



First Issues

(ISSN 1547-2299)

The Official Journal of the First Issues Collectors Club
APS Affiliate #232

Volume 22 Number 3

Jul-Aug-Sep 2014

The First Issues Collectors Club

promotes the collection of the first postage stamps issued by any nation, province, city or other entity that has, at any time, issued postage stamps, and facilitates the exchange of information about these issues among stamp collectors.

First Issues (ISSN: 1547-2299), the official newsletter of the First Issues Collectors Club, is published quarterly. Submissions are welcome from members and others interested in the collection of first issues.

Officers

President: E. Clark Buchi
president@firstissues.org

Vice President: Louis Laflamme
vice_president@firstissues.org

Secretary/Treasurer: Kurt Streepy
secretary@firstissues.org

Auction Manager: Tim Balm
auctions@firstissues.org

Editor: Tim Balm
editor@firstissues.org

Webmaster: Nick Blackburn
webmaster@firstissues.org

President's Message

To the members of FICC:

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as a founder, as an early Editor of *First Issues*, and then as President of FICC. So many of you have done so much for FICC in the past and at present, and I want to thank each and every one of you.

The Perfins Club, of which I am a member, recently posted a need for an Editor for their newsletter, *The Perfins Bulletin*. I have agreed to serve as the new editor, which will take a lot of time.

As a result, I feel a need to resign as President of FICC. I'm certain that we have several well qualified and enthusiastic members who would be glad to serve as President.

Therefore, **I hereby officially resign as President of FICC**, effective at the end of the 2014 calendar year or upon the naming of a replacement, whichever occurs first. In consequence, I hereby call for nominations of members willing to serve as President of FICC. [Members may nominate themselves or another member.]

Please submit the names of interested candidates to our FICC Secretary: Kurt Streepy, 3128 Mattatha Drive, Bloomington, IN 47401. **Nominations will close as of August 15, 2014.** At that time, the Board will certify the nominees.

Please let me thank you once again for the honor of serving as your President. I look forward to remaining a member in good standing of FICC.

Best regards, and happy collecting

Clark Buchi

[Note: Per the FICC bylaws, if multiple (willing) members in good standing are nominated, a general election will be called (in the V22N4 Newsletter). If only one willing member is nominated, that member will be appointed by acclamation. If no members are nominated, the Vice President will assume the duties of the President until the office is filled permanently. ... Nomination may be sent to Kurt or to any of the other Officers as listed at left.]

BITS & PIECES	2
NEW CALEDONIA #1 HISTORY	3
A "STAMP FOR EVERY COUNTRY" ALBUM - UPDATE	3
FICC MENTION IN LINN'S STAMP NEWS	4
THE FIRST ISSUES OF TRANSNISTRA – REVISITED	4
TASMANIA / VAN DIEMEN'S LAND FIRST ISSUE	5
FORGED VERSUS GENUINE CANCELS ON WESTERN AUSTRALIA #1	6
AUCTION #78	7
CALL FOR MAIL AUCTION #79 LOTS	8
BID SHEET FOR AUCTION #78.....	9

Bits & Pieces

Miscellaneous

Article Accuracy: *First Issues*, the editor, and other officers of the FICC cannot be responsible for accuracy or originality of any information printed herein. Opinions expressed in the articles are those of the writers and are not necessarily endorsed by *First Issues*, the FICC or its officers.

Articles Wanted: Articles, letters, comments, suggestions, album pages or anything else connected with collecting first issues are always needed. Send your copy to the editor (e-mail address on front page, postal address shown in the return address on outer cover). **To be included in V22N4, articles must be received prior to Aug 15, 2014.**

Membership Directory: Members may obtain a free FICC Membership Directory by sending a SASE (No 10 envelope with 1 ounce US postage) to our Secretary. You can also request the Directory via e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet (contact information is on pages 1 and 9).

Back Issues: Back issues of the newsletter are available from the Secretary for \$7.00 per volume or \$2.00 for single issues. Electronic copies are available on a CD-ROM for \$10.00. Refer to the web site (www.firstissues.org) or contact the Secretary for more information (contact information is on pages 1 and 9).

Article Index: An index to the articles in *First Issues* from 1990 (V1, N1) to date is available. For a hard copy, send your request to Tim Balm (contact information is on page 1).

Bylaws: A copy of the FICC bylaws is available on the web site (www.firstissues.org). These were last printed in *First Issues* V18, N4.

Mail Bag

Miscellaneous Responses to V22N1

First... I have no wish to go paperless. When the last piece of stamped/cancelled mail has been delivered, philately will die. I've no wish to contribute to this. *[Editor: I also have mixed emotions on this subject, but I am not yet ready to believe philately will die.]*

Second... I notice we have only two new members over the past several newsletters, and no mention of total membership. Is FICC shrinking? *[Editor: Membership ebbs and flows. The V22N2 Newsletter listed three new members; this Newsletter lists two more. At one time in the 1990s, membership was slightly over 100. It is currently between 60-70.]*

Third... I finally looked up the FI web site. I was using the country list, but if the rest of the site is of the same quality, this has to be one of the best sites on the web. I have nothing but praise for those who created it.

Fourth... Regarding the Rhodesian postcard, what fun it must have been to discover it. Is there anyone both rich enough and tenacious enough to be collecting #1s on cover? I would think that would be challenging enough for anyone!

This postcard reminds me of something I've been doing for some time. I suspect many of us have one country that we concentrate on. Mine is Argentina, including covers from Argentina to other countries. I have almost 200 countries so far, including some remarkable finds. I recently found a cover sent to Bohemia & Moravia during WW II, complete with German censor tape & marks. B&M only existed for 6 years (1939-45). During that time someone in Argentina had occasion to write to B&M for a non-commercial, non-philatelic reason. It got there in the middle of WW II, survived the remainder of the war plus the next 70 years, then found its way through a dealer (or dealers) to an internet listing found via a search engine by one of the very few people who would have an interest in it – me. The odds of all this happening must be akin to finding an honest politician! This story has no real relation to *First Issues*, but I thought members might like to hear about it.

Dave Larkey, FICC #23
January, 2014

[Editor: For unknown reasons, Dave's letter was delayed in getting to me?!? I received it just after the V22N2 edition of the Newsletter was sent to the printer.]

Miscellaneous Responses to V22N2

Regarding the Editor's Musings... I would vote in favor of the alphabetical listing without detailed data. Bet that would get some looks.

Regarding the "Stamp for Every Country"... This is a great idea ... BUT, who is going to do it??? I know that such an album would be of great benefit to the membership and as a recruiting tool. I'll bet you get several encouraging replies, but no one volunteering to take on the project! Alas ...

Regarding the Shahpura Exhibit... I have quite a deep collection of Indian States - Convention and Feudatory - but never heard of Shahpura! Great heads-up article. Thanks!

E Clark Buchi, FICC #2
Email: April, 2014

Secretary's Report

Membership News: Two new members joined FICC since the last Newsletter went to press.

- Bruce Johnson, FICC #250, Laguna Woods, CA, USA
- Kerry Bryant, FICC #251, Victoria, BC, CANADA

Welcome Bruce and Kerry.

FICC ☞

New Caledonia #1 History

By Paul Talbot, FICC non-member

[A stamp dealer that I know sends out periodic broadcast e-mails to his customer base containing interesting historical philatelic information. I requested (and was granted) permission to re-print the material dealing with #1s. As editor of First Issues, I am not in a position to endorse this dealer, but I am obligated to give him credit for the information: Paul Talbot of paultalbot.com in Coronado, California, USA. ... The following information was disseminated in a Feb 15, 2014 e-mail.]

“One of the most complicated stamps in the history of stamp collecting comes from one of the world’s most uncomplicated places. □□New Caledonia is a French Overseas Territory off the coast of Australia. It has a population of less than 200,000, is home to 25% of the world’s known supplies of nickel, and enchants tourists with the world’s largest coral lagoon.

“The complicated stamps were released in 1859, the days when New Caledonia was best known as a penal colony. They carry a rather ragged portrait of Napoleon III, were produced by lithography, issued without gum, and without perforations.

“When this stamp was first issued in Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia, France had been releasing stamps for 10 years. At this time, Napoleon III appeared on French stamps as well. □□ What makes this 10 cent black stamp so complicated is that it appears in 50 different varieties. And this doesn’t include the reprints and counterfeits. The stamp is so notorious that in 1960, New Caledonia released an updated 13 franc version of it to commemorate the centenary of the islands’ postal service. □□

“The overseas territory was one of the first countries to issue a semi-postal stamp. This 1915 issue with a Red Cross overprint and surcharge comes in varieties with a double surcharge, a cross left off, and an inverted surcharge. □ □ The first airmail issue was released in 1937. No airmail stamps have been issued since 2001.”

Editor: Building on the information provided above, I would like to inform FICC members that a pictorial reproduction a full sheet of the 50 New Caledonia #1 varieties can be found in THE SERRANE GUIDE by Fernand Serrane (published by the American Philatelic Society). Shown below are 5 different copies of this stamp (all with certs) that provide an idea of the variation found among the 50 types.

FICC [illegible]

A “Stamp for Every Country” Album - Update

As published in the V22N2 edition of *First Issues*, the National Postal Museum web site has posted a free download for a “Stamp for Every Country” album. The 132-page album is in pdf format. FICC member Les Citrome, FICC#185, inquired whether this could be adapted / customized to a #1 album for the club.

Nick Blackburn, FICC#181 and our web master, downloaded the pdf album and converted the 12-page NORTH AMERICA section to a Word document format (.docx). He then shared this section with me to see if his conversion was in an acceptable format for FICC customization. This technical hurdle, indeed, appears to have been jumped.

Neither Nick nor I have done anything further to this file to customize it. Likewise, no one from FICC has yet requested permission from NPM to use this album as the basis for customization. So, at this point, the next hurdles are (i) someone's time commitment to edit the album, and (ii) obtaining permission to distribute it to club members.

If any other members care to comment on this, please do not hesitate to do so.

FICC

Tasmania / Van Diemen's Land First Issue

By Louis Laflamme, FICC #210

The island of Tasmania, located southeast of Australia's mainland, was discovered in 1642 by the Dutch explorer Abel Janszoon Tasman. He was working for the Governor of the Dutch East Indies, Anton Van Diemen, who had sent him on a mission to circumnavigate Australia. It was Tasman who gave the island the name of his patron. The island and its indigenous population were pretty much ignored by the Europeans until 1803. At that time, fearing that the French might take control of the land, it was annexed by the British Crown and a first small settlement established close to the site that would later become the capital, Hobart. In the beginning, most inhabitants were convicts working the land and raising sheep. But after time, the favorable climate and rich soils attracted more and more free settlers. Initially attached to the colony of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land became a separate colony in December 1825. It was officially renamed Tasmania in 1856.

Following the example of New South Wales and Victoria who issued their first stamps in 1850, Van Diemen's Land decided to do the same in 1853. A Post Office Act was

adopted on September 27 stating that all letters and packets posted had to be prepaid with adhesive stamps after November 1. Two denominations were to be used: a one penny stamp for local letters and a four pence stamp for the mail to other Australian colonies and England. Like New South Wales and Victoria, local talent would be used for the stamps' production. They were engraved by Charles Walton Coard, and the printing was done by the H. & C. Best company who printed the local newspaper the *Courier*. [These stamps were the only ones to be produced locally. In August 1855, the colony received its first stamp shipment from England printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co still inscribed Van Diemen's Land.]

Twenty-four images of each stamp were individually engraved directly on a copper plate. Because of the softness of the metal and the wear, the early impressions are clear and the later ones blurred. A simple design was adopted showing a right profile of the young Queen Victoria. It is set in an oval with a rectangular frame for the one penny and in a circle with an octagonal frame for the four pence. The initials of the engraver (CWC) can be seen at the base of the neck.



Figure 1: Tasmania Sc#1 (left), 2 (center), 2b (right) [All at 150%]

The one penny was printed in blue and the four pence in shades of orange. Unwatermarked, wove papers of different thickness and softness were used and copies of the four pence are also known unused on vertically laid paper. The latter are probably proofs. The one penny stamp was not in demand, so only one plate was needed. But the original four pence plate became so deteriorated after 266,400 stamps (11,100 sheets of 24) had been printed that a second plate was ordered in 1855. The stamps from this second plate are easily recognizable – the engraving is coarser and the resulting lines are noticeably

thicker.

The one penny stamps are numbered Sc#1 (fine impression, soft paper) and #1a (blurred impression, hard paper). The four pence #2 (orange), #2a (yellow-orange) both from the first plate and #2b (orange, blurred impression) from the second plate. Many types of papers are encountered for each impression. The printer probably used whatever was on hand at the time of the printing. Shown above are scans of Sc#1, 2, and 2b.

Continued on page 6.

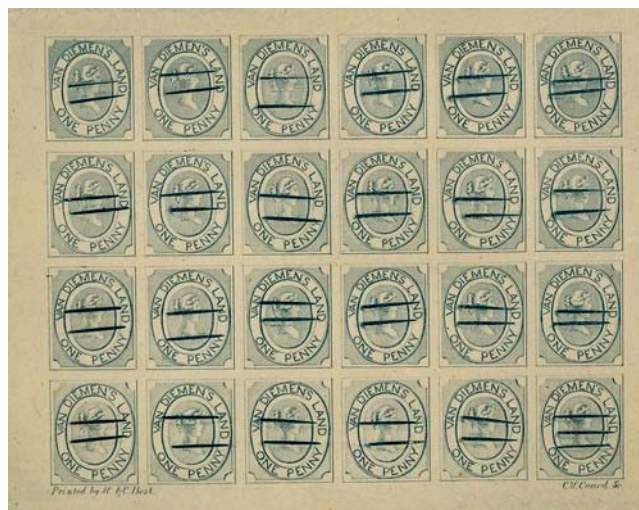
Tasmania's First Issue (continued from page 5)

Many official reprints were done but they are all easy to identify – all images on the printing plates were defaced with deep strokes across the portrait. Shown at right is a full sheet of the defaced one penny issue (75%).

I have not seen forgeries of these stamps, but they are reported to exist.

Sources:

1. The Pioneer Stamps of the British Empire, Poole B.W.H, Faber and Faber, London, 1957.
2. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/583912/Tasmania>



Defaced Reprints of Tasmania Sc#1



Forged versus Genuine Cancels on Western Australia #1

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

About 1½ years ago, I had an e-Mail conversation with David Olson, FICC #1, regarding a cancel on a Western Australia #1. I was initially drawn to the exquisite red cancel, but I was uncertain if it was genuine. The stamp in question is shown below (250%).



Given that the catalogue value for a mint stamp is approximately five times greater than for a used stamp, it made no sense to me that someone would forge a cancel on a genuine mint stamp. However, stranger things have been known to occur.

The first two reference books that I typically use for questions about the “genuineness” of cancels are ALBUM WEEDS by Rev R.B.Earee and THE SERRANE GUIDE by Fernand Serrane. THE SERRANE GUIDE gave me very little

information on cancels for this stamp, but ALBUM WEEDS provided some direct information.

Earee indicated the genuine cancel was a diamond-shaped set of horizontal lines with rounded corners and a central circle containing a numeral. Four forged cancels were listed – i) a set of 4 concentric circles with no numeral in the center, ii) a set of 3 concentric circles with no numeral in the center, iii) a set of quasi-circular horizontal lines that were “squished in” from the left and right to make the design vertically oblong, and iv) the cancel shown on my stamp.

I then visited Dave Olson's web site and saw that he had several copies of Western Australia #1 pictured with the same cancel – albeit in black. So, I e-Mailed Dave and asked what he knew about the cancel. To shorten a long story, Dave submitted a picture of the cancel to the APS Quick ID service. He received a response that the cancel was genuine, citing BILLIG'S PHILATELIC HANDBOOK as a reference. Billig's (Vol 42, page 275) states the cancel in question was conclusively proven to be used in Perth (and possible other locations) from 1854-59. The cancel described by Earee as genuine is also cited by Billig as genuine.

The lesson here... not all reference books are 100% absolutely true. That said, I still find using these references to guide my purchases has kept me out of the proverbial “hot water” on many occasions.

FICC 

Auction #78

Welcome to FICC Auction #78. The auction closes on July 31, 2014; bids received that after will not be considered. Please read descriptions carefully; lots occasionally have very similar descriptions. If you have questions, please contact me. Also, I will email scans of any specific lots you wish to see.

AUCTION RULES

1. Highest bid wins. In the event of tie bids, earliest postmark or email date stamp breaks the tie. Bid what you are willing to pay; winning bids are rarely reduced.
2. Auctioneer reserves the right to reject unreasonable bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be considered. Auctioneer's decisions are final.
3. All lots are sold "as is" without warranty by auctioneer or FICC. In case of a dispute, the auctioneer will contact the seller and provide the name of the buyer and nature of the dispute to allow direct settlement.
4. An expertizing policy exists for lots with a realized price of \$75 or more (contact auction manager for details).
5. The club receives a 10% fee from each lot sold. The fee will be split between the seller and the buyer.
6. Shipping charges are added to buyer's total. Lots will be mailed using normal USPS rates. Winning lots totaling more than \$200 will be insured, certified or registered.
7. Payment may be requested before shipment.
8. Bidding in this auction constitutes agreement to these rules.

SUBMITTING BIDS

Submit bids by email (Auctions@firstissues.org) or postal mail (Tim Balm, 5580 Senour Drive, West Chester, OH, 45069-1135, USA). If you are submitting bids by postal mail, you can (1) enter your bids on the bid sheet on page 11 and mail that, or (2) you can place your bids on a separate sheet of paper giving lot number, description, and the amount you wish to bid. Please include your name, FICC#, and address. Phone bids are not accepted.

#1s

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Min Bid</u>	<u>Your Bid</u>	<u>Lot</u>
1	Germany - Bergedorf Sc#1 mhr 4-mrgn (3 mrgns close)	\$45.00	\$15.75	_____	1
2	Germany - Bergedorf Sc#1 mh (4 close mrgns) [REPRINT]	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	2
3	Germany - Hanover Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn (1 close)	\$60.00	\$24.00	_____	3
4	Germany - Oldenberg Sc#1 used(l-cxl in blue) 4-mrgn [type 1]	\$27.50	\$13.75	_____	4
5	Germany - Oldenberg Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn [type 1]	\$27.50	\$12.40	_____	5
6	Germany - Oldenberg Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn [type 3]	\$27.50	\$12.40	_____	6
7	Germany - Prussia Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn (1 close)	\$72.50	\$29.00	_____	7
8	Germany - Thurn & Taxis Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn (3 close)	\$60.00	\$21.00	_____	8
9	Germany - Thurn & Taxis Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 2-mrgn	\$60.00	\$21.00	_____	9
10	Germany - Thurn & Taxis Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr 2-mrgn	\$60.00	\$18.00	_____	10
11	Germany - N German Conf Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f	\$15.00	\$6.00	_____	11
12	Gr Brit - EAF Sc#1-8 mh f/vf [#5 signed]	\$12.05	\$4.80	_____	12
13	Gr Brit - MEF Sc#1 mh f/vf	\$2.00	\$0.80	_____	13
14	Gr Brit - MEF Sc#1-4 mnh f/vf	\$5.50	\$2.50	_____	14
15	Gr Brit - MEF Sc#1-5 mnh f/vf	\$6.30	\$2.85	_____	15
16	Gr Brit - MEF Sc#1-9 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$10.95	\$4.40	_____	16
17	Gr Brit - Off in China Sc#1 mnh f/vf	\$4.50	\$2.00	_____	17
18	Gr Brit - Off in China Sc#1 mvlh vf	\$4.50	\$2.00	_____	18
19	Gr Brit - Off in Turkey Sc#1 used(m-cxl) vf	\$1.50	\$0.70	_____	19
20	Guinea-Bissau Sc#345-48 mnh vf	\$21.15	\$15.00	_____	20
	[346: disturbed gum; 347: light tone spot on gum]				
21	Hatay Sc#1 mnh f/vf [SCV is for mh; mnh is 2.6x higher]	\$1.75	\$0.80	_____	21
22	India-Nabha Sc#1 mhr f/vf [original print]	\$6.25	\$2.25	_____	22
23	New Hebrides (Br) Sc#1-6 mlh f/vf	\$216.25	\$86.50	_____	23
24	Tannu Tuva Sc#1 f/vf mh	\$1.50	\$0.70	_____	24

Change of Government #1s

25	Belize Sc#563-69 (Independence) mnh f/vf	\$44.50	\$20.00	_____	25
26	Cameroun Sc#331 (Autonomous Gov) mvlh f/vf	\$1.60	\$0.65	_____	26

Continued on page 8

First Issues Collectors Club
Membership Application or Renewal Form

Membership includes four issues of the FICC Newsletter, *First Issues*. Dues for members who receive the Newsletters electronically or who have United States mailing addressees are \$10.00 per year. Rates for members with non-U.S. addresses who receive the Newsletters via postal mail are US\$14.00 per year. Make checks payable to **Kurt Streepy** and send to the postal address below or use the online PayPal feature at our web site, www.firstissues.org. Thank you for your renewal or new membership!

- ☐ New Membership

 ☐ Renewal

 ☐ Additional Contribution: \$ _____
☐ Electronic Copy (by E-mail)

 ☐ Paper Copy (by postal delivery)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone* _____ e-mail* _____

APS# _____ Other Memberships: _____

* Your telephone number and e-mail address will be kept confidential if you wish.

Send this form with your dues to: Kurt Streepy, 3128 E. Mattatha Dr., Bloomington, IN 47401, USA



BID SHEET FOR AUCTION #78




Bidding Deadline is July 31, 2014



 (email bids to auctions@firstissues.org)

Name: _____

FICC#: _____

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Bid</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Bid</u>

First Issues

Tim Balm, Editor
5580 Senour Drive
West Chester, OH 45069-1135
USA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

