

Post Boy



N.S.S.S. meets the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in the NNMC at 1855 Oddie Blvd. in Sparks

<http://renostamp.org>

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Editor's Byline

"The air is like a butterfly
With frail blue wings.
The happy earth looks at the
sky
And sings."

- Joyce Kilmer, *Spring*

Casey Macken

Secretary/Editor

Welcome to March! I had everything set up for this month's issue and then "someone moved my cheese" so it seems life is much more interesting when we just relax and go with the flow. Let me see, the important stuff, we will meet at the Silverado Estates Mobile Home Park for both meetings in March. Thanks to George Ray.

Everyone really enjoyed the

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General Wrangel and the Russian Refugees Overprints

Baron Pyotr Nikolayevich Wrangel was an officer in the Imperial Russian Army and later in the anti-Bolshevik White Army that operated in Southern Russia during the Civil War.

Serving with distinction during the First World War he joined the anti-Bolshevik Volunteer Army (later the Armed Forces of South Russia with General Anton Denikin as commander-in-chief) after the 1917 Bolshevik putsch. General Wrangel was probably the most capable commander of all the White Army generals, gaining a reputation (whether fairly or not) as a skilled administrator who did not tolerate lawlessness or looting by his troops. Nevertheless, poor coordination between various White Russian forces, and internal feuds between their leadership lead to diminishing troop morale, suspension of foreign support with the Bolsheviks eventually getting the upper hand.

Early in 1920, after several defeats, the Armed Forces of Southern Russia retreated to Crimea. General Denikin was forced to resign and General Wrangel was appointed as a new commander-in chief on April 4. By this stage in the Civil War, the Bolshevik's superiority was overwhelming and further defeats lead

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Wrangel to organize a mass evacuation of military and civil personal. By November 15, about 125 ships evacuated tens of thousands of refugees. Camps were set up in Turkey, Lemnos in Greece, Serbia and in Tunis where Wrangel's fleet was interned. Refugees later continued to Europe and settled mostly in France or in the Balkans. Wrangel and his staff eventually moved from Turkey to Tunis, then to Yugoslavia and finally to Belgium. He was the most prominent of all Russian exiles and often regarded as their head. He suddenly died in 1928, probably poisoned by a Soviet agent.

Various issues of Russia, the Russian PO's in Levant, Ukraine & South Russia were overprinted with new values and Cyrillic "Pocta Russkoy Armii" & "Russkaya Pocta" for use on correspondence from the refugee camps. The original surcharging was made by V.M. Essayan during 1920-1921 in Constantinople, where reprints from new stones were made, with even later printings produced in Paris entirely for collectors. About 190 different stamps were overprinted. The original idea behind these issues was to raise money for the impoverished camps, almost all covers were cancelled to order and produced for philatelists but they certainly represent a fascinating and heartrending episode in the Great Russian story.



<http://www.sandafayre.com/philatelicarticles/generalwrangel.html>





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGULAR MEETING

NNMC

MARCH 9TH

10:00AM

Auction meeting

NNMC

MARCH 23RD

10:00AM

Consignment Sales with Presentation

Stamp Shows

Frespex 2013

March 9-10, 2013 Clovis, CA

starstamps@thegrid.net

Westpex 2013

April 26-28, 2013 San Francisco, CA

<http://www.westpex.com>

FILATELIC FIESTA 2013

November 15-17, 2013 San Jose, CA

<http://filatelicifiesta.org>

PENPEX 2013

December 7-8, 2013 Redwood City, CA

<http://www.westpex.com>

presentation by Warren Heister, one of the local Postal Inspectors, who knew so much happened here in Reno. Dick Simmons brought the refreshments that disappeared fairly quickly. Ed Hartley won the raffle money and Don Garrett gave us a message from Laura Beck, we have her phone number if anyone would like to call her.

The show is August 16-18, are you working on your exhibits and conning your children and grandchildren to assist the load in and load out. We are up to 10 dealers and we are still working on the theme for the Show. While you are working on your exhibits, do one or two pages for our favorite stamps exhibit, we will need more submissions.

Speaking of dealers is there anything that you are looking for your collection? Make a list and we will get it to the dealers for them to check their stock.

If anyone knows anything about Hotmail please call Jean Johnston as she is having major issues. Me, I know nothing.

Betty Mudge, the chairman of the raffle committee and the sign in book, reminds people to write down the reason for your volunteer hours and to print legibly. We are also looking for some better choices for the auction piles.

Do you have any questions that we can put to the club? Send an email with a question and/or pictures for one of the next issues. Maybe we can identify the country, the stamp or just help in general. Let me know.



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Stamp collecting hit man returns in Hit Me

Mystery writer Lawrence Block has just published *Hit Me*, the fifth book in his series known as “Keller’s Greatest Hits.” Keller is a contract killer by trade, though at the end of *Hit and Run* —the fourth book in the Keller series—he’s retired as a hitman and left New York City to settle down with Julia in New Orleans.

His new life and new identity suit him just fine, but Keller soon discovers it isn’t all that simple to leave his old life behind. Every hit man needs a hobby, and for Keller, that hobby is stamp collecting. In each book in the Keller series, the gritty details of Keller’s deadly profession are intertwined with his passion for philately, along with references to the Scott catalogs, Linn’s Stamp News and the classic worldwide stamps that Keller collects.

Hit Me strings together five episodes that take Keller from New Orleans to Dallas, New York, Wyoming and out to sea. In each location, he has a job to do, but he also finds time to obtain new stamps for his collection.

For readers familiar with the earlier Keller books, *Hit Me* is an excellent continuation of his lethal adventures.

However, it isn’t essential to read the earlier books to dive into *Hit Me*. Block puts everything into place at the beginning of the book so no one gets lost along the way. Along with the standard hardcover novel available from booksellers, Block also has created a special philatelic first edition. You’ll find additional details and ordering information in the press release reprinted below.

“After he’d mounted Obock J1, he called Julia in and showed it to her; and she admired it extravagantly. “It’s like when somebody shows you their new baby,” Keller said. “You have to say it’s beautiful, because what else are you going to say?” “All babies are beautiful.” “And all stamps, I suppose. That’s the original on the right and the reprint next to it. They look the same, don’t they?” “I bet their mother could tell the difference,” she said.

Keller, Lawrence Block’s fictional hit man, resumed a childhood passion for philately in the final chapter of *Hit Man*, he bestselling debut.

Since then he has become increasingly committed to his stamp collection, putting in long hours with his albums, attending stamp shows and auctions.—and all the while pursuing his trade as an assassin for hire.

Now, in the forthcoming *Hit Me*, he’s a married man, living in New Orleans with his wife, Julia and their daughter Jenny. (There’s a reason why they named her Jenny.) He’s making a good living rehabbing houses—but then the economy craters, and the telephone rings, and the next thing he knows he’s in Dallas, and not just because Obock Scott J1 is one of the lots in a Whistler and Welles Auction.

“Daddy ‘tamps, “said Jenny. “Yes, Daddy’s stamps,” Keller said, and picked up his daughter and set her on his lap.

“See?” He said, pointing at a picture in the catalog, a German Colonel issue from Kiauchau showing the Kaiser’s yacht, Hohenzollern, “Kiauchau,” he told Jenny “was an area of two hundred square miles in southeast China. The Germans grabbed it in 1897, and then made arrangements to lease it from China. I don’t imagine the Chinese had a lot of choice in the matter, isn’t that a pretty stamp?” “Pity ‘stamp,” Jenny said, and there the matter lay.”

Another phone call brings Keller back to New York, where he lived for years and has to worry about being recognized. And before he knows it he’s on a Caribbean cruise with Julia for company and a philatelic tablemate—and work to do. Back home, Julia suggests a sideline business you can probably guess what it is...

“People in the family use to save letters, you know, and in Houghty’s family as well and some of them go all the way back to the War. A few times I thought some of those stamps might be worth something, and what I ought to do was soak them off the envelopes, but—“no, never do that.” “Well, I guess I’m glad I never got around to it, form the tone of your voice!”

Hit Me will be published in mid-February by Mulholland Books, and will be widely available from online and brick-and-mortar booksellers.

Meanwhile, Block has made available a special limited philatelic first edition, printed by a quality small press, published with imprint of the Mysterious Bookshop, and limited to 500 signed and numbered copies. The limitation page of each book is enhanced with a genuine US postage stamp showing the book’s cover and tied to the page with a custom “Keller Cancel.” In addition, the author has prepared a souvenir sheet, “Stamps from the Keller Collection,” depicting a perforated version of the book’s cover, along with six stamps mentioned in the book—including Obock Scott J1. Two copies of the souvenir sheet (one mint, one canceled) are included free with each copy of the philatelic edition.

Just over 100 copies of the Philatelic Edition of *Hit Me* remain unsold. They’re still available at the original price of \$75 plus shipping from Block’s EBay Bookstore.

Reprinted from Linn’s Feb 11, 2013

Post Boy Quiz-Cronwall
Odds & Ends of Philatelic History
March-_____

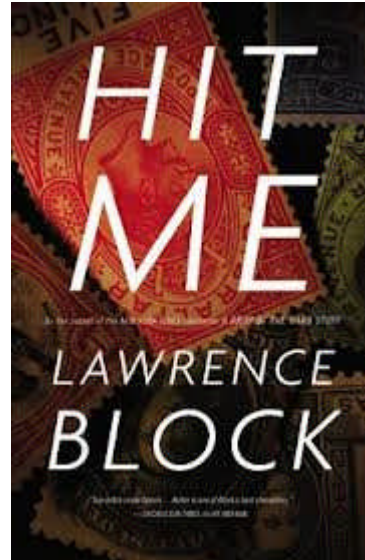
Your Name

1. What was the largest group of U.S. non-denominationalists ever issued?
a. "G" - rate b. "H" - rate c. "C" - rate
2. What country claimed to have the world's only undersea post office?
a. Germany b. Spain c. Bahamas
3. The U.S Post Office introduced Bureau pre-cancels in what year:
a. 1923 b. 1933 c. 1913
4. Europe's first experimental airplane mail was flown from Middlefart to Frederica in what country:
a. Greenland b. The Netherlands c. Denmark
5. The earliest known railroad postmark in the U.S. was a circular marking which read, "BALTIMORE RAIL-ROAD SEP 20" in what year:
a. 1865 b. 1893 c. 1878
6. Which country released what is claimed to be the first and possibly only government issued postage stamp intended to frank rocket mail:
a. Austria b. Cuba c. Switzerland
7. A monarchy replaced the short-lived Soviet Republic in Hungary and issued stamps in:
a. 1946 b. 1968 c. 1919
8. The first U.S. Official stamps and postal stationery were issued:
a. 1854 b. 1893 c. 1902
9. Latvia issued its first airmail stamps in 1921. They are triangular in shape with the point going:
a. Down b. To the right c. Up
10. The Kingdom of Hejaz first issued stamps toward the end of 1921. The Kingdom became part of:
a. Palestine b. Lebanon c. Saudi Arabia

Bonus Question: In the brief history of the Pony Express, generally was the greater volume of mail sent east or west?

Answers February

1. The Imperial Chinese Post
 2. Italy
 3. 1912
 4. seven
 5. 1825
 6. 1929
 7. 1948-1972
 8. Great Britain
 9. 1904
 10. 1900
- BQ: There were 15 post office street car routes.



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NSSS
PO Box 2907
Sparks, NV 89432

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Mailing Address
Street Number and Name
City, State 98765-4321

BULK RATE
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