



# 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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## President's Message

Once again the last Newsletter contained interesting and useful information. Just like Tim Balm, I never thought that the first issue of Dhar was so complex and I must admit that I never examined too closely the single #1 in my collection. I now know that it comes from Setting V, Row 1, Col 2 and I have considerably increased my knowledge of that kingdom.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Webmaster, Nick Blackburn, for his work updating and improving our web site. It is a formidable task, and Nick is doing a great job. If you did not yet have the chance to look at it I strongly encourage you to do so. I especially like the new **Category** feature of the site since geo-political and government changes are an important part of my interest in First Issues. The web site is what originally attracted me to the Club and I hope the new version will do the same for others who share our interest.

As I am writing this, the NY2016 World Stamp Show is fast approaching and promises to be a fantastic gathering. This once-in-a-decade event will be a rare opportunity to look at some of the most desirable philatelic items in the world and major auctions will take place. I will unfortunately be unable to travel to New York because of a professional engagement but if you do, I think it would be interesting for those of us who won't be there to read about your experience in a future Newsletter.

*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 V24N4, articles must be received prior to August 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 on the web site ([www.firstissues.org](http://www.firstissues.org)).

**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

## WSS reply to Martin Nadel – 1

Please send Mr Nadel's email to me. Thanks.

Harold Versten, FICC #50

Email: May, 2016

## WSS reply to Martin Nadel – 2

Tim:

I am planning to attend the New York Stamp Show next month. Not sure yet what days. Please send contact info for Martin Nadel and other FICC members who may be attending, so that if there is a FICC get-together I can participate. Thank you.

Sanford (Sandy) Bell, FICC #87

Email: May, 2016

**No topic**

We seem to be moving away from each other. Hope life is good out there [in Oregon]. First Issues continues to be an excellent resource. Thanks.

Ron Colwell, FICC #39

May, 2016

## Secretary's Report

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

FICC ~~✗~~[illegible]

# Auction News

There is no auction in this edition of **FIRST ISSUES**. Auction #87 will have a great number of lots and will be mailed separately at approximately the same time as this Newsletter.

FICC [illegible]

## Web Site News

By Nick Blackburn, FICC #181

In the last issue of the Journal (V24N2), I described recent changes to the FICC web site. I intend to provide a quarterly summary of further progress so that members can begin to take advantage of the web site offerings once again.

Please note that there are two versions of the web site and you can switch between them by clicking *Old* or *New* in the header menu: all of these changes refer to the new version of the site.

**Continued on p.5**

## The Type and Varieties of Argentina #1

By Jerry Weirich, FICC #100

This article describes the distinguishing characteristics of the different types of Argentina #1 and describes some of the more notable varieties including a newly discovered “squeezed cliché” that is reported here for the first time in the philatelic literature. Argentina #1 was issued in 1858 in sheets of 216 stamps arranged in two panes of 108 stamps each (12 rows of 9 stamps). Every row of 9 stamps (with a few exceptions) has the same 9 types. [NB: There are 5 rows of the 72 rows across all three compositions where the types are not in consecutive order or a row does not have all nine types. Strips showing these irregularities are sought after and make a nice addition to a collection of these stamps. This article does not address these stamps.]

Three different sheets exist and are known as Compositions A, B, and C. Compositions A and B were used first and the stamps appear to be more common than stamps from Composition C. Composition C was used later and is believed to have been cleaned before use – which resulted in the removal of a few of the distinguishing characteristics of the types. The following descriptions are sufficient to identify all the types. Stamps without these characteristics should be considered forgeries.

**Type 1 Primary Features** – found on the stamps from all three compositions: U-shaped or curved color line off left side of man’s cheek (near right, 500%); and color spur 0.5mm below top left inner corner (far right, 400%).



**Type 2 Primary Feature** – found on the stamps from all three compositions: Color dash connects the “N” and “F” of “CONFEDERATION” (at left, 400%).

**Type 3 Primary Feature** – found on the stamps from all three compositions: Color spur on left side of “N” of “CENTAV” (at right, 400%).



**Type 4 Primary Features** – found on the stamps from Compositions A and B: Very small color spur or dot on oval in line with the arm above the “5” (far left, 400%); and short curved colored flaw below “V” of “CENTAV” (near left, 400%). On Composition C, the stamps show the color spur or dot on oval, but the other feature was removed.

**Type 5 Primary Feature** – found on the stamps from all three compositions: Color line through curve of the “5” showing short spurs on the both sides of the “5” (at right, 400%).



**Type 6 Primary Feature** – found on the stamps from all three compositions: Color spur on the lower left of the “N” of “CENTAV” and color dot at the very bottom of the lower left of the “N” (at left, 500%); and color spur just inside the top left inner corner – similar to Type 1 but closer to the corner and not always present (not shown). This is probably the most difficult type to identify since the primary features are not always all present.

**Type 7 Primary Features** – found on stamps from Compositions A and B: Extra color dot above the period after “5” (making it appear as a colon after the “5” – near right, 400%) [listed in Scott as #1a]; and color vertical line in the Greek border below “T” of “CENTAV” (far right, 400%). On Composition C, the stamps show the color vertical line in the Greek border below “T” of “CENTAV”, but the other feature was removed.



Continued on p.4

**Argentina #1** (continued from page 3)

**Type 8 Primary Features** – found on stamps from Composition A and B: Color spur on man's arm above "5" (far left, 400%); color dot to top left of the "5" (far left, 400%); diagonal color line below "A" of "CENTAV" (near left, 400%); and extra color around the period after "CENTAV" (near left, 400%) [listed in Scott as #1b]. On Composition C, the stamps show the diagonal color line below "A" and some stamps still show extra color around the period after "CENTAV", but the other features were removed.



**Type 9 Primary Feature** – found on stamps of all three compositions: Diagonal color line on inside lower left corner (at right, 500%).

In addition to the nine basic types, there are a number of interesting plate varieties. The varieties that I selected to show are easily distinguished or are of significant note. Most of these varieties are the result of individual cliché flaws or dirty clichés, although two of the varieties discussed here are the result of intentional changes made to the clichés and these two are probably more important varieties than those that were unintentionally made. There are clearly more varieties that could be listed. In coming up with this group, I had the opportunity to review a full sheet (both panes) of Composition A, a complete left pane of Composition B, the rows 6 to 12 of the right pane of Composition B, rows 2 to 8 of the left pane of Composition C, and rows 1 to 7 of the right pane of Composition C. **Note: Figures 13-26 shown below correspond to the bullet points below and on the next page.**

- Composition A, Left pane, Position 15 (Figure 13): Type 6 with a color line through the sun's rays below "CONFEDERATION ARGENTINA".
- Composition A, Right pane, Position 22 (Figure 14): Type 4 with large gash in left frame.

Continued on p.5



Figure 13



Figure 14



Figure 15



Figure 16



Figure 17



Figure 18



Figure 19a



Figure 19b



Figure 20



Figure 21



Figure 22



Figure 23



Figure 24



Figure 25



Figure 26





**Web News** (continued from page 5)

In the beginning, I wrote the new pages chronologically, completing the first and second pages of the FICC Catalogue (1840-59 and 1860-70) but have switched to progressing geographically, starting with Europe, and I now intend to complete all the country categories first.

If any other members would like to help in the research, please let me know, especially if you have access to Michel catalogues, as I only have Klassic Europe 1840-1900. You can email me at [webmaster@firstissues.org](mailto:webmaster@firstissues.org).

An interesting aspect of this exercise is the exploration of new resources on the internet and elsewhere. I have used

Dead Country Stamps ([dcstamps.com](http://dcstamps.com)) for some time, but have only recently found StampWorldHistory.com and that led me to *The Statesman's Year-Book Historical Companion*, published in 1988, which is proving very useful in writing the historical descriptions for the detail pages.

I am writing this the day after receiving Journal V24N2 in which suggestions were invited for resuming the FICC bulletin board. Please give this some thought and respond if you have not already done so.

FICC ☞

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## Not a Place for a Stroll to the Post Office

By Paul Talbot, FICC non-member

*[This is another re-publishing (with permission) of information disseminated by [paultalbot.com](http://paultalbot.com) in Coronado, California, USA in a January 23, 2016 broadcast e-mail to his customer base. The first article in this series appeared in V22N3.]*

“It’s not exactly the kind of place you’d expect to produce some of the world’s most admired stamps. The stamps are designed and produced in France for TAAF - Terres Australes et Antarctiques Françaises – The French Southern and Antarctic Lands.

“The population of the territory totals less than 200 in the winter and in the summer it barely breaks 300. There are zero permanent residents. The people there are military personnel, government officials, and scientists. Actual mail delivery doesn’t amount to much, mostly letters back home to France.

“But since October 28, 1955, when a Madagascar stamp was overprinted (at right, 200%), the stamps of French Southern and Antarctic Lands have been widely acknowledged as some of the most stunning of the past sixty years. In 1956, a set of six stamps marked the debut of the first FSAT stamps (not shown).



“There have been roughly 650 stamps issued. For topical collectors interested in marine life and birds, FSAT is one of the most respected countries for quality material.”



“That same year, a set of two airmail stamps was released, depicting emperor penguins (Sc#C1 at left, 150%). An albatross appeared on an airmail stamp three years later.

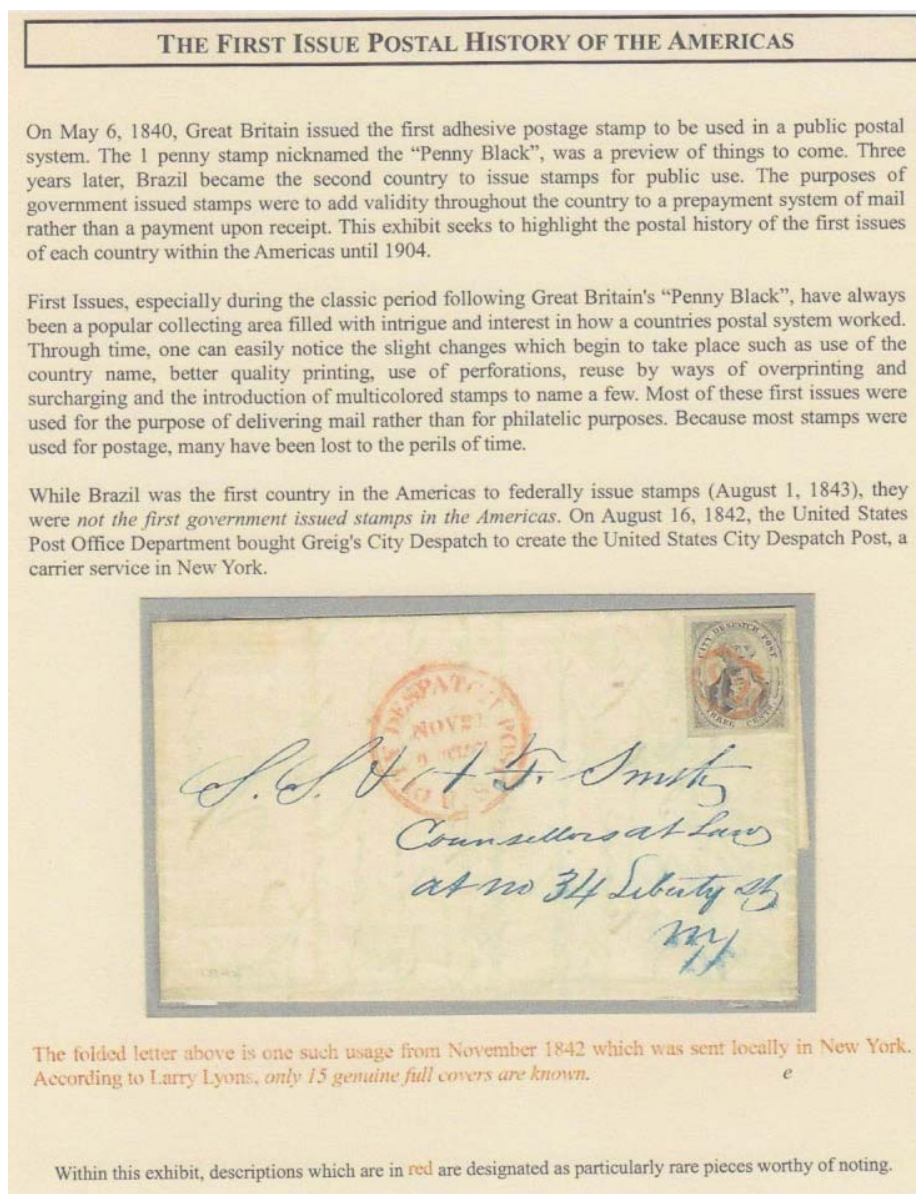
“There haven’t been any airmail stamps from FSAT since 1998. No postage dues or semi-postals have ever been issued, but the territory has released common design types for the French Colonies, such as the flower issue in 1959, the WHO in 1968, and the UPU in 1970.

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## Exhibit – The First Issue Postal History of the Americas

By Jeff Omdahl, FICC #242

Following are the first 3 pages of a 1-frame (16-page) exhibit shown by Jeff Omdahl, FICC #242, in San Jose, California in late 2015. Per Jeff, "I learned a lot about exhibiting most notably what you place on your write up and your pre write up that you submit prior to the exhibit. I really had no expectations, but came in with a silver and with a few tweaks, I expect to do better later this year. ... I now have an additional 44 covers and hope to have 4 full frames."



Page 1 of the exhibit (60%)

Pages 2 and 3 of the exhibit are shown on the next page. I particularly liked the maps above the text showing the location of the country of origin. The entire exhibit shows 29 covers dated from November 1842 through June 1904. Not all franking is with #1s, but that might be asking too much of anyone who has a less than unlimited budget.

Continued on page 8.



**Exhibit on First Issue Covers of Americas** (continued from page 7)



Page 2

The entire 16 page exhibit is on the FICC web site. You can go directly to this exhibit by entering: [goo.gl/N3xNmu](http://goo.gl/N3xNmu). You may also go to an overview page where you can select from all exhibits by entering: [www.firstissues.org/main/exhib.php](http://www.firstissues.org/main/exhib.php).

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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](http://www.firstissues.org). Thank you for your renewal or new membership!

- ☐ New Membership
                    
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 ☐ Additional Contribution: \$\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Electronic Copy (by E-mail)
                    
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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



## Individual St. Vincent Grenadines Islands Do Not Sell Their Own Stamps

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

The first postage stamps of Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Mustique and Union have been discussed in several *First Issues* newsletters. On page 5 of V12N2 (Apr-June 2004), the Grenadines were defined as a 60-mile chain of islands that span the Caribbean between St. Vincent and Grenada. The northern half of these islands belong to St. Vincent (and the southern half to Grenada).

The Scott Catalogue lists general issue stamps for the Grenadines (inscribed **GRENADINES OF ST. VINCENT**) starting in 1973 and phasing out between 1992 and 1994. About this same time, the stamps from St. Vincent changed inscriptions from **ST. VINCENT** to **ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**.

Listings for individual stamps inscribed **Bequia** or **Union** started in 1984 (see V14N1), for **Canouan** or **Mustique** in 1997 (see V12N4), and for **Mayreau** in 2006 (see V15N3). [Scott does not list stamps for Palm Island or Tobago Cays even though stamps inscribed with those names are also issued.]

Another interesting facet to these stamps was provided in an article by Bob Lamb in the August 2008 issue of the *American Philatelist*. In that article, Mr. Lamb states that each of the five individual islands has (at least) one post office. However, those post offices sell only definitive postage stamps that are general issues for **ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**. The article goes on to state that stamps inscribed with the names of the individual islands are sold only by the Philatelic Agency in Kingston.

Now for the most curious part of the story... Mr. Lamb says, "These stamps are considered 'philatelic stamps' by the postal officials on the islands and are not accepted for postage. They are accepted on the mail only if the letter includes the proper franking in St. Vincent stamps. Often, the 'philatelic' stamps will not receive a cancel.

Mr. Lamb does not state if the Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Mustique and Union island stamps are valid for postage on the main island of St. Vincent. If anyone knows, please share the information with the editor.

FICC

***First Issues***

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