

[Library ebook] Superhero Comics of the Golden Age: The Illustrated History (Taylor History of Comics, Vol 4)

Superhero Comics of the Golden Age: The Illustrated History (Taylor History of Comics, Vol 4)

Mike Benton

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#576967 in Books 1992-10Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 11.50 x 9.25 x 1.00l, #File Name: 087833808X202 pages | File size: 79.Mb

Mike Benton : Superhero Comics of the Golden Age: The Illustrated History (Taylor History of Comics, Vol 4) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superhero Comics of the Golden Age: The Illustrated History (Taylor History of Comics, Vol 4):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting Tome for Beginning Comics HistoriansBy P. Ryan AnthonyAuthor Mike Benton has turned out some well researched and engaging books on comics--covering science fiction, horror, the Silver Age, and more--and Superhero Comics of the Golden Age is no exception. It hits the ground running with the advent of the modern comic book in 1934 and quickly sharpens its focus to detail the rise of the costumed characters, their importance during World War II, and their fall at the end of the 40s. There's extended coverage of the first and greatest long-underwear hero, Superman, but the other GA do-gooders get their moment, as well. Most pages include GA comics covers to give the flavor of the times, and there are a number of sidebars in the text that highlight significant artists of that period. The downside of the book, in this reviewer's opinion, is that the "history" ends on page 62; the rest is given over to a sort of encyclopedia of major superheroes, which is interesting but also the reason that the history portion is a truncated survey rather than a fully detailed narrative. Still, it's worth getting if you're a beginning comics historian or a more experienced one who wishes to freshen up his/her knowledge

of GA characters. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A brief journey to the fabulous forties By Sam Walker Like many comics readers, the golden age is a time long ago -- known to most of us by the writings of fans of that age like Roy Thomas. Here we get to see some of the goings on of the day, the key players and their creations. Some faded away never to return, but many have resurfaced in altered forms or shaped the heroes of the silver age. The history is a bit brief, so its hardly definitive, but well worth a spot i the comic collection. I would fondly wish for more Taylor books. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By d ess Good book but three pages were torn out.

From Library Journal It would be nice if Benton's series of comics histories (Horror Comics: The Illustrated History , LJ 4/15/91; Superhero Comics of the Silver Age: The Illustrated History , LJ 11/15/91; Science Fiction Comics: The Illustrated History , LJ 4/15/92) had some kind of sequence, but the volumes seem to be coming at random. It is especially bizarre that he did the Silver Age (mid-1950s to late 1960s) two volumes before the Golden Age (late 1930s to mid-1950s). The Golden Age set the stage for the majority of comics published for the next two decades: Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's Superman, Bob Kane's Batman, and Will Eisner's The Spirit were all created during the Golden Age. Historically, this period covers World War II, one of the most popular eras for superhero comics. Benton's research is impressive: he dredges up some really obscure stuff and uses a variety of interviews and articles as source material. Like the other volumes, it is frustratingly uncritical and only skims the surface of the era, but even that is valuable in such a pioneering time. Recommended for area collections; if you can't afford all the volumes, this is one of the ones you should get.- Keith R.A. DeCandido, "Library Journal" Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.