



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

If you are an APS member and read the August issue of the American Philatelist, you surely noticed a strange coincidence when you came across the President's column. For those of you who did not read it, Mick Zais (who is a psychologist) entitled his column: Is There a Collector Gene? He was essentially trying to explain the same thing as I did in my last message. After listing all the possible reasons why people collect, he basically came to the same conclusion as my friend – which is that some people are simply born to collect and that there must be a gene contributing to all the possible factors in the list.

There was a time, before the internet, when the summer was a pretty quiet time for stamp collectors – but not anymore. Case in point: the Beville Collection of Classical Worldwide Stamps offered by Cherrystone auction house last July 26-27 (see page 4). I placed many bids (all well above the estimate), but they were all unsuccessful. Many lots went for 2 to 3 times the estimate. As a rule, I try to avoid bidding wars. I was luckier in another smaller but also impressive sale (only 106 lots) by H.R. Harmer on August 5 offering the Joseph Hackmey Collection of Classic BNA and US Postal History. Of special interest to me were many First Issue covers from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick including major rarities. I was able to acquire a beautiful little Nova Scotia cover franked with a pair of 1853 #1s and a first issue 1851 #4. It is the only recorded cover to the UK overpaying the official rate (7½d) by ½ penny. It was once in N. Argenti's collection – the man who wrote the book on stamps and postal history of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The cover has a certificate in his name. [Editor: A scan of the acquired cover is shown on page 5.]

I guess that there is no vacation possible now for the serious collector.

Louis Laflamme

[Editor: Please be sure to note the short article on page 3 regarding a slight shift in the quarterly mailing dates for **First Issues**. The next issue will be published in February 2018 instead of January 2018.]

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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 V26N1, articles must be received prior to January 1, 2018.**

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) 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).

Bylaws: A copy of the FICC bylaws is available on the web site (www.firstissues.org). These were last printed in *First Issues* V18, N4.

Secretary's Report

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

Mail Bag

David Olson Remembrance - 1

Here are my thoughts and fond recollections about David:

David Olson was a quiet giant of philately – my inspiration and mentor. Shortly after I resumed collecting as an adult in the early 1990's, I discovered David's *First Issues*

ad in the APS magazine and became hooked. I took a break from 1999 to 2016. When I resumed in early 2016, the first thing I did was to call David, who unstintingly gave me extensive advice about how to proceed. We communicated frequently. His professionalism and generous sharing of his knowledge and wisdom were of the highest order. Earlier this year, I sent David an email asking him if he could give me some pointers as to whether a certain copy of New Caledonia SC#1 on eBay® was genuine. Within 5 minutes he emailed me a pdf from the Serrane Guide depicting the entire 50-stamp original sheet plate!

I was shocked and saddened when he told me of his illness.

David – from one transplanted son of Michigan to another – you will be sorely missed.

Sanford Bell, FICC #87

Email: May, 2017

David Olson Remembrance - 2

I had the good fortune to spend time with Dave on a number of occasions. The first occurred when I bought a rather large collection of number 1s only because I needed one very elusive stamp in the collection. Dave bought the remainder of the collection which included a number of used German States without certificates. Dave and I agreed that if he obtained good certs for some of them he would send along some additional money. About a year later a nice check arrived. How many dealers do you know that you would trust to do that or would do it. The last time I saw Dave, he had called and said he would like to look at my collection as he thought I had a number of stamps he had not had the opportunity to see. He came down to CT from New Hampshire thinking he would spend a couple of hours. However, as my collection is a change of government topical, all the stamps were accompanied by detailed historical documentation and Dave was hooked. My wife fed us and he left late at night after we spent a wonderful day talking stamps. Dave was a true scholar and so knowledgeable and so free with his help that we have truly lost an important member of our fraternity.

Martin Nadel, FICC #20

Email: May, 2017

Mail Bag continued on p.3

Shift in Quarterly Mailing Dates for *FIRST ISSUES*

The quarterly mailings for the **FIRST ISSUES** Journal/Newsletter will shift by one month starting with V26N1. In other words, the normal quarterly intervals of Jan-Feb-Mar, Apr-May-Jun, Jul-Aug-Sep, and Oct-Nov-Dec will shift to Feb-Mar-Apr, May-Jun-Jul, Aug-Sep-Oct, and Nov-Dec-Jan. Everyone will still receive four issues of the Newsletter each year – in accordance with the Club Bylaws.

The “fiscal year” for the club will continue to run from January 1 through December 31. Hence, dues will still need to be paid prior to January 1st of each year for members to remain in good standing.

The shift in publication dates is to better avoid the timing issues for the first edition each year. The Newsletter timing is such that it needs to be finalized one month prior to publication in order to get it printed, folded and franked for mailing. For the first edition each year, this means that these activities occur from the U.S. Thanksgiving celebration through the Christmas holidays. These are prime periods for people taking vacations from work – making publication even more hectic. The new schedule allows for the preparation leading up to mailing of the first edition to occur in January rather than December.

So, for the foreseeable future, you will be receiving your Newsletters at the beginning of February, May, August and Nov. Happy reading!

FICC [illegible]

Call for Mail Auction #93 Lots

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #93 is December 15, 2017. 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 Apt 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.

FICC ~~☒~~[illegible]

Mail Bag (continued from page 2)

David Olson Remembrance - 3

I just received the news of the passing of David. He was always good with me about getting my FI's collection going. I, like many, saw his ad in American Philatelist in the late 80's. He was buying #1's in the ad, and I was passively looking for a way to find "catalog #1"s, the classic antiques, that I had seen in the Scott Catalogs at the Library. After some correspondence, he sent a list of his offerings, and explained that he was not selling, per se, but would set me up. Since then, the club got rolling!!

John B. Johnson, FICC #72
Email: July, 2017

David Olson Remembrance - 4

I wanted to thank you for the beautiful memorial to David Olson with the Zazzle stamp and the tribute. No, I did not know Dave - but his advertisements helped stimulate my interest in No. 1's. The greatest thing about philately is the

most wonderful people we meet via correspondence or being fortunate to meet them in person.

I mounted this David Olson No. 1 in my collection with the tribute.

Ron Zukin, FICC #203
Email: July, 2017

Thank You to Louis Laflamme

I'd like to take the opportunity to publicly thank Dr. Louis Laflamme for responding to my request for dinosaur stamps for a young autistic boy. This boy is most positively reactive to his collection which he shows and shares with people. The lovely folder of Canadian stamps prompted him to draw a dinosaur picture and send it to me as a note of gratitude. Another illustration of how our small club is made up of the most wonderful people. I am proud to be a member.

Ron Zukin, FICC #203
Email: July, 2017

FICC

On-line/Virtual Bidding in Philatelic Auctions – The Beville Collection

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

Nearly every major philatelic auction house now streams their auctions “live” on the internet. They have done this to increase bidding – and it works nicely. For years, bidding in these auctions was accomplished by: (a) attending in person (i.e., floor bidders), (b) submitting bids by mail or internet to the auction house before the auction starts, (c) hire an agent to bid for you (for a 5% fee), or (d) bidding live by phone. Add to those options, (e) internet bidders submitting live interactive bids via the computer while the auction is in progress. I have to admit, I am now a fan of the last method.

When I receive an auction catalogue in the mail, my usual practice is to scan the listings and jot down the 4-8 lots that captured my attention. After studying the descriptions in depth, I decide on the few I might want to bid on. If there are only lots “that would be nice to have if the price is right”, I simply submit my written (maximum) bids to the auction house and wait to see if I am outbid on them. If there are one or two lots I “really want”, then I might set aside the time to sit in front of the computer and bid on those interactively.

Last June, I received an auction catalogue from Cherrystone Philatelics entitled the BEVILLE COLLECTION: STAMPS OF THE WORLD 1840-1940. This auction appeared to be the disposition of a single philatelist’s collection. The listings were highly impressive – and the dream of “first issues” collectors like FICC members. Among the 1270 lots, over 30 contained a #1 by itself. Another 30+ lots had complete or partial “first issue” sets, and many more lots contained complete/partial countries containing the first issues. Further, there were 20+ lots of scarce BOB#1s and another 30-40 lots of stamps from the “first issue sets” that did not include #1s. I felt like Willie Wonka in the Chocolate Factory.

For the BEVILLE COLLECTION, my initial review netted over 80 lots that caught my interest. So, what did I do with this excess of desires? This list was “reduced” to 58 lots after studying the descriptions. My only thought was, “Wow!!!” Adding up just the minimum bids, the sum exceeded my stamp budget for the next 4+ years.

From there, I prioritized the list into 3 categories: “A” – rarities or stamps I could not remember seeing for auction in the last 10 years; “B” – (my “toughie” list) stamps I had been actively seeking at stamp shows or in auctions for quite some time – without luck; and “C” – all the remaining lots. I had 9 As, 22 Bs and 27 Cs. Although I wanted the “A”s badly, I figured they were out of my price range. So I settled on a list of 9 “B” lots and set upper bid limits on those to maintain my budget (or not exceed it too badly). Further, I developed a supplemental list of “B” lots that I would use as substitutes if I was outbid on lots in my original list.

This strategy required I log into the auction web site and sit in front of my computer just the same as if I was attending the auction in person. And the experience, while time consuming, was fascinating and something I would do again.

On the auction days, I got a cup of coffee, a book to read and got comfortable in front of my computer to watch the action. I noted the hammer prices on the lots among the “58 chosen” and bid only on those lots I had pre-selected. All too often, the auctioneer had received mail bids which started the bidding above my pre-determined limit. Although unfortunate, I maintained my strategy and replaced those lots with “alternates”.

Among my “A” lots were the following, with the result also given. [All dollar amounts are in US \$ and the final prices include a 15% buyer’s premium.]

- Duttia Sc#1 MNGAI (only 4 recorded examples) – Starting bid of \$5,000; final price of \$13,800. More than double the Scott Catalogue Value of \$6,250.
- Perak Sc#1 MNG – Starting bid of \$1,000; final price of \$3,738. Well above the SCV of \$2,200.
- Guam Sc#9 MHR (a stamp I need to complete my #1-12 set) – Starting bid of \$1,000; final price of \$2,875. Above the SCV of \$2,750.
- Puerto Rico Sc#200 MNG (only 25 recorded examples per the description) – Starting bid of \$2,500; final price of \$8,625. Above the SCV of \$7,500.
- Syria Sc#1-10 MNH (only priced as hinged in Scott) – Starting bid of \$750; final price of \$1,840. An excellent buy as the hinged SCV is \$1,528.

There were some bargains among the “high SCV” stamps also. These, however, mostly had faults noted on the certs.

- Switzerland Sc#4 used with small faults – Starting bid of \$2,500; final price of \$5,750. Only 21% of the SCV of \$27,000.
- French Sudan Sc#2 used with faults – Starting bid of \$475; final price of \$719. Less than 15% of the SCV of \$5,000.
- Azores Sc#1 used with no faults noted – Starting bid of \$750; final price of \$863. Only 36% of the SCV of \$2,400.

So, how did I do? I was outbid on several lots on of my original list, but I kept adding lots from my supplemental list and ended up winning 10 lots. And, best of all, I stayed under my budget and never exceeded my pre-established limits. A pat on my own back for my self-discipline. By maintaining prudence, I never paid more than 55% of SCV for any individual lot.

FICC 

More on Stamps From Krajina

As a quick follow-up to the **STAMPS FROM KRAJINA** blurb in the V25N2 Newsletter, shown below is the first set of stamps from this now defunct area. They are listed in Michel as Mi.1-5.

FICC ~~☒~~

Yemen First Issue Variety – Genuine or Fake?

By Peter Winders, FICC #256

First Issue collectors are likely to be familiar with the 1926 issue of Yemen, the “jambiya” or crossed dagger stamps (Scott #1-3). These stamps were described in the *First Issues* article “The First Issues of Yemen (Yemen Decoded)” by Tim Balm (V9-N1, Jan-Feb-Mar 2001).

The illustration shows a copy of Yemen Sc#3, the 5 bogash value, with yellow colored wash applied. Scott, Gibbons and Michel list only the 2-1/2 bogash low value as existing with added colored wash (Sc#2).

Well known philatelic writer Bruce Conde reported seeing three copies of Sc#3 with orange wash in a collector's album in Beirut in 1950. He described them as being the wove paper variety, on piece on non-philatelic mail with 1930 postmarks. 1930 was the last year of postal use for the "jambiya" stamps which led Conde to conclude that either a decision was made at that time to color the 5b high value or that the stamps were painted by accident.

The illustrated stamp is on the more commonly seen horizontal laid paper. The partial seal cancel is the first Sana'a 28mm diameter type which had the Islamic year date 1344, corresponding to Western year 1926. The stamp matches position 11 from the sheet of 20 and appears to be genuine, but is the color wash also genuine or is it a fake production?



Reference:

Conde, Bruce. "Yemen's First Issue – The Jambiya or Dagger Stamps of 1926" article in *The Crescent*, journal of the Pan-Moslem Stamp Club, Volume III, Number 3, July 1951.

FICC ~~☒~~

Mail Bid Auction 92 (continued from page 7)**#1s (cont'd)**

14	Morocco-Northern Zone Sc#1-8 f/vf mvlh	44.60	17.85	_____	14
15	Mozambique Company Sc#1 f/vf used(l-cxl) [short perfs]	0.50	0.15	_____	15
16	Southern Nigeria Sc#1 mhr f/vf	2.00	0.90	_____	16

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

17	Hong Kong Sc#J1a f/vf mh	1.60	0.80	_____	17
18	Ireland Sc#C1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	6.50	2.50	_____	18
19	Micronesia Sc#C1-3 vf mnh [corner selvage]	2.40	1.20	_____	19
20	Monaco Sc#B1 avg mh	5.00	1.50	_____	20
21	Monaco Sc#C1 f/vf mvlh	16.00	6.40	_____	21
22	Monaco Sc#C1 f/vf used(l-cxl)	16.00	7.20	_____	22
23	Monaco Sc#CB1-5 f/vf mnh	3.00	1.35	_____	23
24	Monaco Sc#J1-2 f used(l-cxl)	1.10	0.45	_____	24
25	Mongolia Sc#B1-2 vf mnh	1.20	0.60	_____	25
26	Montenegro Sc#H1 vf mlh	1.10	0.50	_____	26
27	Montenegro Sc#J1 vf used(l-cxl)	3.50	1.75	_____	27
28	Montenegro Sc#J1-8 f/vf mvlh	\$9.70	\$3.90	_____	28
29	Montserrat Sc#B1-2 vf mnh	\$7.50	\$3.75	_____	29
30	Montserrat Sc#MR1-2 f/vf used(l-cxl)	\$3.75	\$1.70	_____	30
31	Montserrat Sc#MR1-3 f/vf [#2 mvlh; #1,3 mnh]	\$0.80	\$0.35	_____	31
32	Morocco Sc#C1-3 f/vf mh	\$6.50	\$2.95	_____	32
33	Mozambique Sc#C1-9 f/vf mlh	\$17.65	\$7.05	_____	33
34	Mozambique Sc#C1-9 f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$4.45	\$1.80	_____	34
35	Mozambique Sc#J1-5 f/vf mlh	\$2.70	\$1.10	_____	35
36	Mozambique Sc#MR1-2 f/vf mhr	\$4.50	\$1.80	_____	36
37	Mozambique Sc#MR1 f/vf used(m-cxl)	\$0.55	\$0.22	_____	37
38	Mozambique Sc#RA1-3 f/vf mnh	\$0.90	\$0.40	_____	38
39	Mozambique Company Sc#C1 f/vf mlh	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	39
40	Mozambique Company Sc#C1-15 f/vf mnh	\$11.55	\$5.20	_____	40
41	Mozambique Company Sc#C1-3 f/vf mnh	\$0.75	\$0.35	_____	41
42	Mozambique Company Sc#P1 f/vf mh (perf 11.5)	\$0.65	\$0.25	_____	42
43	Mozambique Company Sc#P1 f/vf used(l-cxl) (perf 11.5)	\$0.55	\$0.25	_____	43
44	Mozambique Company Sc#RA1 f/vf mnh	\$1.40	\$0.65	_____	44
45	Mozambique Company Sc#RA1 f/vf used(l-cxl)	\$2.00	\$0.90	_____	45
46	Oman Sc#O1 mnh vf	0.80	0.40	_____	46
47	Saudi Arabia Sc#RA1 used(l-cxl) f/vf [creased]	4.50	1.70	_____	47

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

48	Mali Sc#C5-8 (Republic) f/vf mlh	\$37.75	\$15.00	_____	48
49	Malta Sc#B20-22 (Republic) f/vf mnh	\$1.30	\$0.60	_____	49
50	Malta Sc#C9-14 (Republic) f/vf mnh	\$4.05	\$1.80	_____	50
51	Marshall Isl Sc#C8 (Federation) vf mnh	\$1.00	\$0.50	_____	51
52	Mauritania Sc#C14-15var [Ty 1 double-line Malaria o/p] vf mnh	\$27.50	\$13.75	_____	52
53	Mauritania Sc#C14-15var [Ty 2 single-line Malaria o/p] vf mnh	\$8.00	\$4.00	_____	53
54	Mauritania Sc#C14-16 (Islamic Rep) vf [C14:mh, C15-16:mnh]	\$26.50	\$11.95	_____	54
55	Mauritania Sc#C14-16 (Islamic Rep) vf mnh	\$26.50	\$13.25	_____	55
56	Mauritania Sc#C14var [Ty 1 double-line Malaria o/p] vf mnh	\$13.75	\$6.90	_____	56
57	Mauritania Sc#C16var [Ty 2 Europa o/p in box] vf mnh	\$16.00	\$8.00	_____	57

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!

- ☐ 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 #92



Bidding Deadline is October 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>

IT'S RENEWAL TIME

Check your address label on this newsletter. If it has an expiration date of V25#4, that means your FICC membership expires with this issue. Please send in your dues renewal by December 15, 2017 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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