



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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My Philatelic Journey

An article entitled “Specialties: What To Do With Them” was written by John Hotchner (FICC #236) in the February 2007 edition of **THE AMERICAN STAMP DEALER** (now ASD&C) magazine. The article describes John’s philatelic journey – which has many similarities to mine.

Mr. Hotchner’s article describes what he chose to do when his collection(s) reached maturity and adding to them was impractical for either economic or availability issues. His solution was to start collections smaller in scope but deeper in material. My own philatelic journey followed this basic pattern.

Like many of us, I started collecting stamps as a child. My great aunt served in the military in Italy during WW II and had a cache of Italian stamps that she generously shared with me. Along with baseball/football bubble-gum cards and matchbooks, I soon started collecting stamps “earnestly” – and started a USA collection. As with a great many collectors, my interests turned elsewhere (i.e., girls and career) in my teens, 20s and 30s. I returned to my stamps as these other areas stabilized and I needed stress relief from work.

Moving on in time... Once I retired in 2004, I found I really enjoyed filling some of my new-found spare time with philatelic research. I compiled a collection of the world’s first stamps from each Back of the Book category. I built a collection of Gongakis cover variations franked with Epirus #1-4. I acquired nearly all of the full sheets of the Latvia #1 stamps with different war maps on the backs. I did an in-depth study of the Danube Steam Navigation Company’s (DDSG’s) four issued stamps from 1866-1880 (and am now on the APS Expertizing Committee for these issues). And most recently, I have been documenting my plating research of stamps from the 1903 Venezuelan Revolution attempts in Guayana, Maturin and Mariño.

So, by traveling the road from “mile wide and inch deep” to several “inch wide and mile deep” topics, I can maintain and even increase the pleasure I receive from philately.

Tim Balm, Editor

BITS & PIECES	2
CALL FOR MAIL AUCTION #101 LOTS	2
DOUBLE OVERPRINT ON REPUBLIC OF CHINA – TAIWAN #1	3
MORE ON REPUBLIC OF CHINA – TAIWAN #1	4
SOUTH MOLUCCAS SG #1-17 – AN UPDATE	4
PHILATELIC ON-LINE REFERENCE	5
A FORGERY OF A FORGED COVER	5
WEB SITE NEWS	6
AUCTION #100	7
BID SHEET FOR AUCTION #100.....	9

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 V27N4, articles must be received prior to Sep 15, 2019.**

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 USB Drive or 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* V26, N1.

Mail Bag

Cilicia First Issue

Tim,

What do you consider the first issue for Cilcia. Currently I have 2-25 listed as the first set.

Kurt Streepy, FICC 18
e-mail: May 2019

[Response; I am weak in knowledge of the French Colonies. As for me, personally, I have the full set of Sc#2-25 and consider Sc#2 as the "#1". ... I rely greatly on the information Jesper and Nick have put into the FICC web site catalogue. Nick's individual page for Cilicia indicates that Gibbons lists Sc#22 as SG#1. If members are concerned about which stamp was actually issued first chronologically (i.e., on March 4, 1919), Gibbons is excellent in this arena, and I would tend to believe their listing of Sc#22 as the "#1".]

Cilicia First Issue

Nick,

Attached are two scans. One is of South Moluccas SG#1; the other is of SG#1-17. Use what you want for the FICC Catalogue web page. *[Ed: See page 4 for the scans.]*

Tim Balm, FICC 91
e-mail: June 2019

Secretary's Report

Membership News: No new members joined FICC since the last (V27N2) Newsletter went to press.

FICC [illegible]

Call for Mail Auction #101 Lots

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #101 is September 15, 2019. 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 ~~☒~~

Double Overprint on Republic of China – Taiwan #1

By Kurt Streepy, FICC #18

Finding a hidden gem is always fun. I received a duplicate copy of Republic of China – Taiwan #1 as part of a trade. I had the issue and a few duplicate copies already, but to balance out a trade I offered to take any #1's in his duplicates. Once I had it home, I thought I would check it against the copy in my album to see which one was in better condition.

As I examined each stamp, I realized the copy in my album had a different overprint. Not knowing my Chinese characters, I

pulled out the Scott catalog to see if it was a different overprint that would make this a different stamp. Turns out there were no other overprints on this issue.

Once I examined it further, I realized it was the same overprint offset slightly lower. I returned to Scott where I found a listing for Scott #3 with an inverted overprint (#3a) and double overprint (#3b). There were no additional listings for Scott #1. Now the search was on. What did I have?



Stamp at far left is
Sc#1 (250%) with normal
overprint.

Stamp at near left is
Sc#1 (250%) with double
overprint.

I first turned to Tim, Louis, Edo, and Nick (the other FICC officers) to see if they had come across anything. They had not seen the error, but Tim suggested finding access to a Chan's catalog. After a few Google searches, I came across The China Stamp Society (CSS) which is based in the United States. Their website (<https://www.chinastampsociety.org/>) turned out to be a great resource.

The club publishes the *CHINA STAMP SOCIETY SPECIALIZED CATALOG OF CHINA TO 1949* and offers an identification and expertization service. The identification service allows you to email a picture of the stamp and they will identify it free of charge. The service is offered to both members and non-members.

I submitted a picture of the stamp and requested any additional information on the issue they could provide. Five

hours later, I had a response from Jim Maxwell the club president. He confirmed it was a Scott #1 with a double overprint. Jim stated it was a common overprint error for the issue. He said all the stamps in the first issue can be found with double or shifted overprints. They are unsure why Scott only lists the overprint varieties for Scott #3, but their CSS Catalog of China goes into greater detail of the varieties. My double overprint is listed with a \$100 catalog value in their 2016 catalog, which is still a nice bump over the standard copy.

Not sure how, or if, the error copy will fit in my collection, but the hunt for information allowed me to find a new reference website and make a new connection. I enjoyed the "rush" of thinking I found a rare unlisted error, even if it only lasted a few hours.

[Ed Note: I have been told that Scott does not list stamp variations (like double overprints, etc.) until they have "personally" examined a copy of the variation. If true, this may be why the double overprint is listed for #3 but not #1 in the Scott Catalogues.]

More on Republic of China – Taiwan #1

By Kurt Streepy, FICC #18

Taiwan (Formosa) was occupied by the Japanese from 1895 – 1945. Following the conclusion of the Second World War, China regained control of Taiwan from Japan. In 1945, China overprinted stamps for use in the Chinese Province of Taiwan. The stamps included a set of seven values (listed as Scott 1-7) that were originally printed for use by the Japanese in Taiwan. The stamp overprints translate as “For Use in Taiwan, Chinese Republic”.

China continued to issue stamps for the Province of Taiwan until 1949. In 1949, during the communist revolution, the Nationalist forces fled to Taiwan and established the Republic of China. While the communist forces occupied mainland China and established the People's Republic of China. Issues for the Chinese Province of Taiwan ended, but stamps issued for the Republic of China (Taiwan) were issued as a continuation of the Scott listing for China.

FICC ~~✗~~[illegible]

South Moluccas SG #1-17 – An Update

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

I wrote an article entitled “Stamps of South Moluccas (Republik Maluku Selatan)” that appeared on page 7 of V27N1 of *First Issues*. In that article, I discuss that the Gibbons Catalogue lists a set of 17 stamps for the South Moluccas. These are Dutch Indies and Indonesian stamps overprinted with “Republik Maluku Selatan” that were issued in 1950 before the provisional government went into exile.

After a 6-month search for these stamps, I was lucky and found a Dutch dealer who was selling a set in MNH condition. He cited the set as being “Zbl #1-18, 24”. It took me a while to track down the reference for Zbl. It is the Zonnebloem Catalogue for Indonesia – published in Dutch. A scan of the set showed 19 stamps – the 17 stamps listed in Gibbons plus two additional denominations (12.5s and 15s from the same set of Indonesian stamps) with the same overprint. I purchased it.

The scan at right shows SG #1 (140%). The scan below shows the whole set (80%).



Set of South Moluccas first issue: Zbl #1-18, 24 (SG #1-17 with two additional denominations) [80%]

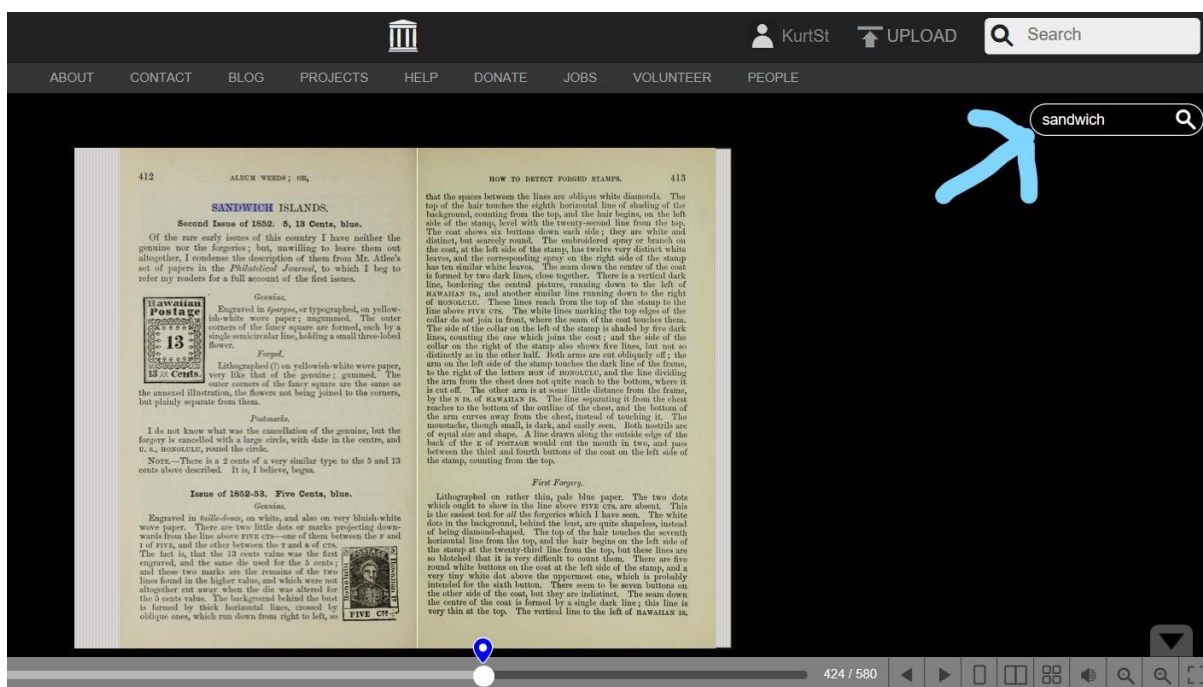
FICC 

Philatelic On-Line Reference

By Kurt Streepy, FICC #18

To follow up on my prior information on locating a copy of *Album Weeds* online, I found another copy of *Album Weeds* that is a bit clearer, but more importantly you can search the document [www.archive.org]. The prior link I provided did not allow me to search. In this one I can type a country and it will show me what pages apply. It is a website where you must set up a login, but there is no cost. Once on the site, select the Free Philatelic Library option on the right. There is additional stamp related material on the site you can find by searching your desired topic. I found the *Opinions Philatelic Expertising – An Inside View from the Philatelic Foundation* to be very interesting from what I have read so far.

Unfortunately, it appears their copy of the *Serrane Guide* had to be removed. I continued my search for the *Serrane Guide* and found the original French version if that helps anyone. [www.davidsaks.com]



After failing to find an English translation of the *Serrane Guide* online, I did finally find a reasonably priced hardcopy of the APS English translation. This and the online references should give me months of enjoyment (or disappointment) checking my collection.

If you run across helpful online references, please share them with the membership.

FICC ☒[illegible]

A Forgery of a Forged Cover

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

Not sure if this is true for others, but whenever I find a stamp I've been trying to purchase for a long time – I usually find a second and sometimes a third copy soon after. It was only a month or so after “finding” the Epirus cover that I mentioned in the last Newsletter (V27N2), I spotted another interesting example of the forged “Gongakis covers”.

This one had a REGISTERED adhesive label attached. This struck me as odd, however, because the REGISTERED

markings on Epirus covers in 1914 were framed boxes handstamped on the envelope rather than adhesive labels.

Further, the registration label was from Zante, Greece while the stamps were canceled at Chimarra, Epirus. A quick internet search revealed that Zante was another name for Zakynthos – one of the Ionian Islands. No where near Chimarra.

Continued on page 6

Forgery of Forged Cover (continued from page 5)

Although the registration label was placed to look like one of the stamp cancelations also covered part of the registration label, under higher magnification, the registration label was not canceled. Clearly, someone had tried to make the Gongakis forged cover appear to be authentic.

I e-mailed the eBay seller and explained all the above information and asked that he add it to the description. I also told him I was interested in purchasing the altered forged cover for my collection, but did not want to pay more than 50% of his

asking price. The seller replied and thanked me for the information (which rarely happens when I point out inaccuracies in eBay lot descriptions). He also took down the original listing and re-listed it for the amount I said I would pay – giving me the new lot number so I could find it easily. I quickly purchased the cover, documented the alterations, and added it to my collection. A scan of the cover (75%) is shown below.

This is now one of my top 3 favorite covers in this collection.



FICC ☞

☆☆

Web Site News

By Nick Blackburn, FICC #181

This article is available online at tinyurl.com/ficcreport. Type the address into your browser and the online version has all the links already in place, so from there you can just click.

WEB SITE TRAFFIC

It has been a slow few months as regards visitors to the FICC web site. Average daily visitor numbers have dropped from 12 to 11, and average daily page views from 90 to 63.

The count of visiting countries has risen from 102 to 109 with new entries from Martinique, Armenia, Faroe Islands, North Macedonia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Georgia, and Puerto Rico.

FICC ☞

Auction #100

Welcome to FICC Auction #100. The auction closes on Aug 31, 2019. 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 2018 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	Abu Dhabi Sc#1 mhr vf	\$4.00	\$1.60	_____	1
2	Aden Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$3.00	\$1.35	_____	2
3	Aden-Quaiti Sc#1 mh f/vf [pencil on back]	\$1.40	\$0.55	_____	3
4	Alaouites Sc#1 mh f	\$4.00	\$1.40	_____	4
5	Alexandretta Sc#1 mhr vf	\$3.50	\$1.40	_____	5
6	Andorre-Fr mnf f	\$1.40	\$0.55	_____	6
7	Anjouan Sc#1 mh f	\$1.75	\$0.60	_____	7
8	Australia Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$7.50	\$3.00	_____	8
9	Belize Sc#312 mnf vf [with top selvage]	\$0.25	\$0.12	_____	9
10	Cuba Sc#1 used(line cxl) hr 4-mrgn (1 close mrgn)	\$7.50	\$2.50	_____	10
11	France - Port Said Sc#1 mh f	\$2.10	\$0.75	_____	11
12	French Colonies Sc#1 mhr 4-mrgn [deep thin at UR]	\$24.00	\$2.40	_____	12
13	French India Sc#1 mhr f	\$1.40	\$0.40	_____	13
14	French Polynesia (Fr Oceania) Sc#1 mlf f	\$1.60	\$0.55	_____	14
15	French West Africa Sc#1 mnf f/vf [usual dist gum]	\$1.20	\$0.55	_____	15
16	German States - Oldenburg Sc#1 used(l-cxl) 3-mrgn [type 1]	\$27.50	\$11.00	_____	16
17	Ghana Sc#1 mnf f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	17
18	Gibraltar Sc#1 used (m-cxl) f/vf hr	\$13.00	\$5.20	_____	18
19	Grand Comoro Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f	\$1.25	\$0.50	_____	19
20	Gr Brit - MEF Sc#1-15 mhr/mh f/vf	\$63.50	\$25.00	_____	20
21	Italian East Africa Sc#1 mnf vf	\$2.25	\$1.10	_____	21
22	Italy - Aeg Islands - Lero Sc#1 mhr avg [3mm tear]	\$9.50	\$2.85	_____	22
23	Ivory Coast Sc#1 mng f [small thin]	\$2.25	\$0.50	_____	23
24	Katanga Sc#1-3 mnf vf	\$0.65	\$0.32	_____	24
25	Latakia Sc#1 mh f/vf [1 missing perf]	\$1.25	\$0.50	_____	25
26	Lebanon Sc#1b mh f	\$2.40	\$0.85	_____	26
27	Leeward Islands Sc#1 mhr f/vf	\$3.75	\$1.30	_____	27
28	Malaya - Negri Sc#1 mhr f	\$3.50	\$1.05	_____	28
29	Manchukuo Sc#1 used(l-cxl) vf	\$1.00	\$0.50	_____	29

Continued on page 8

Mail Bid Auction 100 (continued from page 7)**#1s (cont'd)**

30	Mayotte Sc#1 mh f	\$1.40	\$0.50	_____	30
31	Monaco Sc#1 mng avg	\$25.00	\$6.50	_____	31
32	Morocco Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf [heavy paper adhesion on back]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	32
33	Russia - Army of the North Sc#1-5 used(cto) hr 4-mrgn	\$5.00	\$2.00	_____	33
34	San Marino Sc#1 mhr avg [3 rnd corners]	\$37.50	\$9.35	_____	34
35	Seychelles Sc#1 mvlh f	\$3.50	\$1.25	_____	35
36	Spanish Morocco Sc#1 mhr 4-mrgn	\$0.55	\$0.20	_____	36
37	Spanish West Africa Sc#1 mh f/vf [1 perf stain]	\$3.00	\$1.00	_____	37
38	Turkmenistan Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.35	\$0.17	_____	38
39	Ubangi-Shari Sc#1 mhr f/vf [perf stains]	\$0.35	\$0.10	_____	39

Change of Government #1s

40	Germany Sc# 585A-93 mvlh f/vf [signed by printer]	\$185.05	\$100.00	_____	40
41	Germany Sc# 593A-99 mvlh f/vf [signed by printer]	\$295.25	\$200.00	_____	41

#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s/Z1s

42	Austria Sc#4N1 mnh vf	\$0.25	\$1.90	_____	42
43	Germany-DDR Sc#11N1a mh f/vf [perf stains]	\$0.25	\$1.70	_____	43
44	Luxembourg Sc#N1 used(l-cxl) vf	\$0.25	\$0.90	_____	44
45	Romania Sc#1N1-17 used(cto) f/vf [each on piece]	\$27.25	\$2.00	_____	45
46	Romania Sc#3N1 mng f/vf	\$1.00	\$1.20	_____	46

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

47	Andorre - French Sc#P1 mhr avg	\$1.25	\$1.35	_____	47
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Misc Stamps from First Issue Sets

48	Gernamy Sc#3N4 mnh vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	48
49	German States - Baden Sc#2 used(l-cxl) hr 2-mrgn	\$16.00	\$2.00	_____	49
50	German States - Baden Sc#7-9 used(m-cxl) hr [1-2 mrgns on each]	\$71.50	\$5.00	_____	50
51	Western Ukraine Sc#2 mhr f/vf	\$50.00	\$7.50	_____	51
52	Western Ukraine Sc#3 mnh vf [gum bend]	\$50.00	\$15.00	_____	52
53	Western Ukraine Sc#3 mhr f/vf	\$50.00	\$7.50	_____	53
54	Western Ukraine Sc#3 mh f/vf [paper adhesion]	\$50.00	\$7.50	_____	54
55	Western Ukraine Sc#3 vert pair mh vf [backing adhesion]	\$100.00	\$15.00	_____	55

Twins to #1s

56	China-PRC Sc#1L121 mng f/vf [reprint]	\$3.50	\$1.00	_____	56
57	Nevis Sc#5 used(m-cxl) SF [large tears - space filler]	\$60.00	\$5.00	_____	57

Forgeries

58	India - Wadhwan Sc#3 mng f/vf [FORGERY - type F3]	-----	\$1.00	_____	58
59	Russia - Army of the North Sc#1-5 mhr 4-mrgn [FORGERIES]	-----	\$0.50	_____	59

#1 Stamp on Stamps

60	Barbados Sc#230-33 mnh f/vf	\$2.00	\$1.00	_____	60
61	Nepal Sc#394a mnh vf S/S	\$2.30	\$1.00	_____	61

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. addressees 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 #100




Bidding Deadline is August 31, 2019




(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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FIRST CLASS MAIL

