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The Flintstones: A Modern Stone Age Phenomenon



Synopsis

A compendium of trivia containing everything readers always wanted to know about the funniest prehistoric family ever includes rare cell art, concept drawings, memorabilia, and profiles of the creative minds behind the popular cartoon characters.

Book Information

Series: Flintstones

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Turner Pub; 1st edition (November 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 157036012X

ISBN-13: 978-1570360121

Product Dimensions: 1 x 9.5 x 11.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #828,528 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #36 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Magazines & Newspapers #684 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Television > Shows #14171 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts

Customer Reviews

Awesome book for any collector

This is a great book. I have been a Flintstones fan since my childhood. I wish it was updated for it was released in 1994. Any serious Flintstone buff should order or have this book.

Great book!! Fast shipping!

People who are already quite familiar with Hanna-Barbera and the genesis of The Flintstones will probably not find this book very interesting. However, aficionados and students of animation who have not already studied the cartoon will certainly find the book interesting, though perhaps a bit insubstantial. On a positive note, the book touches on every aspect of the show: conceptual development, character animation, background art, music, voice acting, producing issues, and all the major contributors (including reminiscences from several of them). Memorabilia collectors will like the second half of the book, which includes descriptions and color photos of an amazing volume

of Flintstone kitsch. (It's hard to believe anyone would have bought some of these things when they originally hit the market - like the gruesome Fred and Wilma hand puppets or the Tiki-like statuettes of what are probably intended to be Fred and Barney.) And, happily for practicing animators and students, it includes a couple revealing reproductions of Ed Benedict's character animation notes; a number of illustrations that depict the evolution of the characters in pre-production; and a page of storyboard illustrations. However, there's really only enough technical material here to whet the curious reader's appetite for a meatier exploration of the character animation, music scoring and story writing, each of which, in my opinion, attained to a degree of brilliance. The book also suffers from a lack of critical analysis. The unfortunate introduction of the Gazoo character, for example, is not even addressed. (I'm sure I'm not alone among fans, writers and critics in viewing this development as a strategic error, a poor attempt to breathe more life into the show after the first season.) In many respects *The Flintstones* was very innovative (it was the first cartoon sitcom), clever and polished, and it really deserves a deeper treatment than this or any other book has given it. Nevertheless, fans should get a copy of this book, along with *Hanna Barbera Cartoons* or the out-of-print *Art of Hanna Barbera*. For more on William Hanna and Joe Barbera, check out their respective autobiographies, *A Cast of Friends* and *My Life in Toons*.

No matter who your favorite Flintstone character is (for me, it's Betty Rubble nee McBricker...but Baby Puss is underrated and underused, too!), you will find him/her in this wonderfully illustrated book---no Flintstones fan should be without it. A treasure for your collection and a tribute to the enduring appeal of the Hanna Barbera Bedrock denizens. Nostalgia never looked so good! And since you won't find it even in this book, here are the "unknown" lyrics to the SECOND verse of the FLINTSTONES theme song...hum the melody and give it a go!"Rubbles! Meet the Rubbles! They're the other stone-age fam-i-ly! Barney! And his Betty! They're as neighborly as they can be! (Barney sings:) Barney, I'm Fred's bosom buddy friend! (Betty sings:) As long, as he has a buck to lend! When you're with the Rubbles, have a Scooby-Dooby-Doo time, a Dooby-Doo time, we'll have a gay old time!"

This book is a must for any major fan of *The Flintstones*. Everything you want to know about the series is all here. Including "The Honeymooners" take off controversy. Plus all kind of colourful pictures of Fred, Wilma, Barney, Betty and the rest of their clan. Not to mention a complete episode guide of the original 1960s prime time series that started it all. A page right out of history!

As a cartoonist, I love animation, and want to know all I can about the behind-the-scenes shennanigans of our favorite toon makers. That's why this book was something of a disappointment. I will say this--it has GREAT illustrations, including some early model sheets of "The Flagstones" (yes, that's what they were originally called, until someone found it sounded too similar to the name of the family in the "Hi and Lois" comic strip). Not to mention some priceless background drawings, which give the reader a fairly good idea of the evolution (faintly appropriate term here) of a classic. There are even some drawings of aborted Flintstones-related projects, such as "The Blackstones", a black "Modern Stone Age family" who would have been Fred's new neighbors. Imagine Sherman "George Jefferson" Hemsley and Isabel "Weezy" Sanford voicing the leads..oh, well. It even contains the oft-repeated (though I suspect apocryphal) story of how Bill Hanna and Joe Barbera tried all sorts of unusual sitcom family types before arriving at the Flintstones and the Rubbles--Pilgrims (!), Romans, hillbillies, and even gypsies. And it tells in nerve-wracking detail how a frantic Barbera pitched the show to a roomful of unsmiling Phillip Morris executives, whose idea of approval was the comment, "At least there's no blood running in the streets.." Trouble is, there are too few stories like that--I wanted to read more. So what could have been a brontoburger-sized feast ended up a small snack.

Full of glaring misinformation, hackneyed stories Bill & Joe have told a thousand times over, and recycled publicity materials, this book's only saving grace is the rare artwork they've unearthed. There's a good reason why this book features a great big 'F' on its cover!

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