



# 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

Stamp expertizing is an integral part of our hobby. Very few people would be ready to pay serious money for an item without a guarantee that they are getting the real thing and that it was not altered, repaired or franked with a fake cancel.

For example, Bahamas #1 is worth \$75 mint but add a cancel and it is worth \$1900 used. Straits Settlements #10 used is worth \$4.50, but add a simple black "B" overprint and it becomes Bangkok #1 used worth \$1950.

We all know, however, that all certificates are not equal and some opinions are not worth the paper they are printed on. Nowadays, stamp expertizing has become less of an art and more of a science relying on the most modern equipment to detect alterations and repairs. So it is well worth the expense to deal with reputable, well-established services to protect your investment.

Expertizing should not be confused with a seller's guarantee – usually promising to refund the purchase price if an independent expert judges the item to be other than as described. It will not help you much when you try to sell an expensive item!

But forgeries do not concern only rarities. Many low value stamps have also been forged and it is not worth the cost to have these sent for certificates. The minimum fee for APS members charged by APEX is \$25 for items with a catalogue value of \$1250 or less. It is for these items that you should try to become your own expert.

In this Newsletter you will find useful information on how to achieve this goal by using the Index of philatelic literature compiled by Theodore M. Tedesco. [Editor: See article on page 4.] Before the index was ever published it is using this method that I was able to confirm the authenticity of my Suez Canal stamps (V20N3) and I was happy to see that the reference I used is listed in the index. Who knows, this exercise may even bring some of you to share your findings in the 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 V25N3, articles must be received prior to May 15, 2017.

**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

#### Tedesco Forgery Index (see page 4)

Excellent news. I stopped my Linn's subscription about three years ago so I appreciate the info. Could I get the URL or post it on the site? Also I suggest John's article be reprinted (with permission) in our journal. Thanks again.

Jerry Weirich, FICC #91  
Email: January, 2017

[Reply: The URL was posted on the FICC Forum and is also on page 4 of this edition of *FIRST ISSUES*. Regarding reprinting the article: It is much too long to reprint in entirety. A synopsis of Mr. Hotchner's article is on page 4.]

#### Tedesco Forgery Index - 2

Wow, That is a remarkable document. Cannot imagine the time invested in pulling all that information in one place. Thank you for sharing.

Kurt Streepy, FICC #18  
FICC Forum Posting: January, 2017

#### Tedesco Forgery Index - 3

Great post, Tim.

Nick Blackburn, FICC #  
FICC Forum Posting: January, 2017

#### Tedesco Forgery Index - 4

Thanks for the URL. Massive amount of work went into all this. Great references

Clark Bucci, FICC #  
FICC Forum Posting: January, 2017

### Secretary's Report

**Membership News:** Four new members joined FICC since the last Newsletter went to press.

- Martin Hirschbühl, FICC #259, Oberhelfenschwil, Switzerland
- Claude Duperrex, FICC #260, Allschwil, Switzerland
- Stephen Westwood, FICC #261, Eaton Socon, UK
- Шаварда Алексей, FICC #262, St. Petersburg, Russia

Welcome all.

### 2016 FICC Financial Report

Opening Balance 1-Jan-2016	\$4,561.43
Income	
Dues	\$700.00
Auctions #85-88	\$55.50
Donations	\$88.00
Back Issues/CDs	\$14.00
Total Income	\$857.50
Expenses	
Newsletter Printing/Postage (V24N1-4)	\$680.96
Web Hosting/Domain Renewal	\$20.00
PayPal Fees/Miscellaneous	\$6.81
Total Expenses	\$707.77
Ending Balance 31-Dec-2016	\$4,711.16

By Nick Blackburn, FICC #181

FICC ~~☒~~

## When It's Not Cost Effective To Get A Certificate For An Inexpensive Stamp

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

Mr. John Hotchner (FICC #236) wrote an article entitled "Getting an expertizing certificate: Why bother?" that was published in the January 16, 2017 edition of Linn's Stamp News. I was so enchanted with the article that I posted a note about it on the FICC web site Forums – which elicited the responses in MAIL BAG on page 2. Basically, I recommend this article to anyone who has ever wrestled with the uncertainty of whether an inexpensive stamp is genuine.

The article quickly turns the question into "What is the value of a certificate?" I had never thought about the issue in this context, so it intrigued me. As FICC members know, a great many #1s have low catalogue value and paying \$25 or more for a certificate would be money spent that could never be recouped later if/when the stamp was sold. But Mr. Hotchner has turned the question so that more than money could be considered.

Take the scenario where you or I, as a collector, was doing an in-depth study of a specific stamp (presumably a #1). After several copies have been acquired, noticeable differences are noted between/among various copies. So, you start to wonder if some of the stamps are not genuine or if printing differences really exist. An example I'm sure most of us are aware of is the first issue of New Caledonia #1. These were printed in sheets of 50 – with all 50 stamps individually created and different from each other. This was previously reported by Bob Sylvester in *First Issues* in 2002 (V10N2).

This can also be applied to overprints or surcharges. An example of this is the Annam & Tonkin #1 where there are 9 individual "1" overprints used – all genuine. See *First Issues* article in V13N2 for greater detail.

Further, if you are preparing an exhibit of varieties of an inexpensive stamp, getting a certificate on a previously unreported variety might be highly desirable.

Or, perhaps you are a collector who has an overarching need to **NEVER** spend money on a stamp unless you **KNOW** it is genuine. Getting a certificate to ease your mind may be of more "value" than the money spent.

After several more examples of quandaries where a certificate would help sort things out, Mr. Hotchner distills everything into, "So, what is a collector who wants to be certain of genuineness of such material to do? I can advise only three alternatives: Write the check for the certificate; Take the risk, given that the cost is relatively minor; or Become your own expert. ... As I have mentioned before in this column, the last choice is not so difficult. ... It will deepen your appreciation of your hobby and your material, and can save you a bundle of bucks."

To end his article, Mr. Hotchner cites a great resource. "Theodore Tedesco has done all of us a favor by compiling a 1,200-page Index of Literature in the English Language that Describes Postal Stamp Forgeries, Fakes, Reprints, Fraudulent Postal Markings and Other Obliterations. Dated May, 2014, the first edition of the index is organized by country and can be used to determine where fakes are known, and where the collector can go to access detailed information about them."

"The index can be downloaded at <http://stamps.org/userfiles/file/library/Tedescoindex.pdf>. It is free." Note: this URL is part of the American Philatelic Society web site.

I have downloaded the index– which takes very little time for such a large document. It is easy to use. I tried it out on several stamps for which I have acquired a lot of expertise by doing my own searches. In most cases, all references I had found (excluding references not written in English) were listed – plus a few I had not found. One glaring omission (for me) was under the Danube Steam Navigation Company, where there was no reference to Tchilinghirian and Stephen's series of books entitled "Austrian Post Offices Abroad". These books are in English and are likely the most comprehensive references for determining genuine postal cancellations.

Bottom line, if you are curious about any of your inexpensive #1s and want to learn more, the Tedesco Index is a great place to begin.

Thanks to Mr. Hotchner for his Linn's column introducing this index to me/us.

FICC ☞

☆☆

## Stamps From Krajina

In 1990, when Yugoslavia divided into Macedonia, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, some of the ethnic Serbian areas did not want to be part of either Croatia or Serbia. With the help of the former Yugoslav Army, they proclaimed sovereignty as the Republic of Srpska-Krajina. More than 100 post offices were opened and they issued their own stamps in 1993. Ultimately, due mostly to the lack of United Nations recognition, Krajina became part of Croatia. The stamps are listed in Michel, but not Scott.

FICC ☞

## Revisiting the Two Varieties of Taiwan's First Issue (ROC#1007)

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

I was recently considering the purchase of a copy of ROC/Taiwan Sc#1007 in an internet auction. A memory cell “kicked in” that there are two printings of this stamp, but I couldn’t recall how to tell the difference between the first and second printings. I did remember I wrote an article for First Issues on the difference. My article was based on an article in The American Philatelist a long time ago.

To refresh my memory, it was easier for me to find my article by searching the First Issues Journal Index that Nick Blackburn created on the club's web site, so that's what I did. [Note: the journal index is easy to access by going to the web site, selecting JOURNAL from the links in the banner at the top of the home page, then selecting LINK TO JOURNAL INDEX at the top of the JOURNAL page.] Within a minute, I had found that the article I had written was in Volume 9, Number 4 on page 1.

Upon retrieving the article (written in 2001), I was a bit “shocked” when I saw this edition of **FIRST ISSUES** was in black/white and produced on a photocopier with relatively low resolution. [It wasn’t until 2004 that editor Bob Sylvester upgraded the Newsletter by printing the illustrations in color with higher resolution for detail.] So, I decided to reprint my original article with better scans of the stamps in color. Here it is...

[illegible]

Have you ever noticed the small statement in the Scott catalog under the listing for Republic of China (Taiwan) Sc#1007-11? The catalog states, "Two printings of the \$1 and \$2 show some difference." [For reference, the \$1 variety is Sc#1007 and the \$2 is Sc#2008.] I was never sure if the Scott statement meant there were differences in the design or in the surcharge overprint or both. I couldn't distinguish between the 2 copies of Sc#1007 in my collection without any guidance regarding what to look for. That guidance came in an article published in the April, 2001 American Philatelist entitled "A Stamp That Almost Never Was" by Albert Ewell Jr. Following is a synopsis of that article.

In January 1950, the Chiang Nationalist government (Taiwan, a.k.a. Province of Formosa) issued its first set of stamps by applying surcharges to non-denominated ‘Flying Geese over Globe’ stamps. These non-denominated stamps are not to be confused with the nearly identically designed set of denominated stamps issued in May 1949 (Sc#984-987). Although both the denominated and the non-denominated stamps were printed in 1949 (just before the Communist takeover of China was complete), the non-denominated stamps were stockpiled in Shanghai for future use while the denominated stamps were issued.

When used to print Taiwan's first issue, surcharges were applied to these stamps in 3 separate phases. The first phase produced the \$1, \$2 and \$5 surcharges. The second phase produced another set of the \$1 surcharges as well as \$10 and \$20 surcharges. The final/third phase produced only a second printing of the \$2 surcharge. Quantities printed are shown in Table 1 (adapted from the AP article). [Note: This table is not reproduced herein; see either the AP article or the First Issues article for the details.]

Mr. Ewell's article explains the differences noted in Scott are in characteristics of the surcharges. For the \$1 surcharge, the 1st printing has a space of approximately 4.5 mm between the two columns of overprint characters; the 2nd printing is approximately 6.5mm. Printing 1 is shown at near right (200% so the spacing is 2x). Printing 2 is shown at far right (200% so the spacing is 2x).



**Continued on p.6**





**Auction #90**

Welcome to FICC Auction #90. The auction closes on May 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 9 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	Annam & Tonkin Sc#1 mng fine	47.50	23.75	_____	1
2	Dahomey Sc#1 mvlh f/vf [6mm hinge thin]	1.60	0.35	_____	2
3	Gr Britain - N. Ireland Sc#1 used(l-cxl) vf	0.25	0.15	_____	3
4	Gr Britain - Scotland Sc#1 mnh vf	0.25	0.15	_____	4
5	Gr Britain - Scotland Sc#1 used(l-cxl)f/ vf [pulled perf LR]	0.25	0.10	_____	5
6	Grand Comoro Sc#1 mh f/vf	1.25	0.60	_____	6
7	India - Chamba Sc#1 mlh f/vf	1.50	0.75	_____	7
8	India - Nabha Sc#1 mh f/vf [toned spot upper perfs, gum crease]	6.25	1.25	_____	8
9	India - Patiala Sc#1 mlh f [toned spot in upper perf]	6.00	2.00	_____	9
10	India - Travancor-Cochin Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f [may be mng]	0.30	0.15	_____	10
11	Italian East Africa Sc#1-20,C1-11,CE1-2 mh/mhr f/vf	415.20	145.00	_____	11
12	Jamaica Sc#1 used(m-cxl) avg	16.00	8.00	_____	12
13	Malaysia-Sabah Sc#1 f/vf mnh	0.25	0.10	_____	13
14	Mali Sc#1 vf mvlh	1.00	0.45	_____	14
15	Manchukuo Sc#1 f/vf mh	2.00	0.90	_____	15
16	Manchukuo Sc#1 vf mlh	2.00	0.90	_____	16
17	Manchukuo Sc#1,6-9,11,14-17 f/vf used(m-cxl)	38.70	15.50	_____	17
18	Marienwerder Sc#1 f/vf mnh [mnh = 3x hinged]	2.25	1.00	_____	18
19	Mauritania Sc#1-2 f/vf used(m-cxl)	2.80	1.00	_____	19
20	Mayotte Sc#1 f mh	1.40	0.50	_____	20
21	Mayotte Sc#1 f/vf mvlh	1.40	0.55	_____	21
22	Mayotte Sc#1-2 f [#1: mh; #2 used(m-cxl)]	2.80	1.10	_____	22
23	Netherlands Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 4-mrgn [ironed out crease]	35.00	8.75	_____	23
24	South Arabia - State of Upper Yafa Mi#1-6 mlh f/vf		4.00	_____	24
25	Southern Nigeria Sc#1 mvlh f/vf	2.00	1.00	_____	25
26	Southern Nigeria Sc#1 used(m-cxl) avg	3.00	1.50	_____	26
27	Southern Rhodesia Sc#1 used(vl-cxl) f/vf	0.25	0.12	_____	27
28	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#1 mlh f/vf [adh on back, vio o/p]	0.85	0.35	_____	28
29	Turks Island Sc#1 used(m-cxl) avg	67.50	33.75	_____	29
30	Wallis & Futuna Sc#1 mh f/vf	0.30	0.10	_____	30

Continued on page 8

**Mail Bid Auction 89** (continued from page 7)**# A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s**

31	Germany 5N1-13 (Baden) mixed (5N9-10 mint, others used) f/vf	8.75	0.95	_____	31
32	Gr Brit - Guernsey Sc#N1-3 mnh f/vf	14.50	6.50	_____	32
33	Memel Sc#N1 f/vf mlh	1.00	0.40	_____	33
34	Mesopotamia Sc#N42 (Mosul 1st issue) f/vf mlh	2.40	0.95	_____	34
35	Montenegro Sc#1N1-2 f/vf mhr	29.00	10.15	_____	35
36	Sweden Sc#LX1 used(l-cxl) f/vf [perf 14.0 x 13.9]	550.00	150.00	_____	36

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

37	Mali Sc#B1 vf mnh	1.25	0.65	_____	37
38	Mali Sc#B1 vf mlh	1.25	0.55	_____	38
39	Mali Sc#C1 f/vf mnh	2.75	1.25	_____	39
40	Mali Sc#C1 vf mlh	2.75	1.25	_____	40
41	Mali Sc#J1 vf mnh	0.25	0.12	_____	41
42	Mali Sc#J1-6 vf mnh [top selvage]	3.00	1.50	_____	42
43	Malta Sc#B1-3 f/vf mnh	0.75	0.35	_____	43
44	Malta Sc#C1 f/vf mlh	2.00	0.90	_____	44
45	Malta Sc#C1 f mh	2.00	0.60	_____	45
46	Malta Sc#J1-4 4-mrgn mhr	19.00	7.60	_____	46
47	Malta Sc#MR1 f mlh	2.25	0.90	_____	47
48	Malta Sc#MR1 f/vf mnh	2.25	0.95	_____	48
49	Malta Sc#MR1 f/vf mhr	2.25	0.80	_____	49
50	Malta Sc#MR1 f used(m-cxl)	0.30	0.10	_____	50
51	Malta Sc#MR1 f/vf used(m-cxl)	0.30	0.10	_____	51
52	Malta Sc#MR1-2 f mh	5.25	1.85	_____	52
53	Martinique Sc#CB1 vf mlh	0.90	0.40	_____	53
54	Martinique #J1 4-mrgn mhr [no longer listed in Scott]		\$0.25	_____	54
55	Martinique #J1-3 4-mrgn mh [no longer listed in Scott]		\$0.85	_____	55

**Misc Stamps From First Issue Sets**

56	German States - Meck-Schwerin Sc#3 used(m-cxl) close cut all around [shallow thins]	\$275.00	\$27.50	_____	56
57	Germany 5N14-19 (Baden) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$2.90	\$0.90	_____	57
58	Germany 5N20-22 (Baden) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$3.15	\$0.95	_____	58
59	Germany 5N23-25, 29, 33, 37 (Baden) used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$3.30	\$0.95	_____	59
60	India Sc#6 used(m-cxl) cut to shape [scarce SG.23 variety]	\$42.50	\$17.00	_____	60
61	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#3 mh f/vf [violet overprint]	\$1.40	\$0.45	_____	61
62	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#3 used(l-cxl) f/vf [violet overprint]	\$1.40	\$0.45	_____	62
63	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#3 used(m-cxl) f/vf [vio overprint, thin]	\$1.40	\$0.45	_____	63
64	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#4 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$0.96	\$0.30	_____	64
65	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#5 m SF(UL corner missing)	\$11.25	\$0.75	_____	65
66	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#8 mhr f/vf	\$6.50	\$0.95	_____	66
67	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#13 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$1.25	\$0.40	_____	67
68	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#16 mlh f/vf	\$1.40	\$0.45	_____	68
69	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#17 m f/vf [paper adh ove back]	\$1.40	\$0.45	_____	69
70	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#17 mlh f/vf	\$1.40	\$0.45	_____	70
71	Syria - Arabian Gov't Sc#24 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$2.75	\$0.85	_____	71
72	Tannu Tuva Sc#4 f/vf mhr	\$2.00	\$0.60	_____	72
73	Tannu Tuva Sc#5 f/vf mhr	\$2.00	\$0.60	_____	73
74	Tannu Tuva Sc#6 f/vf mh [gum crease]	\$2.00	\$0.60	_____	74
75	Tannu Tuva Sc#7 f/vf mhr	\$2.25	\$0.65	_____	75
76	Tannu Tuva Sc#10 f/vf mhr	\$13.50	\$4.00	_____	76

**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](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 #90



**Bidding Deadline is May 31, 2017**



(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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