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WCG Comics to Release Trade Paperback Collection of Early Adventure Strip Digests

Xeric Foundation Grant recipient and Russ Manning Award nominee Randy Reynaldo, writer-artist of the much-lauded Adventure Strip Digest starring Rob Hanes, announced that he will collect his early work on the series in a single trade paperback edition called the Rob Hanes Archives. The collection is scheduled to ship in March 1996 and will be published under Reynaldo's self-publishing imprint, WCG Comics.

"Ever since I began the full-sized comic-book, there's been a big demand for these early stories which appeared in the original fanzine," said Reynaldo. "I've been selling these small press ashcans directly to fans through my catalog, but the trade paperback will enable me to consolidate this earlier material and make it more easily available to readers through distributors and retailers."

Prior to becoming an independent comic-book, Adventure Strip Digest was a small press ashcan fanzine sold only at conventions and through direct-mail. The success of these early ashcans, and the acclaim they received among fans, pros and the industry press, encouraged Reynaldo to begin self-publishing the series as a full-sized comic-book in late 1994. Since beginning the comic-book, Reynaldo has received a Xeric Foundation Grant for self-publishers and was a nominee for the Russ Manning Award for Best Newcomer which was awarded at the 1995 Eisner Awards Banquet at the San Diego Comicon.

The Rob Hanes Archives collects this early introductory material in a single convenient volume for both new readers and current fans of the series. Since he is concentrating on new stories and continuity in the current independent series, Reynaldo said that these stories will never appear in the regular comic-book.

The collection will feature EIGHT COMPLETE STORIES starring modern-day, globetrotting adventurer Rob Hanes, some dating as far back as 1988. As a special bonus, Reynaldo will also include an additional new story produced exclusively for this trade paperback which readers will be able to compare to the artist's early work. All the cover art from the ashcans and other early art will also be included, and Astro City creator and writer Kurt Busiek has agreed to write a foreword. Busiek is not only a longtime fan of the series, but the creator of the logos for Adventure Strip Digest and Rob Hanes as well!

According to Reynaldo, the collection is a good introduction to the series for new readers and an opportunity to see the series and Reynaldo's much-lauded chiaroscuro black-and-white artstyle evolve story by story. Along the way, readers will learn the origins of many of the characters and story elements.

"My stories are always self-contained and complete, so the book isn't essential to understanding or enjoying the series," said Reynaldo. "However, since I plan to revisit some of the characters and situations from these early stories, the collection will enhance readers' enjoyment of the series."

Created in the tradition of the classic newspaper adventure strip, Adventure Strip Digest features the modern-day adventures of globetrotting troubleshooter Rob Hanes, a private investigator for Justice International whose work often connects to current headlines and world events. Reynaldo's art has been compared to master storytellers Milton Caniff and Alex Toth, and to adventure series like Terry and the Pirates, Jonny Quest, Indiana Jones, and James Bond.

Three issues of Adventure Strip Digest have been published to date. Reynaldo plans to publish issue 4 shortly after the release of the trade paperback.

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Enclosure: Cover art to the Rob Hanes Archives (© 1995 by Randy Reynaldo)

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