

# First Issues

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Oct-Nov-Dec 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: Louis Laflamme president@firstissues.org

Vice President: Vacant 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

## **Outgoing President's Message**

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as President of FICC. A very heart felt "Thank you!" to so many of you who helped build and sustain FICC.

When I announced my intent to retire as President, nominations were opened and two very capable members received nominations for the office of President: Louis Laflamme and Tim Balm. Louis currently serves as Vice President, while Tim serves as Editor and Auction Chairman. After thorough and thoughtful reflection, Tim decided that he would rather continue his service in those two positions. Louis, on the other hand, is willing to resign as Vice President to serve as our new FICC President.

I applaud the wise decisions of both of these faithful FICC members.

In accordance with the Bylaws of FICC, nominations were closed, and Louis Laflamme was elected FICC's President by acclimation.

Tim will continue his service to FICC as Editor and Auction Chairman.

The position of Vice President is now open for nominations (see page 5).

Once again let me say that FICC means a lot to me. I certainly plan to continue my membership in the club and I look forward to continued enthusiasm for the field of first issues collecting. I have every confidence that FICC is in excellent hands.

#### Clark Buchi

## **Incoming President's Message**

First of all, let me take this opportunity to thank our outgoing President, Clark Buchi, for his years of service to the club. Our loss is *The Perfins Bulletin* gain, and I wish him all the best. As the new President, I am quite happy at the prospect of aiding the club to pursue its goal of gathering and disseminating information about this fascinating aspect of philately.

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Visit us on the World Wide Web at http://www.firstissues.org

## 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 V23N1, articles must be received prior to Nov 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 11).

**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 11).

**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.

## Secretary's Report

**Membership News**: No new members joined FICC since the last Newsletter.

## Mail Bag

No mail was received since the last Newsletter.

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#### Incoming President's Message (continued from page 1)

Because of its nature, members of our club don't meet. So allow me the opportunity to introduce myself. I am a 55 yearold physician working in the field of diagnostic imaging both in Montreal and Ottawa. I began collecting/accumulating stamps when I was about 7 – but only became serious about the hobby after my studies were completed. For years I concentrated on stamps of my own country, but I felt I was missing the larger picture. Since collecting the world is no longer a viable option, I had the idea of limiting myself to #1s of the world. It is when I was searching the web for resources that I discovered the FICC website. That was in 2005. I immediately joined the club and, I must admit, it gave me a renewed interest in collecting that goes well beyond filling spaces in an album.

If you have suggestions on how we could improve the club and how it could better serve your interests please feel free to write me.

Louis Laflamme

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## **Call for Mail Auction #81 Lots**

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #81 is Nov 15, 2014.** Please send singles, sets, FDCs and covers related to first issues -- basically anything you think other FICC members would be interested in owning. The full set of guidelines governing the auctions is published in each auction mailing.

- 1. Submit lots to: Tim Balm, 5580 Senour Drive, West Chester, OH, 45069-1135 USA.
- 2. Include an inventory with your name & address, 1-line descriptions of the lots including cat#, current cat value, and minimum accepted bid. [Note: Scott catalog is the default; first issues listed by other catalogs are welcome.]
- 3. The club receives a 10% fee from each lot sold -- split between the seller and the buyer.

FICC >>

First Issues (ISSN 1547-2299)

## **Two Triquerat Forgeries**

By Louis Laflamme, FICC #210

The recent V22N3 article on New Caledonia #1 reminded me of two forgeries of this stamp I came across a few years ago. This stamp is known in French by the name of its designer, Sergeant Triquerat who was an infantryman serving on French ships and stationed in New Caledonia at the time. He was also moonlighting as an illustrator for the local newspaper, the "*Moniteur Impérial*", a simple one page paper produced by lithography. When the need arose in the colony for postage stamps in 1859, the *Moniteur Impérial* was the only place possessing impression material capable of doing the job and Triquerat inherited the fastidious task of drawing, one-by-one, the 50 subjects on the lithographic stone thus creating 50 different varieties of Sc#1. You can find stamps with long heads, wide heads, different shapes of nose, ear, hair, beard & moustache, or more/less centered in different octagonal frames. A reproduction of the full sheet is shown below.



The first printing produced 1500 stamps (30 sheets) but they were reprinted several times over more than two years, and the total produced is unknown. The genuine stamps are scarce and valued at about \$250 mint or used because most used stamps went

uncancelled. Some are known cancelled **P.D** (paid to destination) and others with the triple oval New South Wales cancel where international letters transited.

The genuine stamps are easy to plate by comparison to the full sheet shown above. Many forgeries can be spotted that way also.

Figure 2 (near right) shows my genuine Sc#1 (position 10), and Figure 3 (far right) shows an enlargement of the stamp from position 10 in the full sheet.

Continued on page 4.



#### Volume 22 Number 4

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#### Triquerat Forgeries (continued from page 3)

Figure 4 (at right) shows the first forgery I spotted on the internet a few years ago. It was offered as a genuine stamp by a seller no longer active. That stamp is even more primitive than the genuine ones and does not remotely look like any of the known types, it should not pose any problem.





Figure 5 (far left) shows a more dangerous

forgery. It is in my reference collection and closely resembles the pos. 27 stamp (near left). This could be one of the lithographical/ photolithographical forgeries described in "The Serrane Guide". It is printed on thin white paper and is lightly cancelled with a triple oval device probably made to resemble the NSW cancel. Close examination will reveal small differences with the genuine stamp the most obvious one being the absence of a stain at the back of the head. Another tell-tale sign is the presence of small white margins around the outer

black frame lines. The genuine stamps do not have any distinct margins except at the sheet edges!

In the Scott catalogue it is stated that counterfeits abound so if you own a copy of that stamp or are contemplating the purchase of one it would be prudent and wise to obtain a certificate of authenticity.

References:

- 1. The Serrane Guide.
- 2. Timbroscopie, Number 41, November 1987.
- 3. L'écho de la timbrologie, January 1949, p.245.

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## Additional Forgeries of New Caledonia #1

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

When Louis Laflamme submitted his article on the Triquerat forgeries, it sparked a small e-mail discussion between us. Since he was kind enough to share his forgeries of this stamp, I reciprocated and shared scans of my forgeries from my reference album. I do not want to detract from Louis's article because it contains valuable information, but I decided to share pictures of my forgeries for all FICC members to see – and use for reference. [Note: I have two copies of the same forgery as Mr. Laflamme's Figure 5 – one with the same cancel and one without a cancel. These are not shown.]

The 3 stamps at right (150%) are possibly the most common forgery. All copies I have seen have the same central picture. The most obvious characteristic of this forgery is the lack of any markings between the circles on the left and right sides. Note: the surcharge and the cancel are fictitious.



Continued on page 5.

Email to: editor@firstissues.org

## Vice President Position Nominations Now Open

As discussed in the President's Messages, Louis Laflamme has vacated the Vice President position to assume the office of FICC President. Consequently, nominations are now open for the Vice President position. The VP duties are to contribute input and vote on Board matters. [Of course, new thoughts on membership, club services, etc. are always welcome.] The Vice President would also assume the Presidency if he/she is suddenly unable to continue. Self nominations are certainly acceptable for anyone wishing to share in shepherding FICC into the future. Please send nomination to Louis, Kurt, or Tim (e-mail contact information on page 1).

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#### **Renewals for 2015 FICC Membership are Now Due**

Please check the mailing label on this copy of the Newsletter. Your membership expiration is given after your name (along with your FICC #). If your membership expires with V22N4, then you need to renew your membership. Renewal information is located on the back page. If you do not renew by December 15, 2014, this will, unfortunately, be the last Newsletter you will receive.

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#### **Editor's Musings**

We often do not thank our outgoing officers enough for the service they provide to the club. In FICC's 24 years of existence, it has had only 3 Presidents (Louis makes the 4<sup>th</sup>). David Olson, founder of the club, served as *de facto* President from the club's launch in 1990, and his Presidency became "official" in 1997 when FICC became an APS Affiliate. Dave continued to serve until he resigned in 2003 and Robert Sylvester (then current VP and interim Editor) was elected President. Bob served for 8 years until health issues required him to resign. Clark Buchi took the Presidential reins in 2011.

Like Dave and Bob, Clark was a founding member of the club and served as the Newsletter's first Editor from 1990 until 1997. Without Clark's tireless efforts at generating club enthusiasm in those early years, FICC would have had a much more difficult time sustaining itself. In 2007, when the Secretary/Treasurer's position needed filling, Clark assumed those duties for the 4 years preceding his election to the Presidency.

I know that Clark neither intends to stop collecting First Issues nor to terminate membership in FICC in the foreseeable future. Nonetheless, I had a desire (or maybe a need) to celebrate his dedication to the FICC. A GREAT MANY THANKS, Clark!

#### Tim Balm

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#### Additional New Caledonia #1 Forgeries (continued from page 4)



paper is "wrong".

The stamp at right (150%) appears to be from position 4 of the full sheet. It is a reproduction. The ink side is very slick and it is printed on thin paper. My copy has "facsimile" stamped on the back.

The block at left (125%) is printed on a very thick, ribbed paper. The 4 stamps in this block are reproductions of positions 17, 18, 27, 28 of the sheet.

The 2 stamps at right (125%) are reproductions of position 31 (left stamp) and position 44 (right stamp). I group these together because the images are much more blurry than the genuine, and the



TAN CALEDVEIL

P95223.10.

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## Iceland #1 History

#### By Paul Talbot, FICC non-member

[This is another re-printing (with permission) of information disseminated by paultalbot.com in a March 29, 2014 e-mail broadcast to his customer base. The first article in this series appeared in V22N3.]

"When Iceland released its first stamp on New Year's Day, 1873, it shared a king with another country. Iceland wasn't a republic until 1944. So when its first stamps appeared, they were identical to the stamps of Denmark. Iceland had been a Danish dependency since the end of the Napoleonic wars.

"The king who ruled over Iceland in 1873 was Denmark's Christian IX. He first appeared on one of Iceland's stamps in 1902, four years before he died at the Amalienborg Palace in Copenhagen at the age of 88.

"As a young man, King Christian asked Britain's Queen Victoria to marry him, and she declined. His eventual wife was a



German princess. The king's legacy is largely that of a prolific father-in-law. His six children married into other royal houses and today, his descendants include Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg.

"During World War II, Iceland was invaded and occupied by the British, who handed off occupation responsibilities to the Americans a year later. When Iceland became a republic in 1944, just a few weeks after the allied invasion of Normandy, a set of six stamps was issued depicting Icelandic historian Jon Sigurdsson (Sc#240-45). Used copies of the 10k value of this set are very difficult to find.

"Today, Iceland is the most sparsely populated nation in Europe. Two thirds of its 322 thousand people live in the capital city of Reykjavik, the world's northernmost national capital.."

Editor: I found this information interesting because I had never thought about why the design of Iceland's first stamps did not show a vignette of the country's ruler – as nearly all other stamps of that era did. The #1 stamp is shown at left, 200%.

FICC >

## Forgery of Oldenburg Sc#1

#### By Tim Balm, FICC #91

In FICC Auction #78 (in the last Newsletter), three lots of Oldenburg #1 were listed. Two were the type 1 variety, and one was of the type 3 variety. One member, interested in upgrading his copies of this stamp, asked for scans of the three lots. Upon receiving the scans, he informed me that one of the lots was a forgery, possible by Spiro. I immediately withdrew the stamp from the auction, and nullified all bids on it. Shown below are the genuine #1 (at left) and the forgery (at right), both at 200%.

Although I do my very best at identifying forgeries before listing the stamps, three of my weakest areas are overprinted #1s (all countries), the German States, and the Italian States. I seized upon this opportunity to increase my own knowledge, and asked what characteristics identified the stamp as a forgery. This is what I learned.

The member used information from the Germany Philatelic Forgery Manuals. The basic forgery characteristics are:

- the 1 of 1/30 does not touch the ermine cape above it
- there is a period after OLDENBURG
- the notch in the shield nearly touches the H of THALER
- shape of the top 2 at left



Although there is a slight color difference visible when these two stamps are laid side by side, this difference is not as striking when the forgery is viewed by itself.

I did some digging in my own reference books and found that Album Weeds (by Earee) lists two forgeries, but neither matches the characteristics described above for this forgery.

Many thanks to the member who provided this information – and allowed me to increase my own knowledge in this area.

FICC >>

## Auction #80

Welcome to FICC Auction #80. <u>The auction closes on Oct 31, 2014</u>; bids received after that 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.

#1 c

	<u>#15</u>				
Lot	Description	<u>CV</u>	Min Bid	Your Bid	Lot
1	Australia Sc#1 used(m-cxl) vf	\$7.50	\$2.90		1
2	Czech Sc#1 vert pair mnh/mvlh 4-mrgn	\$0.50	\$0.20		2
3	Dahomey Sc#1 cto(I-cxI) f	\$1.60	\$0.65		3
4	Eastern Rumelia Sc#1 u(I-cxl) f/vf [sealed tear upper right]	\$57.50	\$17.50		4 5 6
5	Eritrea Sc#1 mnh avg	\$10.00	\$3.50		5
6	Estonia Sc#1-4 mlh 4-mrgn	\$4.60	\$1.50		6
7	Estonia Sc#1-4 used(cto, m-cxl) 4-mrgn	\$4.70	\$1.50		7 8
8	France - Off in Canton Sc#1 mng f	\$2.10			8
9	French Eq Africa Sc#1 mhr vf	\$0.30			9
10	French Sudan Sc#3 mng f [1st stamp with colony name]	\$1.75	\$0.50		10
11	Germany - N German Conf Sc#1 used(I-cxl) f	\$15.00	\$6.00		11
12	Germany-Offices in Morocco Sc#1 mvlh f/vf	\$3.25			12
13	Gr Brit-Scotland Sc#1 used(I-cxI) f/vf	\$0.25			13
14	Hatay Sc#1-11,2a,3a mlh/mnh f/vf [many mnh]	\$75.00			14
15	Inhambane Sc#1 used(I-cxI) f/vf [signed Francois] [+Sc#47 free]	\$30.00			15
16	Mexico-Sinaloa Sc#1-2 mh f/vf [#1 is mdg, #2 is mhr]	\$10.00	\$4.00		16
17	Northern Rhodesia Sc#1-4 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$1.60	\$0.65		17
18	Rhodesia & Nyasaland Isl Sc#141-55 mvlh f/vf	\$112.85	\$45.00		18
19	Sierra Leone Sc#1b (grey lilac) mh f [rounded LR corner]	\$300.00	\$30.00		19
20	St Lucia Sc#1 mng f	\$110.00	\$30.00		20
21	Togo Sc#1 used(m-cxl) vf [NICE SON cxl]	\$7.25	\$3.25		21
22	Tristan da Cunha Sc#1-12 mvlh vf [some mnh]	\$85.00			22
23	United Nations-NY Sc#1 mh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10		23
24	United Nations-NY Sc#1 used(I-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10		24
25	Vatican City Sc#1 mhr f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10		25

Continued on page 8.

#### Mail Bid Auction 80 (continued from page 7)

Change of	Government #1s
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Change of Government #15							
<u>Lot</u>	Description	<u>CV</u>	<u>Min Bid</u>	<u>Your Bid</u>	Lot		
26	Crete Sc#50 (Cretan Gov't) mh vf	\$0.50	\$0.20		26		
27	Jamaica Sc#129-32 (New Constitution) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$1.80	\$0.75		27		
28	Nyasaland Protectorate Sc#112-22 (Provisional) mh f/vf	\$19.10	\$7.65		28		
29	Sarawak Sc#159-73 (British) mlh f/vf	\$17.75	\$7.10		29		
		\$17.10	\$7.70				
30	Singapore Sc#43-48 (Self Government) mvlh vf				30		
31	Straits Settl. Sc#256-71 (BMA) mlh f/vf	\$89.30	\$35.75		31		
32	Tanganyika Sc#45-56 (Independent State) mh f/vf	\$30.30	\$12.10		32		
	#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s						
33	Egypt Sc#O1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10		33		
34	Falkland Islands Sc#2L1 (Graham Land) mh f/vf	\$0.50	\$0.20		34		
35	Falkland Islands Sc#3L1 (South Georgia) mhr f/vf	\$0.40			35		
36	Falkland Islands Sc#4L1 (South Orkneys) mh f/vf	\$0.50	\$0.20		36		
37	Falkland Islands Sc#4L1 (South Shetlands) mhr f/vf	\$0.50	\$0.15		37		
38	Libya Sc#1N1 mnh vf	\$0.40	\$0.20		38		
39	Macedonia Sc#N1 mnh f/vf	\$6.50	\$3.50		39		
40	Saudi Arabia Sc#L1 used(m-cxl) f/vf [normal rough	\$32.50	\$13.00		40		
10	perforations at left and bottom]	ψ <b>0</b> <u>1</u> .00	<b><i><i>Q</i></i></b> 10100		10		
	<u>BOB (Back of Book) #</u>	<u>1S</u>					
41	Algeria Sc#P1 mlh f	\$0.40	\$0.10		41		
42	Dahomey Sc#B1 mnh f/vf	\$1.60	\$0.75		42		
43	Italy Sc#D1 mnh avg	\$2.75	\$0.95		43		
44	Netherlands Sc#B1-3 used(h-cxl) f/vf {#B3 has hr]	\$52.00	\$20.00		44		
45	Spain Sc#MR1 mnh avg	\$11.00	\$3.50		45		
40			φ0.00		40		
	<u>Misc Stamps from First Issue</u>	<u>SetS</u>					
46	Aitutaki Sc#O2-9 used(cto, I-cxl) f/vf [nh, nice selvage]	\$2.00	\$0.50		46		
47	Aitutaki Sc#O10-11 used(cto, I-cxl) f/vf [nh, nice selvage]	\$0.95	\$0.45		47		
48	Aitutaki Sc#O12-13 used(cto, I-cxl) f/vf [nh, nice selvage]	\$1.80	\$0.50		48		
49	Antigua Sc#MR2 mhr f/vf	\$1.60	\$0.55		49		
50	Bosnia & Herzogovina Sc#2 mhr f/vf [crease, heavy hinge]	\$16.00	\$0.90		50		
51	Bosnia & Herzogovina Sc#4 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$1.60	\$0.15		51		
52							
	Bosnia & Herzogovina Sc#5 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$3.25	\$0.30		52		
53	Bosnia & Herzogovina Sc#6 cto(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$0.55	\$0.10		53		
54	Bosnia & Herzogovina Sc#7 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf [thin, rnd corner]	\$1.20	\$0.15		54		
55	Bosnia & Herzogovina Sc#8 used(m-cxl) hr vf	\$10.25	\$0.75		55		
56	Germany Sc#12NB2-3 (Berlin) mlh f/vf	\$21.00	\$9.45		56		
57	Germany Sc#14NB2-12 (West Saxony) mnh f/vf	\$6.00	\$2.70		57		
58	Germany Sc#15NB2 (East Saxony) mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10		58		
59	Germany Sc#16NB2-4 (Thuringia) mhr 4-mrgn	\$0.75	\$0.30		59		
60	Libya Sc#1N2 mlh vf	\$0.40	\$0.20		60		
00	•	ψ0.40	ψ0.20		00		
	<u>ForgerieS</u>						
61	Russia-Army of the North #1-5 4-mrgn	\$2.00	\$0.25		61		
62	Italin States - Sardinia Sc#1 used 3-margin	\$2,200	\$2.00		62		
63	Italin States - Tuscany Sc#1 used 3+ margins [pin hole]	\$2,250	\$2.00		63		
		. ,			-		
	TwinS						
64	Hong Kong Sc#9 used(m-cxl) avg [twin to #1]	\$40.00	\$5.00		64		

## **END OF LISTING**

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 <u>Kurt Streepy</u> and send to the postal address below or use the online PayPal feature at out web site, www.firstissues.org. Thank you for your renewal or new membership!						
□ New Membership □ Renewal □ Additional Contribution: \$						
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 #80**

Bidding Deadline is October 31, 2014 TOT

(email bids to auctions@firstissues.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

FICC#: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid	Lot	Bid

# IT'S RENEWAL TIME

Check your address label on this newsletter. If it has an expiration date of V22#4, that means your FICC membership expires with this issue. Please send in your dues renewal by December 15, 2014 to ensure that you do not miss an issue. Dues are \$10.00 per year for members who receive the Newsletters electronically or who have USA mailing addresses. Rates for members with non-U.S. addresses who receive the Newsletters via postal mail are \$14.00 per year. We believe this remains a bargain relative to most other stamp clubs with newsletters.

A membership renewal form can be found on page 9. If you have an email address, please include any changes. Make checks payable to **Kurt Streepy** (not FICC), and mail your dues to Kurt at the address on the renewal form. If you wish to pay electronically using PayPal or Skrill/MoneyBookers, please contact Kurt Streepy for instructions.

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

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