



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

At the time of this writing the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise daily worldwide. This pandemic has brought major disruptions to our lives which were hard to imagine even just a month ago. The small things that we used to take for granted are no longer there. As a physician working in a large teaching hospital, I am in the front row to appreciate the stress it puts on our healthcare system. Philately of course is also affected, shows have been cancelled, auction houses have reduced their activities and all person to person interactions have all but ceased to protect their employees and clients.

Philately however is a great hobby and in times like these where social distancing is mandatory it offers a much welcome distraction from the scaring news on TV and various information websites. Moreover, you don't even have to spend money or to go out to escape for a while. Maybe it's a good time to clean up those stock books or to reorganize your collection, things you always wanted to do but never seem to find time for. You can also use your time to catch up on some reading and why not maybe write an article for the newsletter. It may not be a good time financially for new acquisitions but you should also know that auctions are still taking place on line and I am sure that good deals are available if you can afford the expense.

One thing is for sure, this painful episode will pass and hopefully the disruption won't be too long. In the meantime, be safe and I hope you all are and stay well.

Louis Laflamme, President

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Bits & Pieces

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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 V28N3, articles must be received prior to June 15, 2020.**

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

Stamp Community On-line Forum

STAMP COMMUNITY is a free on-line forum where you can post questions, discuss topics, etc. There is a thread started

on first issues from a few years back. I updated FICC links to push the thread up the list. Might be something we could use to share album page photos, questions, new discoveries, etc.

https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=23514#638051

If anyone is using other online communities, I would be interested in hearing about them.

Kurt Streepy, FICC #18
e-mail: March 2020

2019 FICC Financial Report

Opening Balance 1-Jan-2019	\$5,837.62
Income	
Dues	\$710.00
Auctions #98-101	\$252.36
Donations	\$44.00
Back Issues/CDs	\$0.00
Total Income	\$1006.36
Expenses	
Newsletter Printing/Postage (V26N1-4)	\$290.42
Web Hosting/Domain Renewal	\$0.00
PayPal Fees/Miscellaneous	\$31.73
Total Expenses	\$322.15
Ending Balance 31-Dec-2019	\$6521.83

Secretary's Report

Membership News: One new member joined FICC since the last Newsletter went to press.

- Tony Tidmarsh, FICC #272 Worcestershire, UK

Welcome to the club Tony!

FICC ☞

☆☆

Call for Mail Auction #104 Lots

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF LOTS FOR MAIL AUCTION #104 is June 15, 2020. 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 available on the web site or from the Auction Manager.

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 ☞

A 17-Year Mystery Finally Solved

By Tim Balm, FICC #91

Approximately 17 years ago, I attended an auction associated with the APS StampShow and purchased a collection of the “small ship” stamps (Sc#1-5) from Guayana. These stamps are listed in Scott at the end of Venezuela. This sent me down a path (or a rabbit hole, depending on your viewpoint). I developed a minor obsession with these stamps and decided to study them in detail. This obsession expanded to the similar “small ship” stamps from Maturin and Mariño also printed as part of the 1903 revolutions of these other areas.

As part of the original purchase, I encountered one stamp (a Sc#3) that was from the original printing (most Guayana stamps are reprints). Shown at right (150%), this stamp not only had the blue control mark that was applied to most stamps, but was also signed by Antonio Sucre (fiscal officer). Although he was supposed to sign all stamps (guaranteeing they were genuine), my observations (as well as Gebauer, ref 3) are that this signature was not applied to stamps on cover, but only applied to remainder stamps signed before being sold after the revolution was quashed. As seen on the Sc#3 shown above, it had another blue marking in the lower left corner that looked very much like the top of a “5” from an overprint or a cancel.



I researched diligently trying to identify this additional marking – without any luck whatsoever. I even contacted Don Avery, author of a 2009 article published in *THE AMERICAN PHILATELIST* on these stamps. No new learning.

My luck finally changed recently when I saw two stamps from Guayana (a Sc#11 and a Sc#15) on eBay® with the same signature by Sucre and a full overprint design that had my “5” at the top. That said, it clearly was not a “5”. I purchased the Sc#11 so that I would have the full overprint in my collection for future reference. I did not know what the overprint was for, or what it represented, but I now knew what I was searching for.

I pulled out my reference articles on these stamps that I obtained from the APRL (American Philatelic Research Library) and re-read them with this new information in mind.

It didn’t take long before I found an extremely similar figure in Georges Brunel’s 1934 book on the postal stamps of Venezuela (Ref 1). In the section of the book discussing the large stamp issues (Sc#11-15), Mr. Brunel states (translated from the book’s French), “These stamps are found with the signature of



General Antonio Sucre, as well as with a double-dashed cachet bearing his initials.” The accompanying picture is shown at right (identified by Brunel as picture 76a).

This same design is also found in Gebauer’s 1981 article in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* (ref 3). [Note, the picture from the articles is inverted relative to the design found on both stamps.] It is now clear to me that this hand stamp of Sucre’s initials is the long missing explanation of the marking on my Sc#3 purchased 17 years ago.

My excuse(s) for missing this... One, neither the top nor the bottom of the design found in the articles looks like the “top of a 5” which I had imprinted into my brain. Two, both the Brunel book and the Gebauer article suggested this design was only applied to the large stamps (Sc#11-15) and not the small ship stamps (Sc#1-5).

In any event, I am now ecstatic that my 17-year old mystery has been solved.

References

1. Brunel, Georges, *Les Emissions Postales du Venezuela* (in French), Editions Philateliques, Paris, 1934.
2. Wickersham, C.W. “The Small Guayana Issue”, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol XXX, No.1 (1951)
3. Gebauer, Eugenio, “The Guayana Issues of Venezuela”, *Collectors Club Philatelist*, Vol 60 No1 and No6 (1981)
4. Avery Don, *A New Look at the Small Guayas of Venezuela*, *American Philatelist*, January 2009.

FICC

Lighting the Collecting Fire

By Kurt Streepy, FICC #18

My collecting interests have bounced around over the years. Starting with US and general worldwide (as a Cub Scout), then narrowing to US and starting a US possessions collection as a teen. I dropped worldwide due to my desire to have some end game. I needed a collection that could at least be formulated into a have and want list. After divesting the worldwide collection, I missed learning about the stamp issuing countries, particularly the dead countries and occupation issues. That led me to an ad in APS for #1's of the world. An opportunity to collect each country was a way to appease that interest in history and geography.

While first issue collecting has been in the mix for 30 years, it was never a priority. This was partly due to not finding a great way to display the collection. I was using stock pages with a small handwritten notes with the name of the country and date of issue. I enjoyed the idea of the first issues, but the display was my stumbling block. About two years ago, I had the idea I could make my own pages, just as I do for my Hawaii covers. Why it took years to figure this out is beyond me.

I decided to use one page for each stamp issuing entity. Using Microsoft Word, I created a template for the pages. I used a border on the page and the header function to format the name of the issuing entity, date of issue and catalog number. I used the Scott Catalog, the First Issues website, Wikipedia, and other specialty websites as the source for the information. As additional content, I focused on how the country was established, looking at history of colonies, occupations, war, and other key historical events.



My next issue was mounting the stamps. Measuring stamps and making boxes was a very time-consuming process. The pages still did not look balanced as finding the correct centering was difficult. I moved to simply placing a line across the page based on the number of the stamps being placed on the page. I changed the font color for the line to the lightest gray available, so the line did not distract from the presentation. I used a ruler to balance the stamps across the line. Quick and simple to complete the layout and the horizontal line kept the stamps in line.

While I collect the first set, this still left many pages basically empty. Option one was to add additional text, but I did not want to turn the album into a book. My next idea was to add a cover to fill the spot. This worked out nicely, my cover collection is minimal at this point, but I have some options for the future.

The flexibility of making my own album pages is endless. My first issue collection includes N's and L's. There are several N's I consider collectable beyond the first listed issue. Estonia is one example, with German occupation in WW 1 (Scott 1 & 2) and German occupation in WW 2 (Scott 3-5).

Continued on p.6

For placing them in the album, I contemplated alphabetical and chronological by date of first issue. The chronological list from the First Issues website could have been used to add pages in order by issue date. With my addition of N's and L's, I thought the alphabetical listing based on the Scott Catalogue would be the most logical way to display the general issues alongside the N's and L's.



I would be happy to email a few page templates to anyone interested. From the template you can make pages for your collection by replacing the text. I just change the name to the file and save each page as a new file. I would also appreciate other members sharing their display practices. It does not require a lengthy article, a few scans of pages would be great.

FICC [illegible]

By Nick Blackburn, FICC #181

The list of countries logging in has extended to 124, now more than half of the total of 241. New visitors have come from Albania, Jordan, Moldova and Trinidad & Tobago.

FICC ~~✗~~

Auction #103

Welcome to FICC Auction #103. The auction closes on May 31, 2020. 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 2020 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

Lot	Description	CV	Min Bid	Your Bid	Lot
1	Bangladesh Sc#1 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	1
2	Bosnia & Herz Sc#1a mlh f/vf	\$16.50	\$6.50	_____	2
3	Burkina Faso Sc#1 mpg f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	3
4	British Honduras Sc#1 mng f	\$72.50	\$20.00	_____	4
5	Comoro Islands Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.50	\$0.25	_____	5
6	Congo Dem Rep Sc#323 mh vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	6
7	Czech Sc#1 mvlh 4-mrgn	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	7
8	Estonia Sc#1-4 [blocks/4] mnh 4-mrgn	\$17.20	\$5.00	_____	8
9	France-Off in Zanzibar Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f hr	\$7.50	\$2.50	_____	9
10	Fr Morocco Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr f	\$4.00	\$1.40	_____	10
11	Fujera Sc#1 used(cto) vf (light hinging on full gum)	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	11
12	German St - N German Conf Sc#1 used(l-cxl, SON) avg [trimmed mrgns]	\$15.00	\$3.00	_____	12
13	Germany - Off in Morocco Sc#1 mvlh f/vf	\$3.25	\$1.25	_____	13
14	Germany - Off in Morocco Sc#1 used(l-cxl) hr f/vf	\$2.10	\$0.80	_____	14
15	Germany Sc#1 used(m-cxl) avg	\$85.00	\$25.00	_____	15
16	Iraq Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	16
17	India - Nowanuggur Sc#1 (blue) mh 4-mrgn	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	17
18	India - Nowanuggur Sc#1a (ultramarine) mh 4-mrgn	\$1.00	\$0.45	_____	18
19	India - Nowanuggur Sc#1 used(m-cxl) 3+ mrgns	\$37.50	\$15.00	_____	19
20	Jamaica Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f/vf [1 missing perf]	\$16.00	\$5.00	_____	20
21	Lebanon Sc#1b used(l-cxl) f/vf [Type 2 overprint]	\$2.40	\$1.10	_____	21
22	Libya Sc#1-2 mh f-f/vf	\$2.80	\$1.00	_____	22
23	Mayotte Sc#1 mhr f	\$1.40	\$0.40	_____	23
24	Middle Congo Sc#1 mhr f/vf [deep thin]	\$0.55	\$0.05	_____	24
25	Monaco Sc#1 used(m-cxl) hr avg	\$17.50	\$5.00	_____	25
26	Nauru Sc#1 mhr f/vf	\$3.50	\$1.25	_____	26

Continued on page 8

Mail Bid Auction 103 (continued from page 7)**#1s (cont'd)**

27	North Ingermanland Sc#1 used(l-cxl) f/vf	\$3.50	\$1.50	_____	27
28	Norway Sc#1 used(h-cxl) 4-mrgn	\$175.00	\$70.00	_____	28
29	Pitcairn Sc#1 mnh vf	\$0.55	\$0.25	_____	29
30	Rhodesia & Nyasaland Sc#141 used(l-cxl) f/vf [rnd LL corner]	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	30
31	Russia - Army of the North Sc#1-5 mh 4-mrgn	\$3.00	\$1.00	_____	31
32	Singapore Sc#1a used(l-cxl) vf	\$1.75	\$0.90	_____	32
33	South Africa Sc#1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$1.75	\$0.70	_____	33
34	Southern Rhodesia Sc#1 mng f/vf [missing 1 perf]	\$5.00	\$1.50	_____	34
35	Tokelau Sc#1 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	35
36	Upper Senegal & Niger Sc#1 mhr f/vf	\$1.40	\$0.50	_____	36
37	Viet Nam Sc#1 mh vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	37

Change of Government #1s (cont'd)

38	Faroe Islands Sc#7 (Self Government) mnh vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	38
39	Gabon Sc#148-49 (Republic) mh f/vf	\$0.80	\$0.30	_____	39
40	Mariana Islands Sc#11 (German Dom) used vf hr	\$30.00	\$13.00	_____	40
41	Mariana Islands Sc#11-16 (German Dom) mlh f/vf	\$202.70	\$80.00	_____	41
42	Russia Sc#149-50 (RSFSR) mlh f/vf	\$0.95	\$0.40	_____	42
43	Swaziland Sc#??? Set of 4 (eSwatini) mnh vf [See article p.3]		\$6.50	_____	43

#A1s/K1s/L1s/N1s/Z1s

44	Belgium Sc#N1 mhr vf [clipped perfs UR]	\$0.45	\$0.10	_____	44
45	Burma Sc#2N1 mngai f/vf [signed]	\$75.00	\$35.00	_____	45
46	Germany Sc#1N1 mhr f/vf	\$0.30	\$0.10	_____	46
47	Germany Sc#3N1 (AMG) mh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	47
48	German Dem Rep Sc#11N1a mng f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	48

BOB (Back of Book) #1s

49	Argentina Sc#OD1 mh f/vf [Sun wmk]	\$0.50	\$0.20	_____	49
50	Barbados Sc#MR1 used(l-cxl) f	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	50
51	Bermuda Sc#MR1 mh f/vf	\$1.25	\$0.50	_____	51
52	Bolivia Sc#RAC1 used(m-cxl) vf	\$0.50	\$0.20	_____	52
53	British Guiana Sc#MR1 mh f/vf	\$1.90	\$0.75	_____	53
54	Canada Sc#MR1 used(h-cxl) vf [straight edge at right]	\$0.40	\$0.15	_____	54
55	Ceylon Sc#MR1 mnh f/vf	\$0.25	\$0.10	_____	55
56	Japan Sc#M1 used(m-cxl) f/vf	\$35.00	\$14.00	_____	56

Stamp on Stamp #1s

57	Barbados Sc#230-33 mnh f/vf	\$2.40	\$1.20	_____	57
58	Israel Presentation/Show Souvenir Sheet (shows Sc#1-9) 2 sheets:1 white & 1 cream		\$2.00	_____	58
59	Liberia Sc#300, C54-56 mlh f/vf	\$1.20	\$0.50	_____	59
60	Malta Sc#281-83 mlh f/vf	\$1.10	\$0.45	_____	60
61	Mauritius Sc#225-28 mhr f/vf	\$1.10	\$0.40	_____	61
62	Mexico Sc#826-27, C167-69 mlh/mnh f/vf	\$4.60	\$1.35	_____	62
63	Nepal Sc#394a mnh vf S/S	\$3.00	\$1.50	_____	62

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 #103



Bidding Deadline is May 31, 2020



(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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USA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

