



First Issues

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The Official Journal of the First Issues Collectors Club
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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.

Officers

President: Louis Laflamme
president@firstissues.org

Vice President: Edo Rajh
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

I am very grateful to Kurt Streepy for pointing out the link to Earee's Album Weeds as a free on-line reference (see V27N1). It is another nice example of how the club can be of benefit to members. Album Weeds may be an old reference but it is full of valuable information still relevant today. It also serves to remind us that stamp forgeries are almost as old as the hobby itself.

It always amuses me when I read the description of stamps offered on-line and come across something from the seller like "I am not a specialist but it comes from an old collection" as if forgeries were something new.

I recently read a nice short biography of Francois Fournier (1846-1917), one of the most prolific stamp forgers of all time. Referring to his productions as facsimiles, he considered them works of art and he had little concern regarding what his clients would choose to do with them afterward. If some unscrupulous people decided to resell them as genuine items it was for Fournier a "mere technicality" as he put it. At the same time however he always resisted dealers who asked him to mark his forgeries as "fake" since they would not sell as well knowing some were later sold as genuine. Describing himself as "a supplier of quality collectables for people who could not afford the high prices charged by dealers for hard-to-get stamps" he escaped prosecution by producing stamps of dead countries or stamps rendered useless by devaluation.

Fournier's creations are still around today. This is why the wise collector should get familiar with the work of the great forgers.

We all have our own opinion as to the place reprints (official or private) and forgeries should occupy in our collection. As far as I am concerned, they constitute a valuable addition providing they are not used to deceive but rather to educate. I am quite happy for example to have in my collection reprints of Mauritius #1-2 and Reunion #1-2 for I know that the genuine items are out of reach. I am also happy to display good forgeries of Hawaii # 1-2 in my reference collection for the same reason.

Louis Laflamme

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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 V27N3, articles must be received prior to June 15, 2019.**

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 USB Drive or 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 on the web site (www.firstissues.org).

Bylaws: A copy of the FICC bylaws is available on the web site (www.firstissues.org). These were last printed in *First Issues* V26, N1.

Mail Bag

Selling #1 Collection

Hi Tim, Sadly, I will be selling my extensive collection of Number One's. I think Sweden 1 is my most valuable. Most

of the high value items are certified. They are all organized in 3 3-ring binders. Each country has its own page in a sheet protector and a printed copy of the relevant Scott catalog page is on the other side of the album page. Stamps are in mounts. Any advice?

Name Withheld, FICC #
e-mail: Feb 2019

[Editor; Please see my response to this request – summarized on page 5 of this issue.]

2017 FICC Financial Report

Opening Balance 1-Jan-2018	\$4,894.34
Income	
Dues	\$314.00
Auctions #93-97	\$824.89
Donations	\$48.00
Back Issues/CDs	\$10.00
Total Income	\$1196.89
Expenses	
Newsletter Printing/Postage (V26N1-4)	\$220.97
Web Hosting/Domain Renewal	\$0.00
PayPal Fees/Miscellaneous	\$32.64
Total Expenses	\$253.61
Ending Balance 31-Dec-2018	\$5,837.62

Secretary's Report

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

- Mark Brown, FICC #268, Virginia, USA

Welcome Mark!

FICC ☞

☆☆

Call for Mail Auction #100 Lots

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #100 is June 30, 2019. 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 ☞

First Issues with Hidden Messages

By Louis Laflamme, FICC #210

The Channel Islands were the only part of the United Kingdom to be occupied by the Germans during WWII. Occupation began on July 1, 1940 and lasted until the end of the war in Europe. During the occupation, local mail service between the islands was maintained but the only way to communicate with England or unoccupied countries was through the International Red Cross message service. For the islanders, communications with occupied countries like France was also possible through the German Feldpost system using German stamps. As the supply of British stamps for local mail soon ran out, locally designed and produced stamps were introduced in Guernsey and Jersey. It was out of the question for the Germans to allow a portrait of King Georges VI or allusions to England on the stamps but they did not object to the "Arms of the Islands" design. These arms are in fact quite similar to those of England. The stamps of Guernsey were designed by a local artist, E. W. Vaudin. In Jersey, a retired army officer and artist, Col. Norman Victor Lacey Rybot was charged with the task and asked to reproduce the Guernsey design.

The first issued set (Sc#N1-3) for Guernsey contained the 1/2d green (4/7/1941), 1d red (2/18/1941) and 2 1/2d ultra (4/12/1944). They are roughly rouletted 14 x 7 (shown below left, 125%). The Jersey set contained two stamps (Sc#N1-2), the 1/2d green (1/29/1942) and 1d vermillion (4/1/1941) perforated 11 (shown below right, 125%).



Guernsey Sc#N1-4 (125%)



Jersey Sc#N1-2 (125%)



Now if you look closely in the four corners of the Guernsey stamps you will notice the presence of small "V"s, they stood for "Victory" (shown at left).



In Jersey, the designer went a little further. In each corner of the 1d stamp, appropriately issued on April 1st, you will see an "A" (shown at right). Together, the four "A"s stood for a Latin phrase "Ad Avernum Adolphe Atrox" or "to hell with you atrocious Adolf" in English.

Continued on p.4

Philatelic Puzzle (continued from page 6)

Just recently, I acquired another piece of the puzzle regarding the cover creators. For a modest price, I bought one Gongakis cover addressed in Greek handwriting consistent with the many covers I already have – but with the “Spetsiotis Freres” business address imprinted on the back flap of the

cover. Until then, I had only encountered two envelope types – neither having any return address information.

Although not conclusive, this new piece of the philatelic cover was very exciting to me.

FICC ~~☒~~[illegible]

Finding a “Weed” in your Album – Always Learning Something New

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

Some members may be aware that as a “side collection” to my #1s, I have a collection of WORLD’S FIRSTS – the first stamps (worldwide) in each Back of the Book category. The first Semi-Postal is New South Wales Sc#B1-2; the first Airmail is Italy Sc#C1-2 in 1917; the first Airmail Semi-Postal is Lithuania’s Sc#CB1-4; etc. [For more information, see the article I wrote in FIRST ISSUES V13N1.]

As part of that collection, I have Mexico Sc#JX9-19, the world's first Porte de Mar Stamps (JX1-8 were never issued and not listed in Scott). Forgeries of these stamps are abundant. It took me quite a while to assemble a genuine set of all 11 stamps in this issue – or so I thought. A recent article in the April issue of AMERICAN PHILATELIST by Benedict Termini focused on these stamps. Not only did Dr. Termini give an excellent background/history into the rationale for these stamps, he also had a short discussion (three paragraphs) on the forgeries. Here he stated there were seven different forgeries known to him, and discussed the characteristics of four of them. Per Termini, “The most common forgery, which has been referred to as the Second Spiro forgery only has one dot in the lower left corner instead of two. ... In another common forgery (the creator of which has not been identified) the ornament in the upper left corner ends in a straight line instead of curling upwards.” [The other two forgeries Termini discussed had forged cancels.]

Both THE SERRANE GUIDE and ALBUM WEEDS by Earee discuss multiple forgeries, the only one I have ever encountered was the one Termini calls the Second Spiro (with only 1 dot in the lower left corner under the P of PORTE). In fact, I have seven copies (with different denominations) of this common forgery. Termini's article, however, prompted me to pull my World's Firsts album off the shelf and re-inspect my holdings.

As I'm sure you have guessed, I found my 50c stamp (JX15) met the description Termini gives for the second common forgery. Once I knew what to look for, identification of the stamp as a forgery was easy.

So now I have a new mission – to find a genuine copy of this stamp and complete my set (once again). There is always something to learn in this hobby.



Genuine Sc#JX9 (175%)

Spiro Forgery (175%)

Unnamed Forgery (175%)

FICC ☒

Auction #99

Welcome to FICC Auction #99. The auction closes on June 30, 2019. 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. ... Unless noted, catalogue values (CVs) are taken from the 2019 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

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 9 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	British Honduras Sc#1 mh f [perf faults]	\$72.50	\$18.00	_____	1
2	German States - Schleswig-Holstein Sc#1 mng 4-mrgn [signed BRETTL] [SCV per Classic Cat for mng]	\$175.00	\$70.00	_____	2
3	North Ingermanland Sc#1 used(cto) f/vf	\$3.50	\$1.60	_____	3
4	Somalia Sc#1-7 mlh/mhr f-f/vf	\$137.50	\$50.00	_____	4
5	Somalia Sc#1-7 mnh f-f/vf [SCV per Classic Cat]	\$374.75	\$165.00	_____	5
6	United Nations - UNTEA Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	6
7	Yugoslavia Sc#1-14 mh/mhr f/vf	\$17.90	\$6.00	_____	7
8	Zambia Sc#4 mhr f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	8

Change of Government #1s

9	Cuba Sc#J1 (USA Admin) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$5.25	\$2.00	_____	9
10	Eritrea Sc#192-94 mnh f/vf	\$90.00	\$40.00	_____	10
11	India Sc#200 (Dominion) used (m-cxl) vf	\$0.30	\$0.10	_____	11
12	Netherlands Indies Sc#N38 (Nationalist Occ) mhr vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	12
13	US - Hawaii Sc#74 (Republic) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$1.50	\$0.60	_____	13

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

14	Argentina Sc#OD1 mh f/vf [Sun wmk]	\$0.50	\$0.20	_____	14
15	Bermuda Sc#MR1 mh f/vf	\$1.25	\$0.50	_____	15
16	British Guiana Sc#MR1 mh f/vf	\$1.90	\$0.75	_____	16
17	Burkina Faso Sc#O1 used(cto) vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	17
18	Burma Sc#O1 used(h-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	18
19	USA Sc#RE1 mhr f/vf	\$1.25	\$0.45	_____	19

Twins

20	Argentina Sc#OD7 mh avg [no wmk]	\$1.00	\$0.35	_____	20
21	Chad Sc#19 mlh f/vf	\$0.40	\$0.10	_____	21

Forgeries

22	Swaziland Sc#8 mnh vf [Forgery]	\$7,250	\$5.00	_____	22
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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 #99




 Bidding Deadline is June 30, 2019
 



(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

655 Goodpasture Island Rd Apt 216

Eugene, OR 97401-1534

USA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

