicitimbres (Pubs) des Carnets de France et des Colonies Françaises*, Montpellier, 1958 (Repr. 1977) (Tunisia booklets on p. 153).
- Precancel Stamp Society: *Catalog of precancels of France, Algeria, Tunisia, and Monaco*, Oakton, Va., c1983.
- J. Lepingle: *Catalogue des préos d'Europe ; Préoblitérations, roulette, typographiques*, Bruxelles, 1951.
- H. Menard: *The Precancelled Stamps of France, Algeria, Monaco & Tunis - Les timbres préoblitérés de France, Algérie, Monaco, Tunis* Louvain, Belgium, 1952.
- Hoover Brothers: *Official Precancel Stamp Catalog. Foreign section (except Belgium) 1936*, New York, c1936.
- Col. G. Lebland: "Les timbres poste aérienne de Tunisie" *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* #1445, 1974.
- J. Hartwig: "New Issues and Varieties of Air Mail Stamps", *Air Mail Collector* #46-48, 1929.
- COL.FRA: "Emission du cinquantenaire de l'office postal Tunisien - Feuillet souvenir", *Bulletin Colfra*, vol 63.
- Anon.: *Cataloge des Enveloppes et Cartes Premier Jour* 1995.(also covers Tunisia)
- Anon.: "Perfins of Tunisia", *Newssheet of the Security endorsement and Perfin Society of Great Britain*, #87, 1966.
- R. Dedecker, M. Herbert, R. Janot: *Timbres perforés - France et colonies*, 2nd ed., 1990.
- L. Ragatz: *The Fournier Album of Philatelic Forgeries*, Worthington, 1970 (Tunisia on p. 163).
- F. Serrane: *The Serrane Guide, Stamp Forgeries of the World to 1926* State College, PA, 1998. (Tunisia on page 346, dated)
- Union Philatelique de Genève: *Album des Fac-Similés*. Geneva, 1928 (better known as the fournier album, contains some forged overprints)