



First Issues

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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.

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President's Message

I hope that you enjoyed the last Newsletter as much as I did. It was filled with useful information that I would never have learned about without the great work of Tim Balm. For example, I now know that although I am the proud owner of an Afghanistan Sc#2 (certified as a #1 by the Philatelic Foundation in 1989) I now have to look for a #1 (unless #2 was issued first...). I also have a Dedeagh #1 but Cavalle, Port Lagos and Vathy #1a, I have yet to decide what to do about this but, without knowing which came first, in the end I know I will probably try to get both varieties. Finally, the KEP Scott numbering was also made clear to me now. It is just like the tax code, why make it simple when you can complicate things! My \$14 a year (yes, I still get my Newsletter by regular mail) again proved to be a good investment.

After university, when I resumed collecting seriously, almost all of my stamps were bought either at stamp shows or by mail auctions. The internet has really changed all that since I now buy most of them from dealer sites or through internet auctions. As if I needed another proof of just how the internet changed the hobby, the *Canadian Stamp Dealer Association* announced that the November 2015 National Stamp Show would be the last. It took place twice a year for nearly 30 years. At first it was held both in Montreal and Toronto but years ago the Montreal show was dropped. The decision was based on the lack of involvement by big national dealers and the resulting loss of money. It seems that many dealers now find it much more profitable to favor on-line sales. I can understand their reasoning but in the long term I doubt this is good news for the hobby.

In closing I would like to wish to all of you a happy and healthy new year 2016.

Louis Laflamme

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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 V24N2, articles must be received prior to February 15, 2016.**

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

Mauritius Article Sparks Investigation (V23N4)

Louis, Thanks for the column. ... Somehow I missed this article in AP in May. Of course, I sold my house in mid April and was dealing with all the house inspections as well as making arrangement to move out. I'm sure I scanned the issue, but totally missed the article. I will dig it out and read it "thoroughly". ... I have full sheets of Mauritius #1-2 reprints that were included in a "first issue collection" that I bought three years ago. There must be a couple of different reprints involved in this holding as there are different paper types and different colors. ... I intended to research the Mauritius stuff at some time, but have not gotten to it yet. I think your column has elevated the priority for that effort. I might even write up what I find out about my reprints for a future Newsletter. Thanks.

Tim Balm, FICC #91

Email: August, 2015

[Editor: See page 6 to read of Tim's findings.]

Secretary's Report

Membership News: One new member joined FICC since the last Newsletter went to press.

- William (Bill) Ullom, FICC #254, Akron, OH, USA

Welcome Bill.

FICC ~~☒~~[illegible]

Call for Mail Auction #86 Lots

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #86 is Feb 15, 2016. 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.

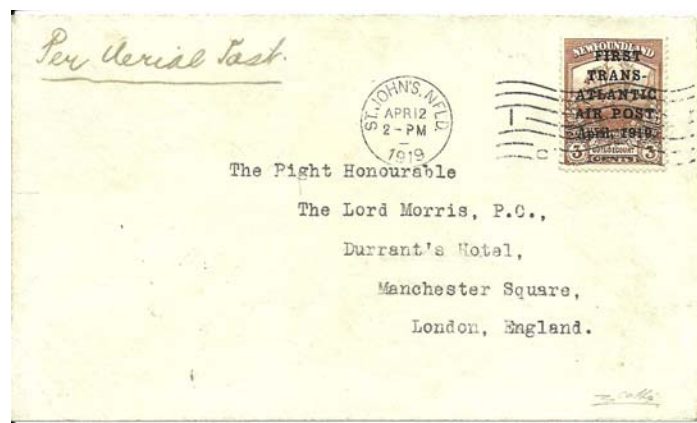
1. Submit lots to: Tim Balm, 655 Goodpasture Island Rd Apt 216, Eugene, OR 97401-1534 USA.
2. Include an inventory with your name & address, 1-line descriptions of the lots including cat#, current cat value, and minimum accepted bid. [Note: Scott catalog is the default; first issues listed by other catalogs are welcome.]
3. The club receives a 10% fee from each lot sold -- split between the seller and the buyer.

FICC ~~✗~~

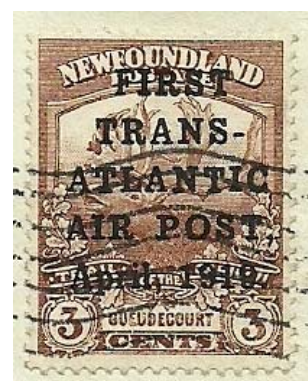
An Ill-Fated First Issue – Newfoundland Sc#C1

By Louis Laflamme, FICC #210

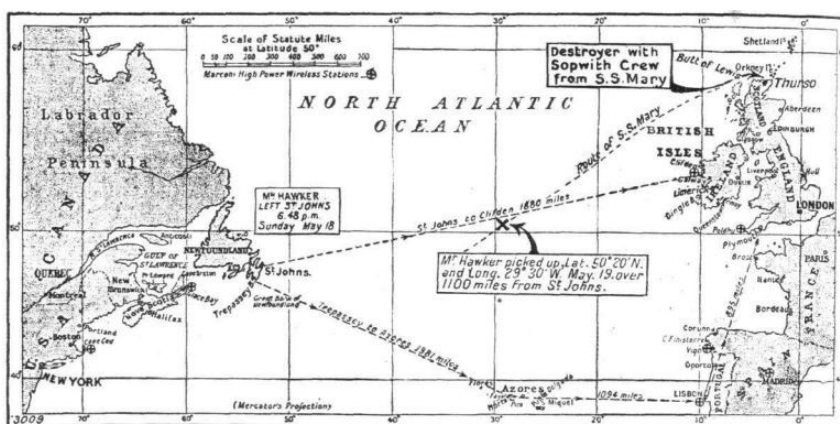
The airmail stamps of Newfoundland are popular among aerophilatelists. They document early attempts to cross the Atlantic, many were issued in small numbers and they produced some world rarities. Such is the case for the first airmail issue of Newfoundland and of the British Commonwealth. The story began in April 1913 when Lord Northcliffe, owner of the London *Daily Mail*, offered a prize of £10,000 to the first team realizing a transatlantic flight between Great Britain and North America in no more than 72 consecutive hours. The technology did not really exist at that time for such an undertaking and the competition was suspended during WWI with no attempt made. Great advances in aviation were made during the war and, after the armistice of Nov. 1918, the competition resumed. The winds favored a west to east route and Newfoundland, being the most eastern part of North America, was a logical starting point for the adventure. Four teams assembled in Newfoundland during the spring of 1919. One of them was sponsored by Thomas Sopwith of the "Sopwith Aviation Company", he had a plane built specially for the occasion. The "Sopwith Atlantic" was a large single engine, two-seat biplane whose design was based on a Sopwith B.1 bomber. (See Figure 1 above right, 50%.) The crew, consisting of Australian pilot Harry Hawker and Scottish navigator Kenneth Mackenzie Grieve, would be the first to make the attempt. For the occasion a single sheet of 200 of the 3 cents "Trail of the Caribou" red brown stamp issued in Jan. 1919 (Sc#117) was overprinted in



black "FIRST / TRANS- / ATLANTIC / AIR POST / April, 1919." and the postmaster, J. A. Robinson, initialled the back of each stamp. Scott #C1 was issued on April 12. Of the 200 stamps, 18 were defective and destroyed, 95 used on covers, 11 were offered as gifts and 76 sold to the benefit of the Marine Disasters Fund. Figure 2 (at left, 60%) shows the stamp on full cover cancelled on the day of issue; Figure 3 (at right, 150%) shows the stamp's detail.



The plane took off Mount Pearl near St-John's at 6:48 p.m. on Sunday May 18, 1919 but 14 hours into the flight after having traveled 1100 miles of the 1880 miles route the aviators were forced to ditch in the ocean when their single engine overheated. Luckily for them they were rescued by a passing Danish freighter but their fate remained unknown until 6 days later when they reached Scotland. As for their plane, it did not sink and was recovered along with the mail bag by an American ship a few days later. Figure 4 (at right, 55%) shows a map of the flight and rescue published in 1919 in *Flight* magazine. For their effort they were awarded a £5,000 consolation prize.



Continued on p.4

The Curiosity of St Lucia's 1967 Statehood "Extra" Stamps

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

My collection of First Issues includes "Change of Government" first issues in addition to the primary "first stamps issued" sets. I have chosen to include these stamps because I enjoy researching and understanding the political environments associated with stamps being issued after major government changes – whether the change was as simple as being granted independence or as complicated as redefining the country's border / territorial make-up.

For quite some time, I've had a set of St. Lucia's 1967 "Statehood 1st March 1967" overprint stamps (Sc#215-225) in my collection. These stamps were created simply by applying the overprint to 11 of the 14 stamps from the March 1964 definitive issue. Not included are the 1c, 4c and \$2.50 values from the 1964 set. If you look closely at the Scott numbering, you will see that there are no stamps listed for Sc#214 and #226 in the catalogue. I hypothesized that these numbers were being reserved in case the 1c and \$2.50 overprinted stamps were to be later included in the set. To me, this was logical given the footnote under the #215-225 set that states "The 1c and \$2.50, similarly overprinted, were not sold to the public at the post office but were acknowledged belatedly (May 10) by the government and declared valid." The same footnote goes on to state, "The 1c, 6c and \$2.50 overprints exist in black as well as red." The Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue carries a similar footnote after their listing of the set – and provides no further information regarding the "curiosities".

It is relatively easy to acquire the 1c and \$2.50 denominated stamps with red overprints. These are shown at right (140%), along with Sc#217 – the 6c value in listed red overprint. Similarly, the 1c and 6c stamps with black overprints are relatively easily to acquire. These are shown below (140%). Over the years, I have obtained each of these stamps to add to the base set. The \$2.50 stamp overprinted in black, however, is more scarce and has a rather steep price. Some sellers on eBay want more than \$500.00 for a copy. I would love to have one of these just to "complete the set", but my desire for a copy does not even begin to approach that price. Especially for something that has no catalogue number in either Scott or Gibbons.



I dimly recall that at least twice in the past I tried to research different libraries to find out more about these "extra" overprints. All that dim memory holds is that I was unsuccessful in learning anything further.

That changed recently while reading an article by Noel Davenhill in the September 2015 issue of *The American Philatelist*. The article was entitled "St. Lucia: A Former Crown Colony in the Caribbean" and appeared as part of a series on "VISITING THE BRITISH EMPIRE". I read the article to see if I could learn anything regarding why the first set (Sc#1-3) was issued without denominations. On the article's fourth page, however, I was delighted to read a detailed description about the "extra" Statehood overprints.

According to Davenhill, there was no government-initiated undertaking to issue stamps celebrating St. Lucia's statehood. Instead, a New York stamp dealer named Ed Mosden offered to provide St. Lucia overprinted definitive stamps at no cost, providing the Crown Agents agreed to sell him all copies of the lowest (1c) and highest (\$2.50) denominations at a discount (the discount not specified in the article). The deal was struck. Mosden arranged for printing plates to apply the overprints, a supply of red ink, and large supplies of the 1964 definitive stamps to be sent to St. Lucia where the overprints were produced locally. Evidently Mosden had no ready supply of the 4c stamp from the 1964 series – so only 13 different denominations were overprinted. Per the agreement, all 1c and \$2.50 denominations were sold to Mosden exclusively and were not available at local post offices. The remaining 11 denominations were available for purchase at local post offices as early as March 7th – barely a week after statehood was proclaimed on March 1st.

Davenhill's article goes on to state, "Mosden likely manipulated several 'errors,' also inverted and double overprints in addition to a few sheets of the 1c and 6c, and possibly one sheet of the \$2.50 for unauthorized black, instead of red, overprints." If there truly was only a single sheet of the \$2.50 stamps overprinted in black, I now understand the high cost. However, this also makes it a prime candidate for a forged overprint. Hence, I'm even more reluctant to lay down a large sum of money for this stamp without a cert.

FICC 

Auction #85

Welcome to FICC Auction #85. The auction closes on January 31, 2016 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. ... All catalogue values (CVs) are taken from the 2016 Scott Catalogues.

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 (NOTICE NEW ADDRESS (AGAIN!!) FOR BIDDING!!!)

Submit bids by email (Auctions@firstissues.org) or postal mail (Tim Balm, 655 Goodpasture Island Rd Apt 216, Eugene, OR, 97401-1534, 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	French Morocco Sc#1 used(m-cxl) avg [SON cxl]	\$4.00	\$1.25	_____	1
2	KEP (Kyrgyz Express Post) Sc#1 mnh vf [corner selvage]	\$24.00	\$15.00	_____	2

Change of Government #1s

3	Germany Sc#1612-13 (reunification) cto-ng(l-cxl) f/vf	\$0.85	\$0.40	_____	3
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#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s

4	Italy Sc#NE1 mh f/vf	\$12.00	\$4.80	_____	4
5	Italy Sc#NE1 mvlh f/vf	\$12.00	\$4.90	_____	5
6	Italy Sc#NE1-2 mh f/vf	\$24.00	\$9.60	_____	6
7	Italy Sc#NE1-2 mnh/mh f/vf [N1 is mnh]	\$24.00	\$9.80	_____	7
8	Italy Sc#NJ1-7 mh f/vf	\$9.65	\$3.85	_____	8
9	Italy Sc#NP1 mh f/vf	\$0.80	\$0.40	_____	9
10	Italy Sc#NP1 used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$1.20	\$0.55	_____	10
11	Italy Sc#NP1-2 mhr f/vf	\$1.90	\$0.75	_____	11
12	Italy Sc#NP1-4 mh f/vf	\$4.10	\$1.65	_____	12
13	Italy Sc#NP1-4 mhr f/vf	\$4.10	\$1.45	_____	13

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

14	Australian States - New South Wales Sc#B1-2 mhr f/vf	\$422.50	\$148.00	_____	14
15	Belgium Sc#J1 used(m-cxl) avg [signed F.O.] [small thin]	\$2.00	\$0.50	_____	15
16	French Polynesia Sc#C1 mhr f/vf [5-8 clipped perfs LR]	\$1.25	\$0.30	_____	16
17	Germany Sc#B1 mhr f/vf	\$0.45	\$0.25	_____	17
18	Germany Sc#OL1 mh f/vf	\$1.20	\$0.50	_____	18
19	Greece Sc#NRA1 mlh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	19
20	Hong Kong Sc#J1 mh vf	\$2.75	\$1.25	_____	20
21	Italy Sc#B1-3 mnh f/vf	\$125.00	\$56.25	_____	21
22	Italy Sc#B1-4 mlh f/vf	\$67.75	\$27.10	_____	22
23	Italy Sc#C1 mlh f	\$24.00	\$8.40	_____	23
24	Italy Sc#C1 mvlh f/vf	\$24.00	\$9.60	_____	24
25	Italy Sc#C1 (+C2) mlh f	\$48.00	\$16.80	_____	25

Continued on page 8

Mail Bid Auction 85 (continued from page 7)**BOB (Back of Book) #1s (cont'd)**

26	Italy Sc#C1 used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$40.00	\$18.00	_____	26
27	Italy Sc#C1 used(l-cxl) vf	\$40.00	\$20.00	_____	27
28	Italy Sc#CB1-2 mh f/vf	\$6.40	\$2.55	_____	28
29	Italy Sc#CE1-2 mnh f/vf	\$80.00	\$36.00	_____	29
30	Italy Sc#D1 mh avg [ink transfer on back]	\$2.40	\$0.75	_____	30
31	Italy Sc#E1 mlh avg	\$47.50	\$14.25	_____	31
32	Italy Sc#E1 used(h-cxl) f/vf	\$1.20	\$0.45	_____	32
33	Italy Sc#E1 used(m-cxl) f	\$1.20	\$0.40	_____	33
34	Italy Sc#E1-5 used(h-cxl) f/vf	\$4.60	\$1.60	_____	34
35	Italy Sc#E1-5 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$4.60	\$1.85	_____	35
36	Italy Sc#EY1 used(l-cxl) f [perf 14]	\$0.60	\$0.25	_____	36
37	Italy Sc#EY1 used(l-cxl) f/vf [perf 14]	\$0.60	\$0.25	_____	37
38	Italy Sc#EY1 used(m-cxl) f/vf [perf 14]	\$0.60	\$0.25	_____	38
39	Italy Sc#M1-13 mh f/vf [M1 creased]	\$13.00	\$5.20	_____	39
40	Italy Sc#M1-13 mlh f/vf	\$13.00	\$5.30	_____	40
41	Italy Sc#MC1-5 mlh f/vf	\$8.85	\$3.55	_____	41
42	Italy Sc#MCE1 mnh f/vf	\$3.50	\$1.60	_____	42
43	Italy Sc#MCE1 mvlh f	\$3.50	\$1.25	_____	43
44	Italy Sc#O1 mnh f	\$3.25	\$1.30	_____	44
45	Italy Sc#O1-2 used(-cxl) f	\$9.50	\$3.80	_____	45
46	Italy Sc#P1 used(m-cxl) 2-mrgn	\$110.00	\$38.50	_____	46
47	Italy Sc#Q1 mh f [mnh with badly disturbed gum]	\$125.00	\$50.00	_____	47
48	Italy Sc#Q1-6 used(m-cxl) f-f/vf	\$476.50	\$190.00	_____	48
49	Italian States - Sardinia Sc#P1 used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$17.50	\$7.90	_____	49
50	Italian States - Sardinia Sc#P1 used(l-cxl) f/vf [REPRINT]	\$17.50	\$0.90	_____	50
51	Italian Soc Republic Sc#E1 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	51
52	Italian Soc Republic Sc#EY1 mhr f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	52
53	Italian Soc Republic Sc#EY1 mlh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	53
54	Italy-Off in Tripoli Sc#E1 mh f	\$19.00	\$6.65	_____	54
55	Italy-Off in Tripoli Sc#E1-2 mh avg	\$25.50	\$7.65	_____	55
56	Italy-Off in Turkish Empire Sc#E1 mnh avg	\$3.25	\$1.15	_____	56
57	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#C1-4 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$8.30	\$3.35	_____	57
58	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#C1a-4a cto(l-cxl) f/vf	\$8.30	\$3.75	_____	58
59	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#C1a-4a mh f/vf	\$4.25	\$1.70	_____	59
60	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#E1-2 cto(l-cxl) ng f/vf	\$12.75	\$5.75	_____	60
61	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#J1 mnh f/vf	\$4.75	\$2.15	_____	61
62	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#J1-9 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$108.50	\$43.50	_____	62
63	Italy-Aegean Islands-Rhodes Sc#Q1-2 mnh f/vf	\$13.00	\$5.85	_____	63
64	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#C1 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.12	_____	64
65	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#C1 mh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	65
66	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#EY1 mnh f/vf	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	66
67	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#J1 mnh f/vf	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	67
68	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#J1 used(l-cxl) f	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	68
69	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#J1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	69
70	Italy-Trieste Zone A Sc#J1-6 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$26.70	\$10.70	_____	70

#1 Twins

71	Falkland Islands Sc#84 (twin to #2L1) mhr f/vf [pulled UR perf]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	71
72	Hungary Sc#7a used(m-cxl) f	\$20.00	\$7.00	_____	72
73	Ireland Sc#19 mlh f/vf	\$6.00	\$2.40	_____	73
74	Italy Sc#1LN7A (twin to #1LN1) used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	74

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 **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 #85



Bidding Deadline is January 31, 2016



(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

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