



First Issues

(ISSN 1547-2299)

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

Volume 23 Number 2

Apr-May-Jun 2015

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 spent the spare time I had during the last few weeks trying to fit new stamps into my collection. This may seem trivial to most of you, but for me it is a major undertaking that I did not foresee when I started accumulating #1s as a side collection years ago.

At that time, I decided to arrange my stamps chronologically in a simple stock book. The method was simple and appealed to me because it permits me to appreciate the evolution of the production techniques.

The major drawback of course is that as the collection grows it becomes very time consuming to add new stamps without overloading the pages. Also, by arranging #1s chronologically, you can not appreciate the political changes, geography or links that once united different regions.

I know that this topic has been the subject of many discussions and articles in the past and I appreciated all of them but I still haven't decided which new method to adopt among the many possibilities that exist.

On a different topic, I always look forward to the Spring as it brings with it two interesting regional shows, the Lakeshore stamp club show in Montreal takes place in early April and the Orapex show in Ottawa in early May. Both feature exhibits of high quality and are attended by many Canadian and American dealers. They provide excellent opportunities to exchange with fellow collectors and it is often during these shows that I am able to find missing pieces at good prices. If you have never attended a big show I encourage you to do so..

Louis Laflamme

[Editor: Large stamp shows like these in Montreal and Ottawa are well worth attending. For members in the USA, the two large American shows occur in the Spring (AmeriStamp Expo) and in the Fall (StampShow). AmeriStamp rotates among different cities on the west coast of the USA, while StampShow rotates among different cities on the east coast or in the Midwest. Ameristamp was held in Riverside, California on February, StampShow 2015 will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on August 20-23. Maybe I'll see you there.]

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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 V23N3, articles must be received prior to May 15, 2015.**

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

PayPal Button on FICC Web Site

Hi Tim,

Just wondering if you had seen the little article in Linn's (Feb 9, p. 50) on the only stamp from Carpatho-Ukraine? Sort of an interesting addition to a first--and only--issues series. I would have never noticed it by going to the current Scott as it is Czech 254B. Wikipedia and Google indicate this really was

an independent country for about two days before being given to Hungary and then USSR.

I'm enjoying the newsletter and find it useful. My collection is small, but this still seems like a great collecting opportunity that not enough hobbyists follow.

Jerry Walls, FICC #245

Email: February, 2015

[Editor: I replied to Jerry that Scott used to list this stamp as a #1 and later changed it to be part of the Czech listings (for reasons I have forgotten). I believe many other European catalogues (Michel, Yvert, Gibbons, etc) still consider it a #1 in their catalogues. ... A similar re-numbering story is behind the Czech Sc#245A stamp that was, at one time, Sc#1 under Slovakia. And this is why the Scott listings for Slovakia start with #2. ... See page 4 for a separate article on the Carpatho-Ukraine stamp.]

Secretary's Report

Membership News: No new members joined FICC since the last Newsletter went to press.

2014 FICC Financial Report

Opening Balance 1-Jan-2014	\$4,195.78
Income	
Dues	\$788.00
Auctions #76-80	\$231.84
Donations	\$37.00
Back Issues/CDs	\$10.00
Total Income	\$1,066.84
Expenses	
Newsletter Printing/Postage (V22N1-4)	\$607.79
Web Hosting/Domain Renewal	\$95.40
PayPal/Miscellaneous	\$10.53
Total Expenses	\$713.72
Ending Balance 31-Dec-2014	\$4,548.90

FICC ☞

☆☆

Update – Proposed FICC Service of Offering #1 Opinions

As published in the last Newsletter (V23N1), an FICC Examination Service was proposed. No comments, positive or negative, were received on this proposal. Because of lack of interest, the proposal has been tabled.

FICC ☞

Call for Mail Auction #83 Lots

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #83 is May 15, 2015. 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 [illegible]

Sc#1 Varieties That Were Issued First

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

As you may know, when there are variations of the #1 stamp (#1, #1a, #1b, etc.), the Scott Catalogue appears to list them in order of least expensive to most expensive. In other words, The Sc#1 stamp is the least expensive even if it was not the first to be issued. For example, the Ryukyu Islands 1st printing of numbers 1-7 was the rough perf version issued on July 1, 1948 - but is listed in Scott as #1a-#7a. The Sc#1-7 stamps are the 2nd printing with clean perfs (issued July 18, 1949).



Sc#1 (1949)

Sc#1a (1948)

Another example, as pointed out in Bob Sylvester's letter to the Editor in V16N1, is the Seychelles Sc#1a (Die I, issued 1890) versus Sc#1 (Die II, issued 1892). Yet another example are the color variations of Sierra Leone Sc#1 – Sc#1 (bright violet) was issued last in 1874 while Sc#1a (dull violet) was issued first in 1859 and Sc#1b (gray lilac) was issued in 1865. So, if you collect the first issued stamp rather than Sc#1, you would want the more expensive of these stamp varieties.



Sc#1 (Bright Violet)
1874

Sc#1a (Dull Violet)
1859

Sc#1b (Gray Lilac)
1865

An article in the March 2008 issue of Scott Stamp Monthly on collecting Caroline Islands stamps pointed out that the 1st issued stamps were the 48-degree overprints, Sc#1a-6a. Germany issued these in October, 1899. The 56-degree overprints (Sc#1-6) were not issued



Sc#1(Mar 1898)

Sc#1a (Dec 1898)

until early 1900. The Scott Catalogue is not clear if this is also true for the 45-degree versus 56-degree overprints of the German Offices in China 1-6 set. However, my Michel Catalogue indicates the 45-degree overprints were issued in March-June, 1898 and the 56-degree overprints in December, 1898. My German language skills are a bit weak, so if anyone can confirm this, please let me know.



Sc#1 (1900)

Sc#1a (1899)

FICC ~~✗~~

The Many Stamps of White Russia

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

For many years, I have had a set of stamps in my collection that I bought from a dealer who claimed they were the first issue from White Russia (marked as Mi.1-5 on the dealer card). I bought the set because they were inexpensive and I was curious.

When I researched White Russia, the term appears to be a translation (in many Germanic languages) of Belarus. Belarus is one of the countries formed upon the break-up of the USSR into the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) in 1991. It is located just west of Poland and the Baltic states of Lithuania and Latvia, and just north of Ukraine. Russia lies to the east and to the north. Belarus has virtually no philatelic history prior to 1992. I would expect that nearly all FICC members have a copy of Sc#1 in our collection as it is relatively inexpensive. A picture of this stamp, issued March 20, 1992, is shown at right (125%).

Calling the White Russia stamps a “forerunner” of Belarus, however, may be only part of the story. White Russia is also a term used for the anti-Bolshevik forces during the Russian Civil War (pitting the White Army against the Red Army). There were many small uprisings of anti-Bolshevik forces from 1918 through 1920 that were led by Generals under the umbrella of “White Russia”. Many such uprisings existed; one was led by General Yudenich in the Baltic area – and they used stamps listed in the Scott Catalogue as “Russia – Army of the Northwest” #1-5. Another general, General Denikin, led a group in southern Russia under the White Russia umbrella which used stamps listed in Scott as “South Russia Sc#61-71” (known as the Denikin issue). One more example are the Wrangel issues (listed in Scott under Russian Offices in the Turkish Empire #232-376).



of a green 5-kopeck, red 10-kopeck, purple 15-kopeck, blue 30-kopeck and brown 1-ruble stamps – all with the same design. These stamps occur imperforate and perforated 11.5. The #1 is shown above, 150%, in both imperf and perf formats.

“Used” sets can be found with favor cancels applied. A canceled #1 is shown at right, 150%.

Apparently, the set I have can be called “White Russia” #1-5 by either definition, (a) strictly geographical or (b) one of rebel factions operating under the White Russia umbrella.

The stamps I bought, however, were associated with an uprising in a small area of the current country of Belarus. According to an article in the November, 2014 *American Philatelist* (*Republic of Belarus* in Ron Lamb’s *World in a Nutshell* column), a set of five stamps were prepared in 1920 for use in an area defined by three towns in southern Belarus – where anti-Bolshevik General Bulak-Balachowicz had established a stronghold. The General had ignored the cease fire between Russian and Polish forces and continued to fight. His “uprising” was quelled within a few weeks – and he and his followers moved back into Polish territory. The stamps were never put into use before the uprising was quelled.

The set consists



FICC

Rhodesia #1 and Ionian Islands #1 Forgeries

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

Auction #81 (listed in the last Newsletter – V23N1) contained 4 lots of forgeries. Two of these lots contained #1s (Rhodesia #1 and Ionian Islands #1-2). [The remaining two contained forgeries of Korea #2 and Newfoundland #9.] I made scans of the #1 forgeries before sending them on to their new homes with the high bidders on the lots. [This is one of the “perks” (perhaps the only one) of being the auction manager. I can build a reference library of forgeries from scans of stamps listed in the auctions.] Some of the information I learned from these latest forgeries is shared below.

RHODESIA #1 FORGERY

The Rhodesia #1 was not submitted as a forgery, but as I inspected the stamp to describe it for the auction listing, the perforations “didn’t look right”. I compared it to the copy in my album, and the perforations are **very** different. The genuine (near right, 150%) is perf 14. The submitted stamp (far right, 150%) is perf 11. Placing them side by side, other differences became apparent that I (and most collectors) would not pay attention to when looking at it by itself. The genuine stamp is on a paper that appears tinted while the auction stamp is on much whiter paper. The shading appears different between them also, but this could easily be due to inking during the printing process. Not knowing if the submitted stamp was a later issue with similar characteristics, I looked in the Scott and Gibbons catalogues. No such later issue exists.



I then examined both stamps under magnification. At this point, numerous defects came to light. One, the denomination “ONE HALFPENNY” has a period after it in the forgery that does not exist in the genuine. Two, the shading inside the shield (shown at left, 400%) is very different.

I then looked in three reference books on forgeries, but found none described for this stamp. I doubt if this is a “recent forgery”, but it apparently is not widespread either.

All the pictures appearing on this page are highly magnified, and the readers have been alerted that a forgery is shown. Under normal conditions when only the forged stamp appears at normal size, the differences are not easily detected.

IONIAN ISLANDS #1 FORGERY

Unlike the Rhodesia #1 forgery, the Ionian Islands #1 forgery was submitted as a known forgery. This forgery (as well as others) is well documented in the reference books. I found it in both *ALBUM WEEDS* and in the *SERRANE GUIDE*. Although very well done, the forgery (below left, 150%) is not as well engraved as the genuine (below center, 150%). On the far right, is a genuine #1 stamp that has oxidized color (common for this stamp), but the cancel is thought to be a forgery. [Note, I have not had the stamp expertized, but the references indicate this cancel is not legitimate.]



Forgery, 150%



Genuine, 150%

Genuine with forged cancel

Auction #83

Welcome to FICC Auction #83. The auction closes on April 30, 2015; 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 2015 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, 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	China (ROC) - Northeastern Prov Sc#1-5 mngai (#2 has gum from hinge) f/vf	\$2.30	\$0.95	_____	1
2	Indonesia Sc#1 mnh vf [few toned spots on gum]	\$0.45	\$0.25	_____	2
3	Marienwerder Sc#1-14 mh f/vf	\$46.75	\$18.50	_____	3
4	Netherlands Sc#1-3 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn [nice, even margins]	\$192.50	\$87.00	_____	4
5	Ponta Delgada Sc#1 cto(m-cxl) vf (perf 12.5)	\$1.60	\$0.75	_____	5
6	Ponta Delgada Sc#1c on-piece (m-cxl) f/vf	\$17.50	\$7.00	_____	6

Change of Government #1s

7	Austria Sc#455-81 (Ben'l Use) mlh/mvlf f/vf	\$12.30	\$5.00	_____	7
8	Bahrain Sc#52-61A (Br Postal Admin) mlh f/vf	\$79.25	\$31.75	_____	8
9	KUT Sc#46-59 (KUT) mh f/vf	\$433.25	\$175.00	_____	9
10	Surinam Sc#424-26 (Independence) mnh vf (corner s/s selvage)	\$4.00	\$2.50	_____	10
11	Surinam Sc#424-26 (Independence) mnh vf (selvage)	\$4.00	\$2.00	_____	11
12	Surinam Sc#424-26 (Independence) mlh f/vf	\$4.00	\$1.60	_____	12

#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s

13	Falkland Islands Sc#2L1-8 (Graham Land) mnh f/vf	\$29.80	\$13.40	_____	13
14	Falkland Islands Sc#3L1-8 (South Georgia) mnh f/vf	\$29.75	\$13.40	_____	14
15	Falkland Islands Sc#5L1-8 (South Shetlands) mnh f/vf	\$29.95	\$13.50	_____	15

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Min Bid</u>	<u>Your Bid</u>	<u>Lot</u>
16	Indonesia Sc#J1 mnh vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	16
17	Surinam Sc#C1 mnh f/vf	\$3.75	\$1.70	_____	17

Misc Stamps from First Issue Sets

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CV</u>	<u>Min Bid</u>	<u>Your Bid</u>	<u>Lot</u>
18	Indonesia Sc#C3 mnh vf	\$0.45	\$0.22	_____	18
19	Indonesia Sc#E1F-E1G mnh vf	\$0.90	\$0.45	_____	19

Continued on page 8

Mail Bid Auction 83 (continued from page 7)**Stamp on Stamp #1s**

20	Ajman Sc#37-44 cto(m-cxl) hr f/vf [shows Hawaii #1, Switz #2L1] [ink transfer on gum]	\$2.95	\$1.00	_____	20
21	Ajman Sc#43a-44a cto(m-cxl) hr f/vf [shows Hawaii #1, Switz #2L1] [ink transfer on gum, face of 43a is damaged]	\$7.00	\$2.50	_____	21
22	Cook Islands Sc#195 mnh f/vf [shows Cook #1]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	22
23	Egypt Sc#B25a (B24+B25 attached) mnh f/vf [shows Egypt #1]	\$4.00	\$1.80	_____	23
24	Great Britain - Guernsey Sc#56 used(l-cxl) f/vf [shows Hong Kong #1]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	24
25	Great Britain - Guernsey Sc#426 used(l-cxl) f/vf [shows GB #1] [rnd UL corner]	\$0.55	\$0.20	_____	25
26	Great Britain - Guernsey Sc#448a (pane of 3) mnh vf [shows Guernsey #N1-N3]	\$6.00	\$3.00	_____	26
27	Great Britain - Isle of Man Sc#422 (strip of 5) mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$5.25	\$2.60	_____	27
28	Great Britain - Isle of Man Sc#424a complete booklet mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$15.00	\$7.50	_____	28
29	Hungary Sc#2004 cto(l-cxl) ng f/vf [shows 1st Hungarian postal card]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	29
30	Italy Sc#865 used(l-cxl) f/vf [shows Italy #17]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	30
31	Italy Sc#865 used(m-cxl) f/vf [shows Italy #17]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	31
32	Italy Sc#1386 mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$0.35	\$0.17	_____	32
33	Italy Sc#1386 used(m-cxl) vf [shows GB #1]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	33
34	Italy-Trieste Sc#131-33 mnh-dg vf [shows Sardinia #1,2,3]	\$8.00	\$3.60	_____	34
35	Marshall Islands Sc#370-76 mnh vf [Full Booklet, shows GB #1]	\$10.00	\$5.00	_____	35
36	New Zealand World Stamp Exhibition s/s of 4 stamps (1990, no Sc#) mnh f/vf [shows Switz-Zurich #1L1, GB #1, USA #1, Bermuda #A1]	-----	\$3.00	_____	36
37	Korea (North/DPR) Sc#1943 cto(l-cxl) nh f/vf [shows GB #1]	\$1.50	\$0.75	_____	37
38	Papua New Guinea Sc#391(x2),393,394 cto(l-cxl) ng f/vf [shows New Guinea #1]	\$2.40	\$0.95	_____	38
39	Philippines Sc#606 used(m-cxl) vf [shows Philippines #1]	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	39
40	Poland Sc#909-10 cto(l-cxl) hr f/vf [shows Poland #1]	\$0.50	\$0.20	_____	40
41	Romania Sc#C146 cto(m-cxl) nh f/vf [shows Romania #1]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	41
42	Russia Sc#5874 mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$0.35	\$0.17	_____	42
43	Russia Sc#5875 mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$0.65	\$0.32	_____	43
44	Russia Sc#5878 mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$1.10	\$0.55	_____	44
45	Russia Sc#5879 mnh vf [shows GB #1]	\$4.00	\$2.00	_____	45
46	Thailand Sc#676 used(m-cxl) f/vf [shows Thailand #1]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	46
47	Turkey Sc#1560 used(m-cxl) vf [shows Turkey #1]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	47
48	Turkey Sc#1560-63 mnh vf [shows Turkey #1,2,4,5]	\$1.20	\$0.60	_____	48

Stamp on Stamp non #1s

49	Czechoslovakia Sc#811 cto(l-cxl) nh f/vf [no #1 shown]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	49
50	Italy Sc#789-90 used(m-cxl) f/vf [shows Romagna #8,9]	\$0.50	\$0.20	_____	50
51	Malta Sc#653 used(m-cxl) vf [shows Malta #8]	\$0.30	\$0.10	_____	51
52	Mongolia Sc#C37-45 cto(l-cxl) hinged f/vf (no #1 shown)	\$2.70	\$1.00	_____	52
53	Viet Nam Sc#2720 used(l-cxl) f/vf [no #1 shown]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	53

Stamp on Stamp #1s on Cover

54	Hungary Sc#2431(with attached label)+#2929 on cacheted addressed cover from Budapest to Bundesrep, Germany [could be Exhibition Souvenir Cover]	-----	\$3.00	_____	54
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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 #83



Bidding Deadline is April 30, 2015



(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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

