

Cartoons: One Hundred Years of Cinema Animation

Giannalberto Bendazzi

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Library BulletinThe long-awaited English-language edition of a classic study of world animation, *Cartoons* provides the first comprehensive, detailed history and critique of cinema animation world-wide. Over 70 countries, 2,000 animators, and 3,000 films are covered in this lavishly illustrated, authoritative, and encyclopedic account.

From *Library Journal*This chronological history analyzes animated film as an autonomous art form that has nevertheless been affected by the economics of live-action cinema as well as social and political forces (e.g., the dislocation of Continental Europe's animators by World War II). This comprehensive study describes concepts and practice, profiles innumerable animators, and concludes with a chapter on computer animation. Because of truly global coverage (from Mali to Mongolia), *Cartoons* introduces such important animators as Russia's Alexandre Alexeieff and Scotland-born Canadian master Norma McLaren while providing details on familiar names like Disney, Walter Lantz, and Tex Avery. Despite the subject's popularity, this should not be considered a coffee-table book but a scholarly reference whose notes and bibliography are valuable sources for further study. Purchase for comprehensive film and art collections.
Kim Holston, American Inst. for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters, Malvern, Pa. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From *Booklist*Although animation has finally begun to be thought worthy of serious attention, the spate of books on it in recent years has focused primarily on commercial Hollywood animation. Bendazzi ambitiously attempts to fill the gap. He covers more than a century's worth of animation, from the 1888 *th{ }e{ }atre optique* (a device for projecting moving painted images that predates motion picture pioneers Edison and Lumi{ }ere) to today's cutting edge computer-animation technology. He covers American animation, of course, but also describes developments in more than 70 other countries, in many of which animation emerged more as an art form than a box office draw. His work is not without shortcomings: the writing (the translation, anyway) is occasionally awkward, and despite or because of its exhaustive depth and scholarly approach, the text seldom conveys the delightfulness that makes the best cartoons so compelling. Carping aside, this valuable effort, already well received in France and Italy, promises to be the basic reference on its subject for some time to come. Gordon Flagg Few works have been so anticipated as Anna Taraboletti-Segre's splendid translation of Bendazzi's comprehensive history of animation cinema. This work reviews the decades of development in animation, from individuals like Emile Reynaud and Emile Cohl through the studios of Disney and the National Film Board of Canada into the revolutionary realm of computer animation. The thoroughness of *Cartoons* is evident in its international scope, for example, its inclusion of the exciting and neglected work produced in Latin America and Asia. This marvelous encyclopedia is brilliantly illustrated with dazzling color plates. Its scholarly breadth, richness, and attention to detail, along with its amazingly readable and engaging narrative, make this the most indispensable text on world animation history. Enthusiastically recommended as both a fascinating story and an incredible reference resource for both scholars and aficionados of the art of film.
T. Lindvall, Regent University, Choice, April 1995 (T. Lindvall, Regent University Choice 1995-01-00)"Enthusiastically recommended as both a fascinating story and an incredible reference resource for both scholars and aficionados of the art of film." Choice (Choice)