



# First Issues

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

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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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## A Note From the WebMaster

Jesper Andersen (#169) designed and built the FICC web site. The site contained the all-important FICC Catalog of 779 entries and around 120 detail pages. When Jesper stepped down as Webmaster, I (Nick Blackburn, FICC #181) eventually took over. In late 2015, I set to work on the task of finishing the detail pages and bringing the site up-to-date. The progress so far is:

- There are two versions of the site co-existing at firstissues.org. Click New or Old to switch between them.
- The Journal Index has been updated. This is accessed from the Journal page of the New version.
- A start has been made on the additional detail pages. Those for the first two Catalogue pages (1840-59 and 1860-70) are complete.
- A feature has been added, listing entries by **Category**, for example South America, or Portuguese Colonies. There is now a Category button in the header menu of the New version.

Completing all the detail pages will take quite some time and members are invited to help, although how this would be organized is uncertain.

One thing we do need to decide on is how to get the Forum going again. The old forum entries were lost when the site crashed in 2009. Jesper managed to restore older entries from a 2007 backup but the Forum has crashed again. It has been suggested that we try a simpler approach such as a Yahoo Group or similar. It is a debate the Club should have and, ironically, it would be very useful to have an online Forum to discuss how to have a Forum.

If you have a suggestion or an idea, please share it.

*Nick Blackburn, Webmaster*

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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 V24N3, articles must be received prior to May 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](http://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](http://www.firstissues.org)). These were last printed in *First Issues* V18, N4.

### Mail Bag

#### Attending World Stamp Show in NYC?

Hi Tim,

Were you thinking of coming to the big stamp show [World Stamp Show] this spring in New York? Would it be worth trying to arrange a get together of First Issues members who will be there? It would be nice to meet some faces to go with names.

Martin Nadel, FICC #20

Email: Jan, 2016

[Ed. I replied to Martin that I would **not** be attending WSS. However, if any other members are planning to attend the

May 28 – June 4 show, I encourage you to meet Martin over a cup of coffee (or other beverage). Send me a note or email if you would like Martin's contact information.]

#### New Series in Linn's Stamp News

Hi Tim,

*Linn's* has had two great articles by Sergio Sismondo on the first issues of Brazil (Jan. 18, 2016) and Belgium (Feb. 15, 2016) as part of their new International Pavilion series. There are nice enlarged photos of Brazil 2 and 3 and Belgium 1 and 2, with history behind the printing of these stamps. A good read. Also, the Jan. 18, 2016, issue of *Linn's* has an article on the Zelaya (Bluefields) Nicaragua issues and the story behind their release, including the imitation provisionals sold by postal authorities to collectors. Interesting. Just a quick reminder in case anyone missed these articles; they are well worth reading.

Jerry Walls, FICC #245

Email: Feb, 2016

### Secretary's Report

**Membership News:** Since the last Newsletter went to press, one previous member re-joined FICC.

- Sanford Bell, FICC #87, Larchmont, NY, USA

Welcome back.

### 2015 FICC Financial Report

Opening Balance 1-Jan-2015	\$4,548.90
Income	
Dues	\$516.00
Auctions #81-84	\$100.54
Donations	\$74.00
Back Issues/CDs	\$0.00
Total Income	\$690.54
Expenses	
Newsletter Printing/Postage (V22N1-4)	\$630.05
Web Hosting/Domain Renewal	\$36.00
PayPal/Miscellaneous	\$11.96
Total Expenses	\$678.01
Ending Balance 31-Dec-2015	\$4,561.43

FICC 

**Auction #86**

Welcome to FICC Auction #85. The auction closes on May 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 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	Ethiopia Sc#1-7 mixed [2-4 mhr; 1&5-7 used(l-cxl) f-f/vf	\$20.00	\$10.00	_____	1
2	Gambia Sc#1 mng 4-margin [small thin]	\$550.00	\$100.00	_____	2
3	Hong Kong Sc#1 mng f	\$575.00	\$150.00	_____	3
4	India-Bijawar Sc#1-5 mh f/vf	\$60.50	\$24.00	_____	4
5	Katanga Sc#1-5 mnh(#1-3), mlh(#4-5) vf	\$12.75	\$8.00	_____	5
6	Kiribati Sc#325 mnh vf	\$0.25	\$0.15	_____	6
7	KEP (Kyrgyz Express Post) Sc#1 used(l-cxl) vf on 1/2 cover	\$24.00	\$20.00	_____	7
8	Nepal Sc#1 mng f/vf	\$300.00	\$100.00	_____	8
9	Northern Rhodesia Sc#1-17 mlh f/vf	\$729.00	\$291.50	_____	9
10	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#1 mlh f/vf [violet overprint]	\$0.85	\$0.40	_____	10
11	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#1 mlh f/vf [pencil on back, vio o/p]	\$0.85	\$0.35	_____	11
12	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f/vf [black overprint]	\$0.85	\$0.40	_____	12
13	Zululand Sc#1-11 mlh f/vf	\$1,283	\$700.00	_____	13

**#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s**

14	Germany Sc#1N1 used on-piece vf [very nice full CDS cxl]	\$0.60	\$0.50	_____	14
15	Germany Sc#9N1 (Berlin) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$4.50	\$1.70	_____	15

**BOB (Back of Book) #1s**

16	Guatemala Sc#RA1 mng f/vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	16
17	Saudia Arabia Sc#RA1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$4.50	\$2.25	_____	17

**Misc Stamps from First Issue Sets**

18	Gr Brit - Wales & Mon Sc#3 mnh f/vf [corner selvage]	\$0.40	\$0.20	_____	18
19	Gr Brit - Wales & Mon Sc#5 mnh f/vf [corner selvage]	\$0.45	\$0.22	_____	19
20	Ruanda-Urundi Sc#8 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.15	_____	20
21	Ruanda-Urundi Sc#9 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.15	_____	21

**Change of Government #1s**

22	Bermuda Sc#19 used(h-cxl) f [wmk 2; nice SON 1901 cxl]	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	22
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**End of Listing**

## The First Issues of Dhar

By Sandeep Jaiswal, FICC #225

*[With permission of the author, this article was extracted from his article appearing in V50/N1 of INDIA POST. The original article discussed all five denominations of Dhar's first issue; this article provides only the information related to Sc#1 and 1b. All items pictured in this article are taken from the author's five-frame exhibit entitled DHAR PHILATELY.]*

**Background:** Dhar, an Indian Feudatory State (Kingdom), sometimes also referred to as a Native State or a Princely State was located in the Malwa region of Central India. Its size was approximately 1775 sq. miles with a population of 140,000 (in 1901). It was in a treaty relation with the British Government from 1819. Dhar was one of 38 States which issued its own postage stamps and postal stationery from 1897 until 1901 when the State Postal System was taken over by the Imperial Post (British India) rendering Dhar's stamps and postal stationery obsolete as of 31 March, 1901.

Being a small state in both size and population and having a very high illiteracy rate, there was very little private mail which would have required stamps - official mail did not require to be franked with postage stamps until 1901.

**Stamps:** In June 1897, a set of three values was issued: 1/2 dabal (1/4 anna, Sc#1), 1/2 anna (Sc#3) & 1 anna (Sc#4) which was followed by the addition of 1/4 anna (Sc#2) & 2 annas (Sc#5) in 1900. These stamps were set up from Printer's type (typeset) and consist of the words "POST STATE DHAR" in Nagri (native Hindi) in the upper portion and the value in the lower portion of the stamp. Around the inscriptions, and between the upper and lower portions are the lines of printer's rule, and around the whole is a frame of ornaments. The corner ornaments consist of spades, and between these are ornaments resembling an ornamental "A", four on top and bottom and five on each side. The normal position of the spade is stalk to the center, and the ornamental "A" is normally placed with the feet inward. *[Editor: It is easier for me to visualize the ornaments as alternating complete and incomplete circles – with the incomplete/broken area to the outside.]* All stamps were impressed with an oval hand-stamp control mark in black color reading "PURSHOTTAM RANGNATH" the Superintendent Post.

**Printing:** This type remained assembled during the entire period of production being amended as necessary to print the different values. During the printing and during amendments of values, the types would often get loose / fall out and were sometimes inserted back incorrectly in inverted or transposed positions. It is the variations in the positions of these ornaments which distinguish the settings of these stamps. It has been generally accepted that 7 main settings exist, with sub-settings due to minor varieties occurring during the printing.

*[Editor: The full article shows a table which identifies which of Sc#1-5 were printed with each Setting. In summary, Sc#1 was printed from Settings I, IV-A, IV-B, IV-C, and V. Sc#3 was printed from Settings II, IV-A and IV-C. Sc#4 was printed from Settings III, III-A, IV-A, IV-C and IV-D. Sc#1b was printed from Setting VI. Sc#2 was also printed from Setting VI. Sc#5 was printed from Setting VII.]*

**Determining Plate Positions:** The illustration below shows all ornaments in their normal / correct positions. When numbering the corner spades, we always start at the SW corner and go clockwise. Therefore, we would describe the spades on the illustration below as ABCD. To describe inverted ornaments "A" we would list the ornament number (between 1 – 18). No numbers indicated would imply that they are all in their correct positions, as illustrated at right.

Corner spade A: Normal position pointing to SW

Corner spade B: Normal position pointing to NW

Corner spade C: Normal position pointing to NE

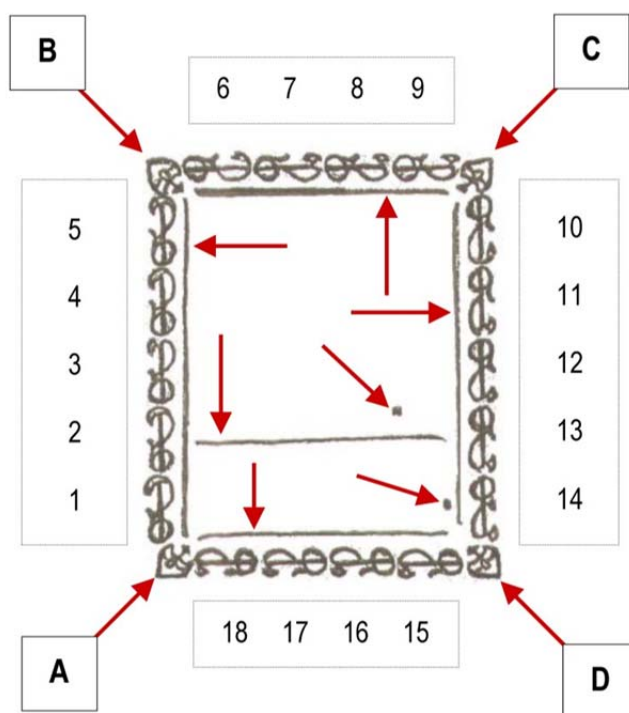
Corner spade D: Normal position pointing to SE

Ornaments 1-18 illustrated in correct positions

Printer's rule shown in their normal positions

Dot after "Dhar" in Nagri - Normal

Dot after value in Nagri - Normal



Continued on p.5



**Dhar** (continued from page 4)

½ dabal (Sc#1)  
- Setting I

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Row 1		Stop after value slightly dropped	No line at bottom	Faint indication of line at left	
Row 2					ABDD



½ dabal (Sc#1)  
- Setting IV-A

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Row 1	CCCD	7,8,9 inverted	6,8,9 inverted	6,7,8 inverted	12,13,14 inverted
Row 2					11,12□inverted No stop after Dhar



Continued on p.6

Email to: [editor@firstissues.org](mailto:editor@firstissues.org)

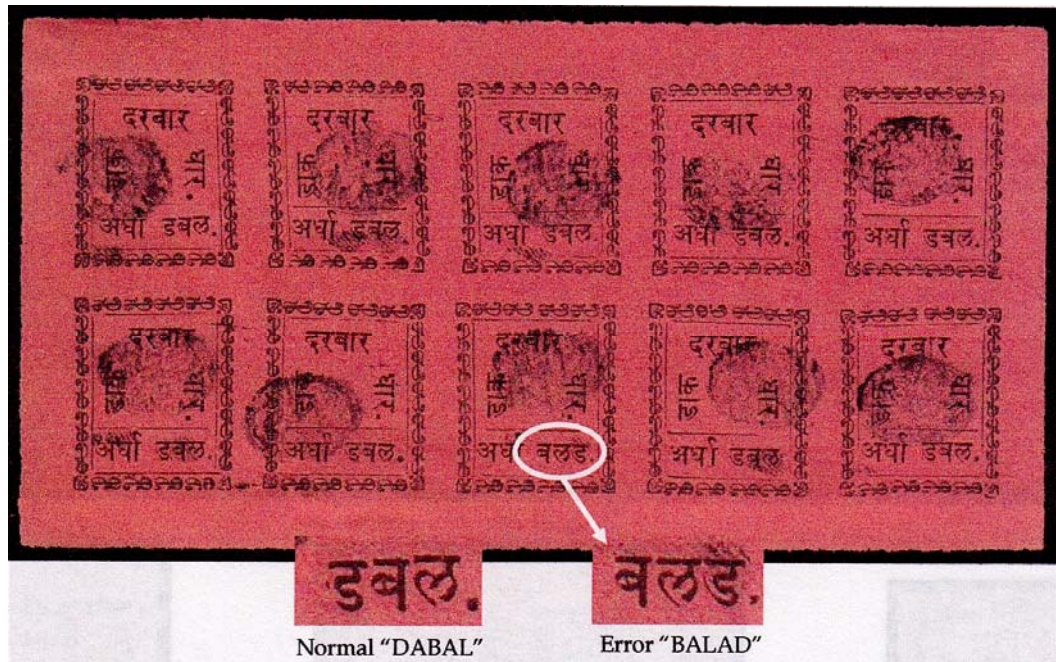
<http://www.firstissues.org>



**Dhar** (continued from page 5)

½ dabal (Sc#1)  
– Setting IV-B

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Row 1	CCCD	7,8,9 inverted Stop dropped	6,8,9 inverted	6,7,8 inverted	12,13,14 inverted
Row 2			“BALAD”		11,12 inverted No stop after Dhar



½ dabal (Sc#1)  
– Setting IV-C

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Row 1	CCCD	7,8,9 inverted No line at top	6,8,9 inverted	6,7,8 inverted No line at left	12,13,14 inverted
Row 2		Extra line below upper inscription			“LABAD”



Continued on p.7



**Dhar** (continued from page 6)

½ dabal (Sc#1)  
– Setting V

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Row 1	ACCA	ABCA 7,8,9 inverted No line at top	BBDD No line at bottom	ACCD 6,7,8 inverted No line at left	12,13,14 inverted
Row 2	ACCD		AACD	ACCD	ACBD 11,12 inverted No stop after Dhar



½ dabal (Sc#1b)  
– Setting VI

	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4	Col 5
Row 1	ACCA	ABCA 7,8,9 inverted	BBCD	ACCD 6,7,8 inverted	12,13,14 inverted
Row 2	ACCD			ACCD	ACDD 11,12 inverted







*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](http://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)

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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 #86

Bidding Deadline is May 31, 2016

(email bids to [auctions@firstissues.org](mailto: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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