



First Issues

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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

As I am writing this message, we are experiencing our first snowfall of the year. This is my signal to spend more time in my office/stamp room to reflect on the events of the past year and to have a closer look at my recent acquisitions.

2016 was a great year for stamp collectors. According to both visitors and dealers, the World Stamp Show - NY was a great success. The APS reported 23,017 unique visitors by registration which is quite an impressive number, and a dealer I spoke to reported an excellent volume of sales.

I did not attend WSS-NY or the other large show that took place in Portland, Oregon in August – but in one way I participated in both – by bidding in the auctions that took place during these shows. The quantity and quality of material being offered was a bit overwhelming, but I was able not to get carried away and concentrated on a few lots that caught my attention. I was able to acquire some nice stamps from Europe and BNA at good prices (probably 50% of what a dealer would charge).

The WSS-NY was also an occasion to see the Mauritius “POST OFFICE” printing plate which resurfaced after 80 years (see V23N4). It may be a while before we have another chance to see it. Discovered among the effects of Odile Burrus, niece of the famous philatelist Maurice Burrus, the plate was offered at auction in Switzerland on Dec 1st. The estimate for the plate was 2-3 million euros – but the hammer price was “only” 1.32 million euros (including the 20% premium). The same sale also offered another great Mauritius item: the famous Bombay cover franked with two Mauritius 1 penny Post Office orange stamps. Discovered in an Indian bazaar in 1897 and bought for 5 rupees, it was estimated to sell for 3-5 million euros – but hammered on a final price of 2.4 million euros (including premium). [Pictures of both items are shown on page 3.]

As a final note, if you remember I mentioned last year (V24N1) that the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association dropped the show that was held in Toronto twice a year. Well, it seems that all is not lost. The rights to the show were acquired by a publishing company and for now, at least, it will go on. As a sign of the times, however, it will now be a combined stamp and coin show. It is probably better than nothing. As we say here, *c'est la vie!*

Louis Laflamme

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Web Site News

By Nick Blackburn, FICC #181

This article is available online at www.goo.gl/hkVqST. Type that address into your browser and the online version has all the links already in place, so from there you can just click. You can also scan this QR code (at right) to get there.








WEB SITE CATALOGUE PROGRESS: The AFRICA pages are now in place and by the time you read this, they should have all their links, index entries and other attributes. There will be another batch of stamp images required for which all assistance will be appreciated. The next target is FRENCH COLONIES.

AUCTION LISTINGS: We have resumed posting details of the auctions on the web site.

FORUM: Invitations have been sent to all members to join the online forum. You need a google mail or gmail account (both free) to join and to log in subsequently, but forum postings can be directed to your normal email account.

SOURCES: The recommendation for this issue is StampWorldHistory.com, an ambitious site and of particular note are its flowcharts of stamp issues. French African colonies will be linked on the web site as this was very useful in building the Africa web pages.

STAMP PRICES: I have been giving some thought to whether we should give some approximate prices on the site. The 2006 WPE display included an analysis of first issue prices and I think collectors would find it helpful to judge and prioritize what they can afford. If we go ahead, I only envisage doing so for the FICC catalogue of #1s and only giving an indicative price range. This leads to the question of format as space is limited, catalogues exaggerate, intellectual property rights might apply and approximation will mean I will not have to revisit the exercise. ... I am no mathematician and do not want to transgress any conventions, but perhaps showing the significant digit and the number of zeros following would work, so 3^2 would mean about \$300, 1^6 would be a million and “c” would be less than \$1. All suggestions welcomed.

	US	166
	BR	37
	GB	33
	DE	19
	CA	19

Pageviews: 630

WEB SITE TRAFFIC: Watching the site's flag counter accumulate is almost as much fun as collecting stamps. As of 1st November, we've had 373 visitors from 43 countries. Most of those are from the US (43%), then Brazil, GB, Germany and Canada. ... Our Alexa rating has risen from 26.3 million to 24.4 million. As you might have guessed, Google is #1.

FICC [illegible]

Additions to President's Message



In addition to Louis Laflamme's (FICC #210) President's Message on page 1, he provided scans of both the Mauritius printing plate and of the Bombay cover. These are shown here (50%).

FICC

South Yemen First Issues

By Peter Winders, FICC #256

South Yemen became an independent state in 1967. Located in the southwest part of the Arabian peninsula, it includes the major port city and capital of Aden along with a number of former sultanates, emirates and sheikhdoms in an area of about 112,000 square miles with a population under two million at independence.

Britain's long rule in South Arabia began in 1839 when Aden was seized by a naval force acting for the East India Company. Aden was administered by British India until 1937. Stamps of British India were used on mail from Aden during that period, after which stamps were first issued for Aden, which was the only British Crown Colony in the Middle East.

Beginning in the 1870's a number of tribal leaders in the South Arabian hinterland signed agreements giving Britain exclusive access to their lands in exchange for protection against external attack (essentially against the Ottoman Empire and later against the independent Yemen Kingdom to the north). By the 1930's South Arabia was administratively divided into Aden Colony, the Western Aden Protectorate and the Eastern Aden Protectorate.

Tim Balm's 2001 article in *First Issues* [V9N1] titled "The First Issues of Yemen (Yemen Decoded)" includes a very useful table listing the various stamp issuing entities of both North Yemen and South Yemen / South Arabia.

In June 1963 the National Liberation Front of Occupied South Yemen (NLF) was founded to fight for independence. The NLF was motivated by pan-Arab nationalism and by the overthrow of the monarchy in North Yemen in September 1962 with an eventual goal of a unified Yemeni state. By October of 1963, armed resistance to the British began in the Radfan mountains and spread throughout South Arabia and to Aden. In June of 1967, Britain started to withdraw its armed forces from the hinterland. After an economic crisis with devaluation of sterling and a Labour government replacing the Conservatives, the financial and political costs of remaining in South Arabia had become too high for the UK. Negotiations with the NLF in Geneva in November 1967 led to the final evacuation of British forces. The new country became the People's Republic of Southern Yemen (PRSY) on November 30, 1967.

The first stamp issue of the PRSY did not appear until April 1, 1968 (Scott #1-14). These were overprints on the

1965 definitive set of the British-sponsored Federation of South Arabia (Scott #3-16). The stamps were overprinted in Aden. The overprint text reads "People's Republic of Southern Yemen" in Arabic and English and a bar is placed over the Federation coat of arms and flag. Two dies were used which differ in the placement of the dots in the Arabic. The Figure on page 5 (at 85%) shows both overprints. The low-dot overprint exists only on Sc#1-5, 7-8, 11-14; the high-dot overprint exists only on Sc#1-4, 6-10. [The position of the dots is easier to see on the stamps with the dark overprints.] The Stanley Gibbons catalog lists both overprint types (no difference in price), but Scott and Michel do not.

Before the first set was issued in April 1968 provisional handstamps were applied to stamps of Aden Colony, Kathiri State, Qu'aiti State and Federation of South Arabia issues. Examples are shown (75%) in the Figure on page 6. These were rubber stamps using violet or black ink reading "People's Republic of Southern Yemen" in Arabic and English, and were applied at post offices to stamps on cover at the time of mailing. The provisional handstamps are not listed by Scott or Gibbons, although Gibbons includes a note after South Yemen #1-14 stating that "...various issues of the South Arabian Federation and of the Aden states were overprinted by local postmasters, mainly using handstamps. These are of philatelic interest but are outside the scope of this catalogue."

Michel does list the provisional handstamps on the Federation definitive set as #1-14 in used condition in both violet and black ink. Michel does not include any valuations for mint copies and notes "The handstamp overprint was mainly applied to stamps on cover." We have not seen any mint examples with these handstamps and would question their authenticity if they appeared.

All of the provisionals in my collection are used, either as singles, on piece or on cover. Michel gives the issue date as February 1968. All of the examples that this writer has seen with dated postmarks are from February or March 1968. This raises the question as to what measures were used for postal service between December 1967 and January 1968 in South Yemen. Any input from FICC members on this question would be valued.

REFERENCES

1. Scott Catalog, Volume 6, 2016
2. Stanley Gibbons Catalogue "Arabia" 2016
3. Michel Gulf States Catalogue 2013
4. YEMEN DIVIDED – THE STORY OF A FAILED STATE IN SOUTH ARABIA by Noel Brehony, I.B. Taurus, Publisher, 2013

Continued on p.5

South Yemen (continued from page 4)

Continued on p.6

South Yemen (continued from page 5)

Auction #89

Welcome to FICC Auction #89. The auction closes on January 31, 2017 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 2017 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	Argentina Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 3-good/1-close mrgn	\$40.00	\$8.00	_____	1
2	Belarus Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.45	\$0.22	_____	2
3	Belarus Sc#1 used(l-cxl) vf	\$0.45	\$0.20	_____	3
4	British Antarctic Territory Sc#1 mnh f/vf	\$0.90	\$0.40	_____	4
5	Burkina Faso Sc#1 mnh f/vf [CV is for mh]	\$0.25	\$0.15	_____	5
6	Centrtal African Republic Sc#1-2 mnh f/vf	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	6
7	China - Taiwan(Formosa) mngai hr 4-mrgn	\$2.50	\$1.00	_____	7
8	China - Northeastern Prov Sc#1 mhr vf	\$0.35	\$0.15	_____	8
9	China - Northeastern Prov Sc#1 mngai f/vf	\$0.35	\$0.15	_____	9
10	China - Northeastern Prov Sc#1 mngai f/vf [hor pair]	\$0.70	\$0.30	_____	10
11	China - Northeastern Prov Sc#1-5 mngai f/vf	\$2.30	\$1.00	_____	11
12	China - Szechuan Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$1.00	\$0.35	_____	12
13	China - Yunan Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$0.35	\$0.10	_____	13
14	China - Manchuria Sc#1 used(l-cxl) hr f/vf	\$0.35	\$0.10	_____	14
15	China - Sinkiang Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$0.95	\$0.35	_____	15
16	China - Off in Tibet Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf [small corner thin]	\$45.00	\$15.00	_____	16
17	Eritrea Sc#1 mnh avg [CV is for mh]	\$10.00	\$3.50	_____	17
18	Estonia Sc#1-4 mlh 4-mrgn	\$4.60	\$2.00	_____	18
19	Estonia Sc#1-4 used(cto, m-cxl) 4-mrgn	\$4.70	\$2.00	_____	19
20	French West Africa Sc#1-3 mh vf	\$6.80	\$3.00	_____	20
21	French West Africa Sc#1-7 mnh f/vf	\$11.60	\$5.25	_____	21
22	Hatay Sc#1 mnh f/vf [SCV is for mh; mnh is 2.6x higher]	\$1.75	\$0.70	_____	22
23	Iceland Sc#1 mng f hr [possible forgery]	\$1,300	\$10.00	_____	23
24	Inini Sc#1 mnh f/vf [CV is for mh]	\$0.40	\$0.20	_____	24
25	Japan - Off in China Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$2.75	\$1.10	_____	25
26	Japan - Off in Korea Sc#1 cto(m-cxl) f/vf [signed]	\$8.75	\$3.50	_____	26
27	Kazakhstan Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	27
28	Korea Sc#1 mhr vf	\$60.00	\$20.00	_____	28
29	Laos Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.60	\$0.30	_____	29
30	Manchukuo Sc#1 used(m-cxl) vf	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	30

Continued on page 8

Mail Bid Auction 89 (continued from page 7)**#1s (cont'd)**

31	Monaco Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr avg	\$17.50	\$5.25	_____	31
32	Nauru Sc#1 mhr f/vf	\$3.50	\$1.25	_____	32
33	Ruanda-Urundi Sc#6-23 mhr/mh f/vf	\$46.55	\$15.00	_____	33
34	San Marino Sc#1 used(h-cxl) hr f [SON cxl]	\$19.00	\$5.70	_____	34
35	Spanish Morocco - Tetuan Sc#1 (block/4) used(l-cxl) hr 4-mrgn	\$40.00	\$20.00	_____	35
36	Spanish West Africa Sc#1 mhr f/vf	\$3.00	\$1.05	_____	36
37	Tibet Sc#1 mhr 4-mrgn	\$40.00	\$30.00	_____	37
38	Tripolitania Sc#1 mhr f/vf [gum toning]	\$11.00	\$4.00	_____	38
39	United Nations - NY Sc#1 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	39
40	Vatican City Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	40
41	Yugoslavia Sc#1 mnh f/vf [2x premium for mnh]	\$0.50	\$0.20	_____	41

Change of Government #1s

42	Cameroun (Fr Occ) Sc#101 mhr f/vf [signed ROSS]	\$32.50	\$11.35	_____	42
43	Crete (Cretan Gov't) Sc#10 mh 4-mrgn	\$13.00	\$5.85	_____	43
44	Czechoslovakia Sc#254A (Slovakia) mnh f/vf [crease]	\$1.60	\$0.30	_____	44
45	Gambia Sc#206-9 (Independence) mnh f/vf	\$1.45	\$0.65	_____	45
46	India Sc#19 (Colony) f used (m-cxl) [rounded lower corners]	\$6.00	\$0.75	_____	46
47	India Sc#200 (Dominion) f/vf used (m-cxl)	\$0.45	\$0.20	_____	47
48	KUT Sc#144 (KUTZ) used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	48
49	Malaya Sc#80-83 (Federation) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$2.10	\$0.85	_____	49
50	Mariana Isl Sc#11(German Dominion) used(l-cxl) hr vf	\$30.00	\$10.00	_____	50
51	Swaziland Sc#10 (Resumed) mlh f/vf	\$0.40	\$0.15	_____	51

#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s

52	Austria Sc#N1 cto(m-cxl) hr vf [toned perf tips]	\$1.60	\$0.65	_____	52
53	Bushire Sc#N1 mh vf [signed Roger Calves]	\$150.00	\$60.00	_____	53
54	China - Meng Chiang Sc#2N1 mhr f/vf	\$3.00	\$1.00	_____	54
55	German East Africa Sc#N101 (Brit Occ) mvlh f	\$1.75	\$0.60	_____	55
56	Germany Sc#3N1-20 mvlh f/vf [all are the German printing]	\$17.30	\$7.00	_____	56
57	Germany Sc#6N1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	57
58	Germany Sc#6N1-15 mnh f/vf	\$3.50	\$1.50	_____	58
59	Germany Sc#8N1-13 mnh f/vf	\$2.25	\$1.00	_____	59
60	Ionian Islands Sc#N1 (pair) mhr f/vf	\$55.00	\$18.00	_____	60
61	Japan Sc#Z1 used(l-cxl) vf	\$0.70	\$0.35	_____	61
62	North Borneo Sc#N1 mhr vf	\$200.00	\$80.00	_____	62
63	Peru Sc#3N1a (Arequipa) used(l-cxl) hr 4-mrgn [ultramarine]	\$4.00	\$1.60	_____	63
64	Poland Sc#1K1 used(l-cxl) (cto?) f/vf	\$3.75	\$1.50	_____	64
65	Spain Sc#10L1 (Malaga) mhr 4-mrgn	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	65

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

66	Gr Brit Sc#MH1 mnh vf	\$0.25	\$0.12	_____	66
67	Gr Brit - N.Ireland Sc#NIMH1 mnh f/vf	\$0.75	\$0.35	_____	67
68	Gr Brit - Wales&Mon Sc#WMIMH1 mnh vf	\$0.30	\$0.15	_____	68
69	Spain Sc#MR1 mnh avg	\$11.00	\$3.50	_____	69

Misc Stamps From First Issue Sets

70	Bushire Sc#N2 mhr f/vf [signed DH]	\$150.00	\$45.00	_____	70
71	French Congo Sc#2 used(l-cxl) hr f	\$110.00	\$30.00	_____	71
72	Heligoland Sc#1A mnh f/vf [possibly regummed or forgery]	\$800.00	\$10.00	_____	72

#1 on Stamps

73	Cook Islands Sc#195(shows #1) mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	73
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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!

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 ☐ Renewal

 ☐ Additional Contribution: \$_____
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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 #89



Bidding Deadline is January 31, 2017



(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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