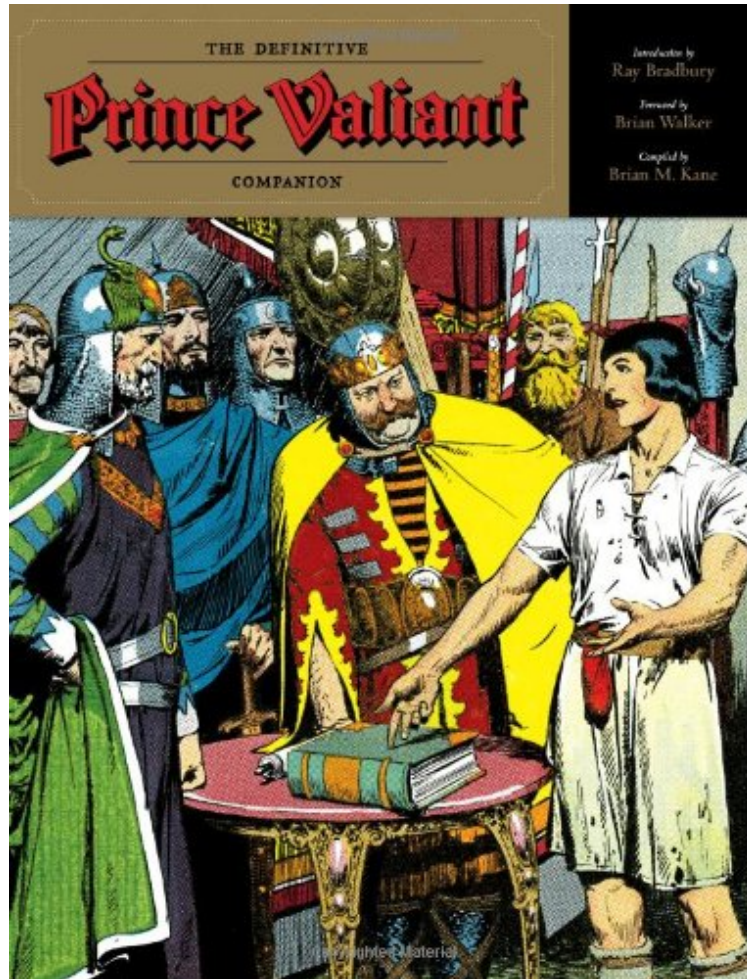


The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion

Brian M. Kane

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Brian M. Kane : The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Most Valiant Valuable Effort By OwlEnthusiasm for super-heroes perhaps has never been higher. Movies about men and women who use extraordinary powers to fight evil, such as Superman and Wolverine, have millions of viewers around the world. Often, the most successful films explore the super-heroes' human aspects (such as in "The Dark Knight Rises") as much as their battles. Such contemporary knighthood---valor by complex, sometimes imperfect individuals in service of noble purposes---may be among the legacies of the magnificent illustrated epic, "Prince Valiant," created in the 1930s by Hal Foster and still the first thing many of us read in our Sunday newspaper. "The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion" offers treasures for such readers. Perhaps foremost among these is the only comprehensive description of the stories in each of the 235 sequences between 1937 and 2009, such as #74, The Wanderer, #136, The Quest for Helene, and #204, The Shield of

Achilles. These well-written summaries include annotations as well as strip numbers and dates: for example, The Shield of Achilles can be found in strips 2986 (1 May 1994) to 3005 (11 September 1994) facilitating location in the Pantagraph series of reproductions. In addition to these unique 60 pages, "The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion" provides an informative description of the men who created Valiant and his world: essays on Hal Foster, two interviews (from 1949 and 1985) with Foster, as well as essays and interviews with John Cullen Murphy, and more recent writer/illustrator teams. Particularly interesting is a 10 page illustrated analysis of the artistic bloodline of Prince Valiant, helping situate the origins of Val's physical appearance and Foster's meticulous drawing stylization. Perhaps best of all are the high quality color reproductions of the original drawings, well-chosen to exemplify the artistic splendours discussed in the text. Even the back cover of the high-spirited young Val makes clear the vigor detail of the drawings, including the lacings closing the under-arms of the tunic, an attention given or perhaps emulated by Jackson in the Fellowship of the Ring designs. All of this makes for a marvelous companion to the reproduced strip series some readers may have and is fine as a free-standing guide analysis to Prince Valiant. It is well-worth the cost, offering many hours in the Val's world, as rich in incident, characters, characterizations, and complexity as Odysseus's or Beowulf's. Readers should expect, however, that generous in its richness as this book is, they may want more before "definitive" seems apt, such as a summary of all the characters indexed to their first appearance and a bibliography of other articles and books on this greatest of heroes and the times of King Arthur. Thus, four rather than five stars for the valiant, valuable but not-quite definitive companion. 19 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Fantagraphics Supports New Editions of Prince Valiant By Marco Antonio Abarca Prince Valiant has been published every Sunday since 1937. The single thing that has separates this body of work from its peers is the high quality of its illustration. Hal Foster was a "Golden Age" illustrator with the temperament of a fine artist. Upon Hal Foster's retirement, John Cullen Murphy and later Gary Gianni continued producing beautifully illustrated work. This rich body of art holds a singular place in American popular culture. Starting in 1984, Fantagraphics Books began the work of re-publishing Prince Valiant in sequential order. By 2005, Fantagraphics had published fifty paperback volumes of Prince Valiant stories. These volumes tracked Hal Foster's work from the first story in 1937 to the final strip in 1980. In 2009, Fantagraphics decided to once again re-publish the Prince Valiant series. To date, Fantagraphics has produced one, very high quality hardback volume. There is a promise to start releasing volumes on a yearly basis. One can only hope that Fantagraphics will eventually start releasing more than one volume a year. Hal Foster had a very long career and at this pace, I may not live long enough to see the whole series re-produced. "The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion" is an effort by Fantagraphics to support this latest release of Prince Valiant volumes. It has everything a fan of the series could want. First of all, it is edited by Brian Kane the foremost scholar of the series. The book begins by presenting the Prince Valiant story arch from 1937 to the present and follows up by looking at Foster's artistic influences. But the highlight of the book are the series of interviews with Hal Foster, John Cullen Murphy, Gary Gianni and Mark Shultz. Fantagraphics Books is the leading publisher of classic comic reprints and this beautifully produced volume is another great example of why they are the leader. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good guide for the Complete series which is published separately. By Jack E. Holt, III Beautiful book with good illustrations. A perfect companion for the complete series.

The ultimate book for Prince Valiant fans and collectors. Out of print for over a decade, The Prince Valiant Companion has become a Holy Grail for collectors of the series. Now, in anticipation of the seventy-fifth anniversary of comics longest-running adventure strip, and to celebrate their own just-launched reprinting of the strips classic earliest years, Fantagraphics is proud to present an expanded version of this hard-to-find collectors item. Compiled by award-winning Foster biographer Brian M. Kane, The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion beautifully and definitively showcases the careers of artists Hal Foster, John Cullen Murphy, and Gary Gianni. In addition to updating the original versions story synopsis section with over thirty years of material, The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion also contains rare and new articles. Included in this volume is a never before reprinted newspaper feature from 1949, Fosters final interview conducted by Arn Saba, an extensive interview with John Cullen Murphy, and a new interview with the current Prince Valiant creative team of Gary Gianni and Mark Schultz. The Companion also contains a new, in-depth article by Kane on Fosters artistic influences, as well as a foreword by comics historian Brian Walker, and an introduction by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ray Bradbury. A special feature of The Companion is a sixteen-page color section of carefully selected strips from the entire run of the comic. Showcasing this section are eight pages by Foster, scanned and digitally restored from original color engravers proofs that had been carefully stored and preserved for over forty years. For the first time ever, collectors will be able to see Prince Valiant as Foster intended it to be seen, with all of his fine inked line work intact. Rounding out this section are four John Cullen Murphy pages from the Murphy familys collection of proofs, and four Gary Gianni pages that were selected by the artist and digitally recolored under his supervision. Proceeds from the sale of The Definitive Prince Valiant Companion will go to The Friends of Hal Foster Society to aid in the creation of the Prince Valiant statue in Fosters birthplace of Halifax, Nova Scotia. 16 color and 144 black-and-white illustrations

Brian Kane, author of the Companion and surely the worlds foremost authority on the strip and its creator, Hal Foster, has once again done a herculean amount of work, and Fantagraphics has once again clothed that work in a sturdy, pretty volume. Prince Valiant hasnt been treated this well since the ersatz King of England sang his praises.... Fantagraphics will continue to bring out deluxe volumes of Prince Valiant reprints. I imagine this new Definitive Companion will be open alongside them for years to come. - Khalid Ponte, Open LettersElegantly presented, perceptively written, what emerges from Kanes book is as intimate a portrait as we are likely to get of this humble, humorous and hard-working man, who transformed one page every week of the comic section into stirring American illustration and adventure fiction for millions of readers, whether Kings or commoners. - Paul Gravett, author of Graphic Novels and Manga: 60 Years of Japanese ComicsIn a year without a lot of good comics history books, this old-fashioned take on the Prince Valiant strip stands out more than usual. - Tom Spurgeon, The Comics ReporterThe Definitive Prince Valiant Companion is the indispensable guide to the strip and a must have for its legions of fans new and old. ... No matter how long youve been a Prince Valiant fanone year or seventy years, youre certain to find this book informative and entertaining. Fantagraphics has produced another spectacular book! Grade: A. - Tim Janson, The Gouverneur TimesAbout the AuthorBrian M. Kane is the author of Hal Foster: Prince of Illustrators and James Bama: American Realist. He teaches in the Illustration Department at the Columbus College of Art Design, Columbus, Ohio. He has a Masters Degree in History of Art from The Ohio State University where he is currently working on his Ph.D. in Art Education with an emphasis in Visual Culture.Ray Bradbury was born in Waukegan, Illinois, in 1920. Growing up during the Great Depression, Bradbury began writing at the age of 11. Unable to join the military in World War II due to his poor eyesight, he began publishing science fiction stories. In 1947 he married Marguerite McClure and they had four daughters. His career as a writer included such notable works as Fahrenheit 451, The Martian Chronicles, and I Sing The Body Electric. Primarily known for his successes in science fiction, Bradbury also worked on various horror and mystery stories, as well as screenplays and television scripts. During his lifetime he received numerous awards, including a Pulitzer in 2007. Bradbury passed away in 2012.