

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

December 2017

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George Leslie 408 923 4650

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Club Website

www.sanjosestampclub.com

Club Blog

www.sjseblog.net

Filatelie Fiesta Website

www.filateliefiesta.com

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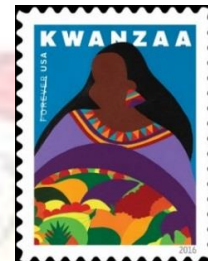


the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

Have a Merry Christmas

Christmas time, the time of the year that many people consider their favorite. The decorations, the Christmas lights and the Christmas trees are all beautiful and cheerful. Families get together to open presents and have a big meal. In many cases, the only time of the year the entire family does get together. But we forget that Christmas is a Christian religious holiday and not all people are Christian. The United States Postal Service has recognized this fact and has been producing stamps for Hanukkah and Kwanzaa for a number of years.

What are these 2 other December celebrations?



Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple (the Second Temple) in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. It is also known as the **Festival of Lights** and the **Feast of Dedication**.

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a unique candelabrum, the nine-branched *menorah* (also called a *Chanukiah/Hanukiah*), one additional light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. The typical menorah consists of eight branches with an additional visually distinct branch. The extra light, with which the others are lit, is called a *shamash* and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest. Other Hanukkah festivities include playing dreidel and eating oil-based foods such as doughnuts and latkes.

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States and in other nations of the West African diaspora in the Americas. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles (*Nguzo Saba*). It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966–67.

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New Christmas Stamps



The Christmas Carols forever stamps went on sale October 5 nationwide.

The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the Holiday season with four new Forever stamps featuring images that illustrate a major theme of each of four beloved Christmas carols: "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night" and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas." Familiar lines from each song highlight the individual stamps. The shades of blue in the backgrounds of the stamps evoke the evening scenes from the four carols. This booklet of 20 stamps includes five of each design. The late Howard E. Paine was the art director. Artist Steve McCracken of Winchester, VA, created original art for the project.

Remember the Dates

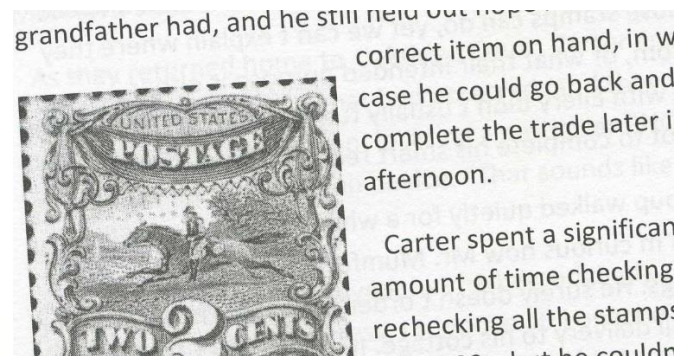
Dec 2-3 **PENPEX**

Dec 6 San Jose Stamp Club Meeting

Dec 12 Filatelic Fiesta Wrapup Meeting

Dec 13 SJSC/SJPC Joint Christmas Party

New Author Combines Mysteries and Stamps



A new author has created a world where mysteries found in stamps are pursued and unraveled by young detectives.

In a nod toward the styles of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys, Carl Wildrick has crafted a trilogy of philatelic-related mystery books for young people.

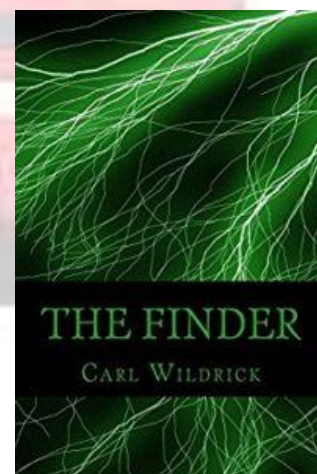
The 3 books are:

The Finder, Fight for the Future - Volume 1

The Seeker, Fight for the Future - Volume 2

The Fighter, Fight for the Future - Volume 3

All 3 books are available now in both hard copy and electronic format.



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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates

No Activity

Website Updates

Calendar updated – 11/21/2017, 11/24/2017

2017 Filatelic Fiesta Palmares added to the Filatelic Fiesta website.

Minutes for the November 1, 2017 SJSC Club meeting added to the “Meetings/Minutes” page.

Filatelic Fiesta photos added.

New article added to the “SJSC in Print” page.

November 2017 Newsletter added to the “Newsletters/Blog” page.

President's Message

Filatelic Fiesta was a big success this year and the whole club can take pride in coming together to make it happen. Just about everybody contributed in some way. Our trademark hospitality is very popular with guests, judges, and dealers. The club made money on the sale area and auction (final tally not available). We can be proud of hosting an excellent youth area and 26 Boy Scouts earned the stamp collecting merit badge on Saturday. The results from dealer survey are generally very positive. The only “glitch” was with the Police Cadets not being available to security and one thief was caught.

Our annual banquet had record attendance due the hard work of Pat Salzman and the whole Rodriguez family. In acknowledgement of the tremendous

effort the family put into the show, the club awarded them a special certificate and Visa gift card.

The club awarded an APS Sparkplug Award to George Leslie. He has done a wonderful job picking up running the show bourse and contributing in many other ways. Please share with me giving George acknowledgement for his hard work.

Our most significant shortcoming at Fiesta this year was attendance. It was approximately the same as last year, and many believe it needs to grow to keep our show strong. I have a new idea on how to grow our show along with the other fall shows in the greater Bay Area. Each show has been marketing and promoting their show on their own. It occurs to me that we may be able to do more if we cooperate on the costs of mass market advertising and other promotions. Since the East Bay Show, Filatelic Fiesta, and PENPEX all occur in a 2 month period, a broad message of the strength of the philately and existence of these shows could draw more people to come, especially those not already on our mailing list. Therefore, it is my plan to take these ideas to the Council of N. CA Philatelic Society Meeting at noon on Dec 3rd at PENPEX.

If successful, we can accomplish:

- Enticing more people on our mailing list to attend or visit more than 1 show
- Draw existing collectors not on our mailing list to our shows
- Encourage new collectors/accumulators to visit the show

Suggested Joint Marketing Ideas:

- Create a website to jointly promote Bay Area philately
 - One site to promote across multiple marketing platforms

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President's Message continued...

- Create a web domain name that is easy to remember
- Website has pointers to each club's and show's website
- Cost of a web domain is only \$15 a year
- Share and integrate mailing lists
 - An integrated mailing list would help all 3 shows
 - SJSC member Jim Steinwinder has technology to help integrate the lists and eliminate duplication
 - Cost should be minimal
 - A process to keep the master list up-to-date will need to be developed
- Hire a professional marketing person to jointly market philately in the Bay Area
 - Promoting the message of the strength and vitality of stamp collecting by showing it is alive and well around the Bay Area
 - Show the general public the overall strength of philately
 - Many think stamp collecting is dead with the dominance of the internet
 - Shared advertising purchases in mass market
 - Use joint website to simplify message to public
 - Cost is unknown. Clubs will need to investigate and agree before proceeding.
- A shared message may be able to draw coverage that we wouldn't get on our own.

Others certainly have ideas on how to jointly promote philately across the Bay Area. All ideas are welcome and encouraged.

The San Jose Stamp Club has had a wonderful year with many new members, some wonderful meeting presentations and the continued success of annual big show. Let's continue to have fun while we enhance our philatelic knowledge, grow our collection, and comradery of good friends.

SJSC Member Profile - George Leslie



Stamp collecting was my "window on the world" as a kid. I probably started collecting at about age 8 in the '50s. We lived in the San Fernando Valley back when it was a rural area. In our town, huge orchards of walnut trees had been subdivided into 1-acre plots and a house built on each. You can still find areas like that in towns like Northridge and Granada Hills.

For some reason, my folks resisted getting a TV, so stamps became a way to learn about the outside world. I think my first album was a small thing called the Atlas Stamp Album. Hinges were expensive, so I bought a giant roll of brown paper tape and cut my own hinges.

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Member profile continued...

I traded with friends in the neighborhood, put out the word to all my relatives, and approached any businesses I thought might get foreign mail. (The local Chinese takeout shop became my source for stamps from Hong Kong.) I bought bags of stamps on paper—I think it was \$1 for a pound—then soaked them off the paper, pressed them and looked for treasures among a lot of generally common stamps. Then I graduated to “approvals.” When an approval book arrived in the mailbox, it always promised lots of fun identifying stamps from strange new places.

As a Christmas present I got an atlas, so little by little I learned where all these exotic countries were. Today, whenever I come out with a gem of geographic knowledge, my grandkids, say, “Don’t tell me, Grandpa. You learned that from stamp collecting. Right?” And I tell them that is true.

And I picked up other tidbits of useful information: for example, from a few German stamps denominated in billions of DM, I learned about inflation. Ultimately I graduated to a “Comprehensive Wordwide Stamp Album” (Minkus?). But, like Christopher Robin, my interests changed. By high school I had set my sights on going to a top university and between studying, working, and doing extra-curricular stuff, the stamp collection got put on a shelf.

It was probably twenty years later, around 1977, after college, grad school, 4 years active duty with the Navy, and many years working and studying in Japan that I ended up in San Francisco. One day, while riding the bus along Van Ness Ave., I looked out the window as we passed the Jack Tarr Hotel and saw a sign saying “Stamp Show.” I ended up going in and my interest was piqued again. I was struck that stamp collecting could be more than just randomly accumulating stamps of the world. So I got involved

again. I subscribed to Linns which was a newspaper format at that time, and joined a stamp club. That club used to (late ‘70s) meet in a big room in a building on Polk Street near the SF civic center.

At the show, I had watched as a fellow trying to sell some high-value mint stamps was turned down because a fingerprint could be detected on the gum. Observing his disappointment, I decided it would be less of a risk to focus on used stamps. I chose a couple of specialty areas (British Caribbean and early US used, particularly with cork cancels). And for several years I pursued those interests. I was a regular attendee at Richard Wolfers auctions, and I managed to build a serious Jamaica collection. I got the Aguilar Jamaica specialty handbook and gathered early numerical cancels and watermark varieties such as the “short pineapple.”

But then family obligations grew. Before I knew it, my wife and I had three kids. We bought a fixer-upper which took months of work to make livable.

Then I got a job in Silicon Valley and commuted from SF to Santa Clara for two years while my son completed grade school at a Japanese-English bilingual public school. (A real boondoggle, but one we couldn’t pass up.)

The kids grew (funny how that happens!) and needed more and more attention, so I had less and less time and/or money for stamps. The final nail in the coffin was when we bought 2 acres on a hillside in San Jose and embarked on building our dream house. The stamp collection had to be packed away again.

But, time passed, the kids all got through college, found gainful employment, got married and had kids of their own, and our dream house became an empty nest.

Continued on next page

Member Profile continued...

And I started going through the list of things that might be hard for my wife to dispose of if I were first to pass on.

Obviously the stamp collection would be a headache. So in late 2013, I decided to figure out how best to liquidate it. I joined APS and then found the SJSC.

After attending Filatelic Fiesta and a few club meetings, I was reminded how much fun collecting could be. In the intervening years I had done some reading on world history, so stamps like those of the Italian States, German states, and the various historical periods of Mexico, Japan and France held a special interest for me.

Long story short: liquidating the collection went on a back burner and I started collecting again.

Having had to write two Master's theses in my life, I am used to searching out information sources and actually enjoy studying, so I was delighted to discover the Western Philatelic Library.

The WPL has to be one of the most under-utilized institutions around. As my interests grew in different directions, it was a simple matter to go to the WPL and check out the authoritative references on that subject. Are you puzzled about the numerical cancels of early French classics? Go to WPL and you'll find book that identifies the village or overseas post each number is from. Confused by the overprints on early Mexican stamps? Check out the book by Nicholas Follansbee. Want to learn how to identify fakes of Japanese dragons? The WPL has got a detailed book on it.

Our "empty nest" is less empty now. One of the kids' bedrooms has been converted to George's stamp room. I have my Japan and France collections more or less organized. What I am working on now is a

19th century world-wide collection. Amos recently reissued their pages for that period as a 2-album set, so that is what I am using. (Complaint: before spending ~\$300 on the set, I called Amos and asked this question: "Your early albums didn't show Scott numbers. When you reissued these pages, did you add the Scott numbers?" I got a typically cheerful

but scatterbrained sales lady, but she asked the "right person" and came back to me with a definitive "Yes, we did." But of course when the albums arrived they consisted of simple reprints of the ancient pages and were missing the Scott numbers. No biggie, but frustrating.) Today I enjoy getting APS circuit books on "19th Century," spend a limited amount on E-Bay and try to give some business to the great dealers at our local shows. I still don't have a plan for intelligently liquidating my collection.



Lily Spandorf and the 1963 Christmas Stamp



The temperature was in the low 40s and there was a light breeze and drizzle, but Lily Spandorf would not be deterred. A familiar visitor all around Washington, D.C., the Austrian-born free-lance artist was determined to make one of her on-the-spot watercolors. So she bundled up on the afternoon of December 17, 1962 and made her way to the White House where, during the Christmas Pageant of Peace, President John F. Kennedy would light the National Christmas Tree, a 72-foot-tall blue spruce imported from Colorado.

As soon as the lights came on, Spandorf - who made her living with on-the-spot paintings around the city — went to work, creating a painting with people admiring the decorated tree and a partial view of the White House in the background.



Lily Spandorf displays the original painting that inspired the 1963 Christmas stamp.

At 5:15 p.m., the president pushed the button and the tree, decorated with 5,000 multicolored lights and 4,000 ornaments, flickered to colorful holiday life. It would be the only time JFK would light the national tree.



A photo of the Lily Spandorf's first adaptation of her original painting as requested by the Post Office Department.

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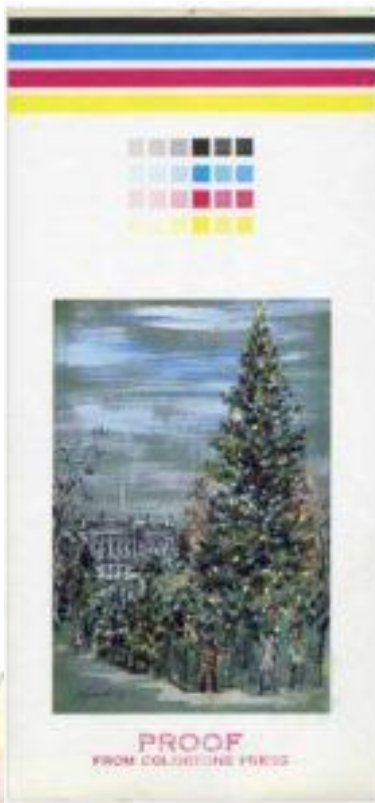
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Lily Spandorf continued...

A lot happened with that painting. It became the principal design for the United States' second Christmas stamp, that for 1963. Postal officials at first asked for an adaptation. Spandorf eliminated the holiday onlookers and placed the tree even greater in the foreground. In the end, illustrator Norman Todhunter of Connecticut modified the design even more to include a view of the full White House and a more distant view of the tree. But Spandorf is still given credit as the main illustrator.



A proof copy of the front of the Christmas card from Colortone Press.

At about the same time the Post Office Department was creating the stamp, Colortone Press President A.J. Hackl, a longtime admirer of the artist's, also became interested in the tree painting. He worked out a deal to use the painting as a Christmas card, the first time a stamp and card came from the same source.

The stamp was formally issued November 1 in Santa Claus, Indiana. Spandorf attended the ceremony. The holiday season carried a cloak of great sadness from Kennedy's assassination. But apparently, the stamp helped folks cope somewhat as it sold a then-record 2 billion examples.



Lily Spandorf's painting was adapted as a Christmas card, which the artist herself turned into first-day cover when she attended the first-day ceremony in Santa Claus, Indiana. She signed a card and sent one to philatelic journalist Belmont Faries.

Spandorf was born in 1915 in Vienna, Austria. Like many Jews, she fled eastern Europe before the start of World War II, immigrating to London. She made her way to New York City in 1950 and finally to the nation's capital a few years later. Spandorf contributed artwork to many publications, including the *Washington Post*, *National Geographic*, and the *Washington Evening Star*. She died in 2000 at the age of 85. In recent years at least two retrospective exhibits of her artwork have been held.

Ten Nostalgic Toys Featured on New Stamps from Royal Mail



Royal Mail on August 21 released a set of 10 stamps featuring some of the most iconic and much-loved British toys from the last 100 years.

Evoking feelings of nostalgia across generations, the toys featured are: the Merrythought Bear; Sindy Doll; Spirograph; Stickle Bricks; W. Britain Toy Figures; Space Hopper; Fuzzy Felt; Meccano; Action Man and Hornby Dublo trains.

Many of the toys shown are the same or similar to toys sold around the same time in the United States or elsewhere.

Some of the British toys depicted followed similar American versions. For example, the Sindy fashion doll released in 1963 has a famous American cousin named Barbie, who first appeared in 1959; and Action Man, released in 1966, is a close cousin to the Hasbro's GI Joe of the U.S., issued just two years earlier.

British engineer Denys Fisher developed and released Spirograph in 1965, with Kenner obtaining the U.S. rights in 1966.

Meccano building toys were being sold at the start of the 20th century, about a dozen years before the U.S. counterpart, Erector Sets.

The British toy industry rose in the 19th century along with the growing middle class of the Victorian era. Major names in British manufacturing started to appear and compete with foreign makers.

For example, previously a producer of mechanical toys, W. Britain pioneered the hollowcast method of figure-making: made using less molten metal, toy soldiers were both lighter and significantly cheaper to produce. British manufacturers grew in confidence as the 20th century progressed. Soft-toy companies, including Merrythought, which still produces luxury bears to this day, began to take on the might of European giants such as Germany's Steiff.

In 1938 Frank Hornby launched the Hornby Dublo train set. The following years would see the arrival of some of the biggest names in the history of toys — Fuzzy-Felt (1950), Sindy (1963), Action Man (1966) and the Spacehopper (1969) all materialised in a wild two-decade span, as well as Spirograph (1965) and Stickle Bricks (1969), which were two exceptional and enduring innovations that helped inspire young minds and encourage creativity.

By the early 1960s, Britain was exporting more toys than all but three other countries, with annual sales totaling more than £7 million.

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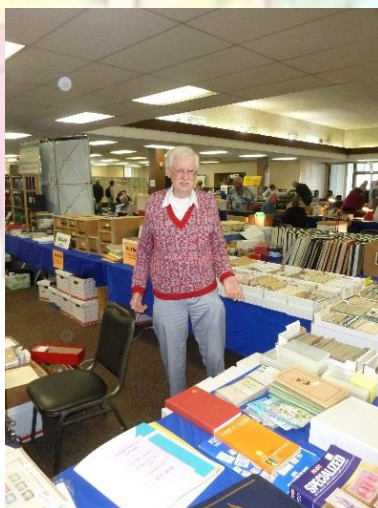
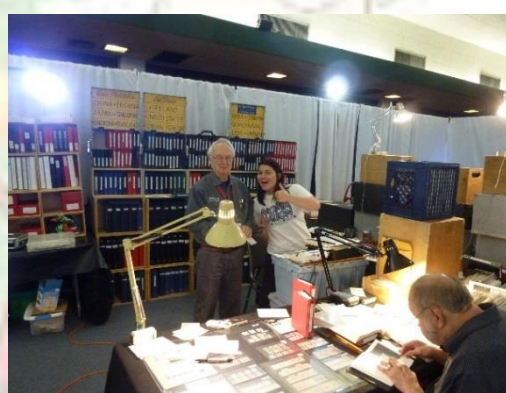
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Filatellic Fiesta 2017 Report

Filatellic Fiesta 2017 has concluded and can be considered a success. We had 3 people join the club. Revenue from club sales and the auction were better than 2016. Raffle sales were good. Attendance was a little down from 2016. Most dealers seemed pleased and the attendees seem to enjoy themselves. Special awards were presented at the banquet, to George Leslie for all his work on bourse and to the Rodriquez family for their outstanding work handling the hospitality area. Let's not forget the outstanding job Jessica did as show chairwoman. The club can be proud of their club show and of a job well done, by everybody. Additional photos can be found on the club website and the club Facebook page.



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America's 100 Greatest Stamps



#97 – Scott 214 1887 George Washington



#96 – Scott 499f 1917 AEF Booklet Pane
(600 known)



#95 – Scott 316 1908 Benjamin Franklin coil
(25 known)

Club Member/Dealers

Richard Clever

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(India)

Walt Kransky

Walt's Postcards
www.thepostcard.com
Email: wrsky@att.net
(philatelic material, covers, postcards)

Christmas Shopping for Stamp Collecting Books

(From Brian Jones)

I've never met a stamp collector who wasn't also a book lover. Many of us have a library of highly specialized books on our area of collecting. The following lists of non-fiction, fiction, and youth books are you can suggest to your family to gift to you or to give as a gift to someone you want to encourage to collect. The youth books can be purchased at Hickelbee's Books in Willow Glen.

Non-Fiction

Title	Author	Publisher / Date	List Price / ISBN
The One-Cent Magenta Inside the Quest to Own the Most Valuable Stamp in the World	James Barron	Algonquin Books 03/07/2017	\$23.95 9781616205188
How the Post Office Created America: A History	Winfield Gallagher	Penguin Publishing 06/28/2016	\$28.00 9781594205002
Neither Snow Nor Rain A History of the US Postal Service	Devin Leonard	Grove Atlantic 05/05/2016	\$26.00 9780802124586
Every Stamp Tells a Story	Cheryl Ganz	Smithsonian Institution Press 12/02/2014	\$29.95 9781935623427
A History of America in 36 Postage Stamps	Chris West	Picador 10/28/2014	\$28.00 9781250043689
An American History Album The Story of the US Told Through Stamps	Michael Worek	Firefly Books 09/25/2012	\$29.95 97817708551207
Blue Mauritius: The Hunt For the World's Most Valuable Stamps	Helen Morgan	Atlantic Books 04/01/2009	\$16.95 9781843544364
Guide to Stamp Collecting	Janet Klug	Harper Perennial April 1, 2008	\$xx.xx 9780061341397
100 Greatest American Stamps	Janet Klug & Don Sundman	Whitman Publishing 10/30/2007	\$29.95 9780794822484
Happy Mail: Keep in touch with cool & Stylish Handmade Snail Mail!	Eunice Moyle, Sabrina Moyle, Alex Bronstad	Walter Foster Jr. September 12, 2017	\$14.95 9781633223677

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Title	Author	Publisher / Date	List Price / ISBN-13
Keller's Fedora	Lawrence Block	Subterranean Press May 2017	\$25.00
Hit Me	Lawrence Block	Mulholland Books February 12, 2013	\$26.99 9780316127356
Hit and Run	Lawrence Block	William Morrow June 24, 2008	\$24.95 9780060840907
Hit Parade	Lawrence Block	William Morrow July 3, 2006	\$24.95 9780060840884
Hit List	Lawrence Block	William Morrow October 24, 2000	\$24.95 9780060198336
Hit Man	Lawrence Block	William Morrow January 21, 1998	\$22.00 9780688141790
One Penny Orange Mystery	Morris Ackerman	CreateSpace Pub. 08/19/2011	\$14.80 9781461184669

Comments:

The One Cent Magenta: An excellent history of the 1c British Guiana focusing on each owner and how they contributed to the stamps legend. There is also a nice history of British Guiana and early postal history. Slight undertone of condescension towards stamp collectors as the book is written by a NY Times writer and not a collector.

How the Post Office Created America: The book is not only a history of the Post Office, but the cultural changes that resulted from it. The ability to communicate across a vast country was an engine for change. The Post Office was foundational institution and influenced a great many aspects of life in America. It is well researched written book and highly recommended.

Neither Snow nor Rain: Follows the history and development of the USPS from Ben Franklin to modern times. It is more focused on the Postal Service than "How the Post Office Created America" with lots of stories about unusual things being put the mail.

Every Stamp Tells A Story: Former (then current) curator of the National Postal Museum Cheryl Ganz tells the story of the gems of the Smithsonian.

"Keller Series" by Lawrence Block: Jack Keller is a contract killer whose special talent is finding creative ways to complete his work so as to throw off suspicion. Included in Jack's travels are stops at local retail stamp shops and auctions. He collects stamps from around the world and wants only high quality stamps for his collection. While books about murder are not typical for this reader, it is a LOT of fun to enjoy all the philatelic references. Also, with the creative ways Jack Keller completes his assignment.

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Youth

Title	Author	Publisher / Date	List Price / ISBN-13
It Came in the Mail	Ben Clanton Age: 4 - 8	Simon & Schuster June 21, 2016	\$18.00 9781481403603
Special Delivery	Philip C. Stead	Roaring Brook Press March 0, 2015	\$17.99 9781596439313
Letters to Leo	Amy Hest Age: 8 - 12	Candlewick Press Reprint	\$6.99 9780763671655
Stanley the Mailman	William Bee Age: 4 - 7	Peachtree Publishers March 1, 2016	\$14.95 9781561458677
Herman's Letter	Tom Percival Age: 3 - 6	Bloomsbury USA November 11, 2014	\$17.99 9781619634237
The Jolly Christmas Postman	Allan & Janet Ahlberg Age: 5 - 8	Penguin UK October 28, 2014	\$20.09 9780141340111

