



# 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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## Editor's Musings

Our club secretary has asked that I place a special reminder to members that it is renewal time. The renewal form is on page 9. A couple of years ago, the FICC turned a corner and we have been financially stable for quite some time now. Thus, Kurt (club secretary and the person to whom you send your membership dues) suggested that each of us consider sponsoring a "stamp friend" with a year's membership in the club when we renew our own dues. As Nick Blackburn (club webmaster) said, "I think this is a great idea and I have someone in mind to sponsor." Can you think of someone?

Changing topics, there have been two very large stamp shows in the USA since our last Newsletter went to press – the World Stamp Show 2016 in New York in June and the APS StampShow in Portland in August. There was some interest among members to try and "meet up" at WSS, and I hope that happened. After the show ended, I sent a few members an email asking them to provide a brief summary of their experiences. Two responses were:

- While every aspect of the New York show was well done and worth taking time to sample, the 4500 frames of competitive exhibits was THE outstanding feature for me; followed closely by the chance to connect with friends and acquaintances, both collectors and dealers, from around the world. A nice bonus was finding a US #834a, the \$5 red brown Prexie, misidentified as a normal carmine, in the stock of a foreign dealer! At 72 I can only hope to be around for the next US international in 2026 in Boston, but am already looking forward to it. JH, FICC #236
- I spent three full days at the WSS-NY show (most of the time at a single dealer who had brought a monumental stock of worldwide stamps). It was quite exciting to be there, especially in light of the substantial disappearance of local stamp shows in recent years. It was impressive to see such a massive concentration of philatelic vitality: people of all ages, extensive attendance from abroad, hundreds of dealers, thousands of exhibits, and amazing rarities on display. I am thrilled to have attended. SB, FICC #89.

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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 V25N1, articles must be received prior to November 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

#### FICC Mentions in Major Publications

In the last six months, FICC has been mentioned in two separate publications. First, Nick Blackburn (FICC#181 and our webmaster) arranged for a short article in the March/April edition of the GBPS (Great Britain Philatelic Society) Newsletter. ... More recently, John Hotchner, FICC #236) mentioned FICC in his regular column written for the American Stamp Dealer & Collector (ASD&C) Magazine. [See July-Aug edition, page 8.] These mentions are exciting news for the club!!!!

Tim Balm, FICC #91

Email: August, 2016

### Secretary's Report

**Membership News:** Three new members joined FICC after the last issue went to press.

- Kevin Everett Jr, FICC #255, Tokyo, Japan
- Peter Winders, FICC #256, New Jersey, USA
- Stephen Heath, FICC #257, Bracknell, UK

Welcome Kevin, Peter and Stephen.

FICC ☞

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### Call for Mail Auction #89 Lots

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #89 is Nov 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 #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.

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### Editor's Musings (continued from page 1)

Although I did not attend WSS-NY, I did attend the large APS sponsored StampShow 2016 in Portland, Oregon in August. Having the show be close (about 100 miles away), I was excited. I had not attended a stamp show of any sort since moving to Oregon in November, 2015. I spent a half day browsing the exhibits, another half day inspecting lots from two major auction houses holding auctions during the show, about a half day (cumulative) attending discussions and presentation, and the balance of the 3+ days visiting dealers. In Ohio, I had cultivated relationships with many dealers in the region, so it was a bit daunting to start this process over meeting new dealers and cultivating new friendships among them. I just love a convention center filled with stamps! *Tim Balm*

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## The First Issues of France

By Louis Laflamme, FICC #210

*[For further information on distinguishing the France Sc#1, 6 and 7 issues from the Bordeaux issues and from the French Colony issues, there is a 2004 article on page 3 of FIRST ISSUES V12N4 that provides more information on these comparisons. The author of that article, "Napolean", was an APS expert for these issues (at that time) and preferred to remain anonymous.]*

France issued its first stamps during the period between Jan. 1849 and Dec. 1850. They came following a reform of the postal system announced on Aug. 8, 1848 that instituted new postal rates and called for the introduction of stamps. These changes were to take effect on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1849. The ministry of finance decided that the new stamps were to be rectangular in shape and had to represent the republic. Jean-Jacques Barre who was chief engraver at the mint submitted his proposal that was adopted. He chose a profile portrait of the roman goddess of agriculture and abundance, Ceres, as a personification of the republic hence the name of this issue. A single master die was used for all denominations, 2 small removable studs were used at the bottom to insert the value. Anatole Hulot was responsible for the production of the printing plates using the process of electroplating. 2 panes of 150 subjects (10H x 15V) were joined to create a sheet of 300 stamps. During the production of the plates some subjects were inadvertently joined to the others upside down creating tête-bêche pairs for all values except the 40 c. At that time, when stamp collecting did not really exist, it didn't seem to bother anybody so the mistakes were not corrected and major rarities were created. The printing of the stamps was done by Tacquin at the Paris mint.

First issued were the 20 c. black (Sc#3), the standard rate for a single letter of no more than 7.5 g and the 1 fr. vermillion (Sc#8) for items between 15 and 100 g. The other denominations gradually followed as detailed in the table below with Sc#1 being the last issued. [The Figure below the table shows the stamps (150%) in the order issued.]

Stamp	Date of Issue	Date of withdraw	Printing
20 c. black, Sc 3	1/1/1849	10/29/1850	41,698,800
1 fr. verm. Sc 8	1/1/1849	12/1/1849	300,000
1 fr. carmine Sc 9	12/1/1849	8/17/1853	2,692,000
40 c. orange Sc 7	2/3/1850	9/8/1853	4,192,200
20 c. blue Sc 4	unissued		22,996,000
25 c. blue Sc 6	7/1/1850	8/12/1852	45,218,100
15 c. green Sc 2	7/29/1850	7/1/1853	3,315,600
10 c. bister Sc 1	9/12/1850	12/3/1852	17,097,900



Continued on page 4



**French First Issue** (continued from page 3)

As early as Jan. 1849, it was realized that the 20 c. black stamp posed a problem. It was sometimes difficult to distinguish the black cancel so it was decided to change the colour to blue. Printing of the 20 c. blue (Sc#4) began on 4/7/1849 but the authorities chose to clear the stock of the remaining black stamps before issuing them. In May 1850 the printing of the 20 c. blue stopped, the rate for single letters was raised to 25 c. starting 7/1/1850 so the production of a new 25 c. blue stamp was rushed to meet the deadline and all but a few of the 22 996 000 already printed 20 c. blue along with the remaining 20 c. black stamps were incinerated. A "25c." surcharge in red on the blue stamps was proposed but the essay was not adopted. A single one of these original essays of 1850 is thought to have escape destruction and for a while resided in the famous Ferrari collection (unlisted in Scott). A rare constant variety of the 40 c. exists known as type II (Sc#7b). When assembling the 40 c. plate, two 20 c. clichés were placed by mistake in position 146 and 147, the error was corrected by hand and the "4" differs in shape. The Figure at right (enlarged) shows detail of a pair with Type I at left and II at right.



The key stamp in the set is the 1 fr. vermillion (Sc#8), it is the single most valuable French stamp. It was withdrawn early and replaced by the carmine stamp because of the possible confusion with the 40 c. orange which was planned for early 1850. The stamp also exists in a paler shade of vermillion (Sc#8c) and is known as the Vervelle stamp for the name of the stamp dealer who bought half a sheet of them found in the estate of Anatole Hulot in 1892. Always found mint without gum, they are thought to be trial color essays and, although very expensive, are worth much less than the deeper shade stamps.

Stamps of the first issue should not be confused with stamps of the same design produced later. In a letter dated Feb. 5, 1862 the son of Rowland Hill requested copies of the first French stamps for his father's collection. It was then realized that none had been

saved so Anatole Hulot was requested to reprint the stamps to create an official state collection. 14½ sheets (4350 stamps) of all values were reprinted including the unissued 20 c. blue stamp. They were printed in lighter shades of colour on a different paper. A different gum was also used. The 1 fr. was printed in a pale lake colour and interestingly some essays with the red 25c. surcharge were also produced. All



but one of these rare essays on the market today comes from this 1862 reprint. Some stamps were archived, others destroyed, but many made it to the philatelic market and are highly sought after today. Above left is a Figure showing reprints of Sc#1, 4 & 6 (200%). At right is a Figure (200%) of a 25 c. essay (Yvert # 8A) from an auction house website which sold for €13,277 in a French auction in May 2016.



During the war with Prussia (1870-1871) there was a shortage of stamps in the unoccupied French regions. Paris, where stamps were printed, was under siege so the provisional government authorized the production of stamps of the Ceres type in the city of Bordeaux. This Bordeaux issue (Sc#38-48) was produced by lithography instead of typography and small differences in design make them relatively easy to recognize. The Figure at left (200%) shows Sc#42 (taken from the web).



Continued on page 5

### French First Issue (continued from page 4)

Finally, between 1871-1872 some stamps of similar design and colours were also printed for the French colonies. They are French colonies Sc#9 (10 c. bistre), Sc#11 (20 c. blue), Sc#12 (25 c. blue) and Sc#14 (40 c. orange). They are worth much less than the 1849-1850 stamps so if you are not sure what you have or are being offered professional opinion should be sought. Shown at right (200%) is French Colonies Sc#9. [Picture taken from the web.]



As a final note, it is interesting to see that these beautiful stamps were an inspiration for another first issue by the Argentine province of Corrientes in 1856. Shown at left (200%) is Corrientes Sc#1.

## References

1. <http://marcophilie.org/timbres-classiques/timtyp.html>
2. <http://www.ladressesemuseedelaposte.fr/Ceres-premiere-emission-de-France>[marcophilie.org/timbres-classiques/timtyp.html](http://marcophilie.org/timbres-classiques/timtyp.html)
3. <http://arcadecollections.centerblog.net/11-ceres-reimpression-de-1862>
4. <http://bordeaux.france-timbres.net/>
5. Timbroscopie, Number 18, Oct. 1985, p 31

FICC ~~☒~~[illegible]

## Featured Auction Lots – Afghanistan #1

As stated in *First Issues* V23N4, the Scott catalogues now have a listing for Afghanistan #1. This stamp is just like the Sc#2 stamps except that the diameter is 30mm. [The diameter of Sc#2-4 is approximately 26-27 mm.] The 30mm Sc#1 is from Plate 1 of the printings. According to articles I have read, these stamps are much more scarce than would be indicated by the price assigned in the Scott Catalogues. Personally, I cannot verify the relative scarcity versus #2-4 as I find it difficult to encounter any of these issues (Sc#1-4) for sale from any dealer or in any auctions. ... That said, there are 4 used copies of the Afghanistan Sc#1 stamp listed in the current auction (page 7). All have been verified as having a 30mm diameter. Although none are close to pristine condition, the minimum bids set in the auction are very fair (if not generous) for this elusive stamp.



Lot 4

Lot 5

Lot 6

Lot 7

FICC ~~☒~~





**Auction #88**

Welcome to FICC Auction #88. The auction closes on Oct 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**

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	Aden - Seiyun Sc#1 mlh vf	\$0.25	\$0.15	_____	1
2	Aden Sc#1 mvlf f/vf	\$4.50	\$1.80	_____	2
3	Aden-Kathiri Sc#1-2 mlh f/vf	\$0.70	\$0.35	_____	3
4	Afghanistan Sc#1 used(piece torn off as cxl) cut-to-shape	\$60.00	\$30.00	_____	4
5	Afghanistan Sc#1 used(piece torn off as cxl) cut-to-shape	\$60.00	\$30.00	_____	5
6	Afghanistan Sc#1 used(piece torn off as cxl) cut close (pieces of 2 corner ornaments)	\$60.00	\$35.00	_____	6
7	Afghanistan Sc#1 f/vf used(piece torn off as cxl) (2 full corner ornaments)	\$60.00	\$40.00	_____	7
8	Ajman Sc#1-15 mhr f/vf [ink offset on gum]	\$9.25	\$1.00	_____	8
9	Algeria Sc#1 mlh avg	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	9
10	Algeria Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	10
11	Australia Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$7.50	\$2.50	_____	11
12	Central Lithuania Sc#1 imperf mng nh 4-mrgn [side selvage]	\$0.40	\$0.20	_____	12
13	Central Lithuania Sc#1-2 imperf mng 4-mrgn [#2 has hr and thin]	\$0.80	\$0.30	_____	13
14	Central Lithuania Sc#1,5-6 perf f/vf {#1: hr; #4-5 mng}	\$1.20	\$0.45	_____	14
15	German States-Baden Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 2-mrgn	\$250.00	\$25.00	_____	15
16	Great Britain - Scotland Sc#1 vf used(l-cxl)	\$0.25	\$0.12	_____	16
17	Great Britain - Wales&Mon Sc#1 f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	17
18	Inini Sc#1 f/vf used(l-cxl)	\$0.55	\$0.25	_____	18
19	Italy-Aeg-Isi-Lisso Sc#1 mvlf f/vf	\$8.00	\$3.20	_____	19
20	Italy-Aeg-Isi-Nisiro Sc#1 mdg f/vf	\$8.00	\$3.20	_____	20
21	Kazakstan Sc#1 vf mnh	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	21
22	Kenya Sc#1-7 used(l-cxl) mhr f/vf	\$2.30	\$0.75	_____	22
23	Latakia Sc#1 f/vf mnh	\$1.25	\$0.60	_____	23
24	Malaya-Perlis Sc#1 ff/vf mnh	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	24
25	Turkmenistan Sc#1 mnh f/vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	25
26	Zimbabwe Sc#414 used(l-cxl) f/vf [pulled perf UL corner]	\$0.35	\$0.15	_____	26

Continued on page 8

**Mail Bid Auction 88** (continued from page 7)**Change of Government #1s**

27	Ionian Isl Sc#N18 (Gen'l Issue) f/vf mnh	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	27
28	Ionian Isl Sc#N18 (Gen'l Issue) vf mnh	\$0.80	\$0.40	_____	28
29	KUT Sc#18 (KU) f/vf hr used(m-cxl)	\$1.10	\$0.40	_____	29
30	KUT Sc#144 (KUTZ) f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	30
31	Malaya-Perak Sc#138 f/vf mnh	\$0.35	\$0.17	_____	31
32	Malaya-Perlis Sc#40 f/vf mnh	\$0.30	\$0.13	_____	32
33	Togo Sc#376 (Independence) mvlf vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	33

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

34	Germany-GDR Sc#10NB1-2 f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$1.30	\$0.55	_____	34
35	Germany-GDR Sc#13NB1-3 f/vf mnh	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	35
36	Great Britain - N Ireland Sc#NIMH1 vf mnh	\$0.75	\$0.40	_____	36
37	Libya Sc#1N1 vf mnh	\$0.35	\$0.18	_____	37

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

38	Central Lithuania Sc#J1 imperf mng nh 4-mrgn	\$0.40	\$0.20	_____	38
39	Central Lithuania Sc#J1 perf f mng nh [pencil on back]	\$0.40	\$0.15	_____	39
40	Germany Sc#MC1 f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$0.45	\$0.20	_____	40
41	Gilbert & Ellice Isl Sc#MR1 vf mhr	\$0.70	\$0.30	_____	41
42	Greenland Sc#B1 f/vf used(l-cxl)	\$1.90	\$0.85	_____	42
43	Guatemala Sc#RA1 used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	43
44	Hong Kong Sc#J1a f/vf mlf	\$1.60	\$0.65	_____	44
45	Hong Kong Sc#J1a f/vf used(l-cxl)	\$1.60	\$0.75	_____	45
46	Ireland Sc#C1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$6.50	\$3.25	_____	46
47	Italy - Ital Soc Rep Sc#E1 mvlf f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	47
48	Latvia Sc#B1-4 f/vf mh [on bank note paper]	\$2.00	\$1.00	_____	48
49	Lesotho Sc#J1-2 f/vf mnh	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	49
50	Liechtenstein Sc#J1-9 mh/mhr f/vf	\$1.95	\$0.70	_____	50
51	New Zealand Sc#MR1 used(m-cxl) f/vf [?cto?]	\$0.60	\$0.25	_____	51

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

52	Germany Sc#C61 (Federal Rep) f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	52
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**Misc Stamps from First Issue Sets**

53	Georgia Sc#7 (imperf) 4-mrgn mnh	\$0.80	\$0.40	_____	53
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**#1 Twins**

54	Ceylon Sc#39 used(l-cxl) 4-mrgn [white paper, no wmk, #39 with trimmed perfs]	\$7.00	\$1.00	_____	54
55	Latvia Sc#76 used(m-cxl) f/vf [wove paper]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	55

**End of Listing**

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**Norfolk Island Stops Issuing Stamps**

As reported in the August 1, 2016 edition of Linn's Stamp News, Norfolk Islands discontinued issuing its own stamps on July 1, 2016. Australia Post will now provide Norfolk's postage stamps. The article stated that stamps will be inscribed with "Norfolk Island, Australia" similar to the stamps that Australia Post issues for the Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island and Cocos Islands. For those FICC members who collect "change in government" stamps, you may want to consider obtaining Norfolk's first two stamps by Australia Post (issued in September) depicting the retailed tropicbird and the masked booby.

FICC 



*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)

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 #88



Bidding Deadline is October 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>

# IT'S RENEWAL TIME

Check your address label on this newsletter. If it has an expiration date of V23#4, that means your FICC membership expires with this issue. Please send in your dues renewal by November 30, 2016 to ensure that you do not miss an issue. Dues are \$10.00 per year for members who receive the Newsletters electronically or who have USA mailing addresses. Rates for members with non-U.S. addresses who receive the Newsletters via postal mail are \$14.00 per year. We believe this remains a bargain relative to most other stamp clubs with newsletters.

A membership renewal form can be found on page 9. If you have an email address, please include any changes. Make checks payable to **Kurt Streepy** (not FICC), and mail your dues to Kurt at the address on the renewal form. If you wish to pay electronically using PayPal or Skrill/MoneyBookers, please contact Kurt Streepy for instructions.

## ***First Issues***

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