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Carl Barks And The Art Of The Comic Book



**Carl Barks and the
Art of the Comic Book**
— by *Michael Barrier* —



Synopsis

Book by Barrier, Michael

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Customer Reviews

Book by Barrier, Michael

Mike Barrier is the godfather of all serious Barks scholarship, publishing first in his fanzine, Funnyworld, which later became the magazine, Funnyworld. He was also a friend of Carl Barks, one of the early people to communicate with him, starting in the mid-1960s when Barks was still writing and drawing comic books. Barks made and sent him a hand-copied list of his work records, which Barrier used in conjunction with his already near complete collection of Barks' work to build a complete list of all Barks' published comic book and related work. At one point Mike sent me a copy of Barks' list as an aid to helping locate things that he had not been able to find, and I found a couple items and was able to clarify some others. Eventually this work culminated in this book, a serious study and biography of Carl Barks, with a listing of all his known comic book work. Very little in terms of unknown Barks work has been added in the 35 years since this book was published. It remains THE essential Barks reference book. If you don't own it, and you are a serious fan of the work of Carl Barks, you owe it to yourself to get a copy of this book. It is that simple. To a very large extent, it is the foundation on which Another Rainbow's series, The Carl Barks Library, and Fantagraphics' series, The Complete Carl Barks Disney Library, and other similar works around the

world are built. If you want to know more about Barks, and his place in context of other writers at Dell Comics or publisher Western Printing, Barrier's more recent book, *Funckybooks: The Improbable Glories of the Best American Comic Books*, is a superb followup on Barks, and an incredible source of information on the company that probably sold more American comic books in the 1940s and 1950s than the next 2 or 3 publishers combined. Another valuable resource on comics, animation, and other topics, is Barrier's website at michaelbarrierdotcom.

Carl Barks was a Walt Disney Studio animator in the golden era when they still cranked out cartoon shorts of Mickey, Donald and the gang. He was given an opportunity to work at Western Publishing, the comic book company to write and draw Donald Duck comics. Barks actually drew several titles and covers for Western (Gold Key and Whitman comics were part of Western) including Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge, Walt Disney Comics and Stories, and others. Along the way he developed family and friends for the duck, including Uncle Scrooge, Gladstone Duck, Gyro Gearloose, Grandma Duck... and a whole detailed world for the ducks such as the city of Duckburg, Uncle Scrooge's money bin, the town's founder Cornelius Coot, and villains such as the Beagle Boys. What Barks created exceeded everyone's expectations, especially his own as he was a very humble man who did not know until he was retired what a huge impact he had on his readers. He was an unsung hero as they did not allow the Disney comic artists to sign their work or publish their name in the titles. Barks simply became known as "the good duck artist" by his fans, we hoarded his comic books away and never knew his name back then. All this changed in 1981 when the Michael Barrier book came out and we all finally knew who he was and which were his comics. Barrier had wonderful interviews with Barks, who kindly shared his life story, his influences, and how he created his duck stories. As we grew up, we learned that Barks work impacted many famous people who collected his works, like George Lucas and Stephen Spielberg who were kids themselves when the books were on the stands. The scene in the first Indiana Jones movie of the theft of an idol on a pedestal that triggers a series of traps including a giant rolling ball in the Indiana Jones movie is a intentional homage to a Barks comic, Walt Disney's Uncle Scrooge #7 in a story titled, "The Seven Cities of Cibola." in 1954, and another story called "The Prize of Pizarro" from issue #26 in 1959 used a similar gag. This book also includes a complete bibliography of all the stories by Barks, by title, date, description of cover art, reprints, plot summary, and more. There are also 4 very useful appendix in the book. All in all, an indispensable book on Barks, and still the best on Barks in my opinion.

"Thank you for the copy of Carl Barks and the Art of the Comic Book by Michael Barrier, which we are thrilled to see finally in published form. It was worth the years of waiting, and we hope will supply the answers to the myriad of questions which Carl must answer thousands of times over. Now he can just say buy the Barrier book published by M. Lilien..." -- Gare Barks (Mrs. Carl Barks)"Carl Barks and the Art of the Comic Book is the very long-awaited biography/bibliography/critique fo the Good Artist's work by Michael Barrier. It is published in a handsome, sturdy, well-designed hardcover edition by M. Lilien of New York, with a lovely dust jacket featuring a self-caricature of Barks on the front and a color photo of the Duck Man on the back. Inside you will find a detailed account of Barks' life and career, with each story discussed and highlighted. There are many photos of Barks as a young man, sketches and cartoons he did for the Calgary Eye-Opener and as inter-office gags at the Disney Studios... If you are a fan of Carl Barks, you simply, absolutely, positively and unquestionably must have this book and right now. If you are a comic-book student, you must have this book to see how thoroughly and well comics can and should be studied..." -- Don & Maggie Thompson, The Buyer's Guide For Comic Fandom (R)"...Barrier covers not only the life of Barks but his particular thematic preoccupations (the "rescue theme" in which the parent/child roles are reversed is documented with considerable wisdom, for instance). The photos of Barks, his house, and other people he worked with are precious glimpses on an important period in comic book history, and the many drawings by Barks and others constitute a real treasure trove for both fans and scholars..." -- Cat Yronwode, The Buyer's Guide For Comic Fandom (R)

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