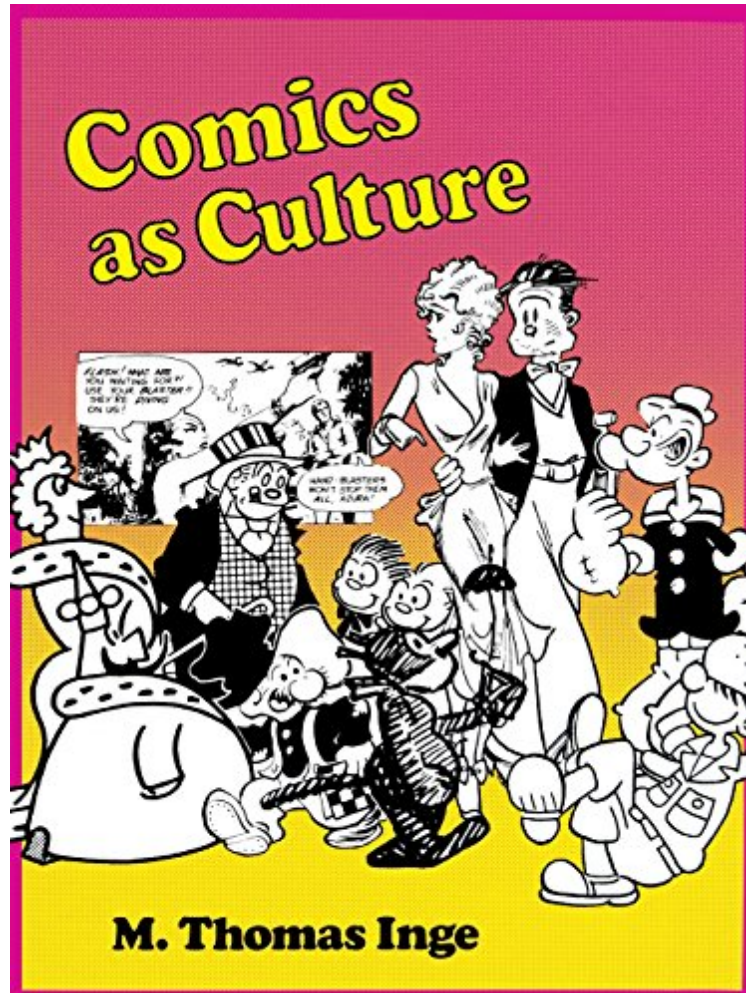


Comics as Culture

M. Thomas Inge

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#3044193 in Books University Press of Mississippi 1990-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 11.02 x .42 x 8.271, 1.02 #File Name: 0878054081192 pages | File size: 59.Mb

M. Thomas Inge : Comics as Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Comics as Culture:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Samuel S.NAH1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Chuckster42great3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Academic tries to convert his enthusiasm into scholarship, fails By Simon Barrett 'Il Penseroso' Don't let that bilious fuchsia-and-yellow cover get your hopes up, fanboys - we're in academe! Cobbled together from discrete articles* by a humanities prof who's himself also a long-time comics fanboy or, as he would no doubt put it, collector, this reads like a textbook - that is, uninspired - and all the unfair and unsubstantiated snark directed at earlier surveys of the field (see Further Reading section) won't make this rose smell any sweeter. Pics are tired, text half-hearted - almost any book about comics you care to pick up will yield more pleasure and illumination, more PASSION, even the very old Penguin Book of Comics

and Couperie Horn's History of the Comic Strip, both of which have the added interest of including Europe. It is SO not just an 'American art form', guys! Though the not-so-egregious professor wheels out that hoary and tendentious claim once again..* Charlie Chaplin and the Comics? Meh. Faulkner Reads the Funny Papers is about the best - mostly this is just bog-standard history, as we say in the UK (possible meaning: to be consigned to the bathroom?)

Comics and cartoons are ingrained in American life. One critic has called comic books "crude, unimaginative, banal, vulgar, ultimately corrupting." They have been regarded with considerable suspicion by parents, educators, psychiatrists, and moral reformers. They have been investigated by governmental committees and subjected to severe censorship. Yet more than 200 million copies are sold annually. Upon even casual examination BLONDIE, ARCHIE, MARY WORTH, THE WIZARD OF ID, and SHOE--among the many comic strips--will be found to support some commonly accepted notion or standard of society. Why do comics both amuse and arouse controversy? Here is an attempt at an answer in a sharp-eyed comic-book lover's probing look at this step-child genre. He finds comics both loved and hated, relished and sneered at. In their relying on dramatic conventions of character, dialogue, scene, gesture, compressed time, and stage devices, he finds the comics close to the drama but probably closer kin to the movies.

From the Inside Flap These ten essays by one of America's foremost authorities on popular culture survey the influence of the comic strip and, despite the legions of detractors, show it to be an art form that has enriched and reflected most of American culture