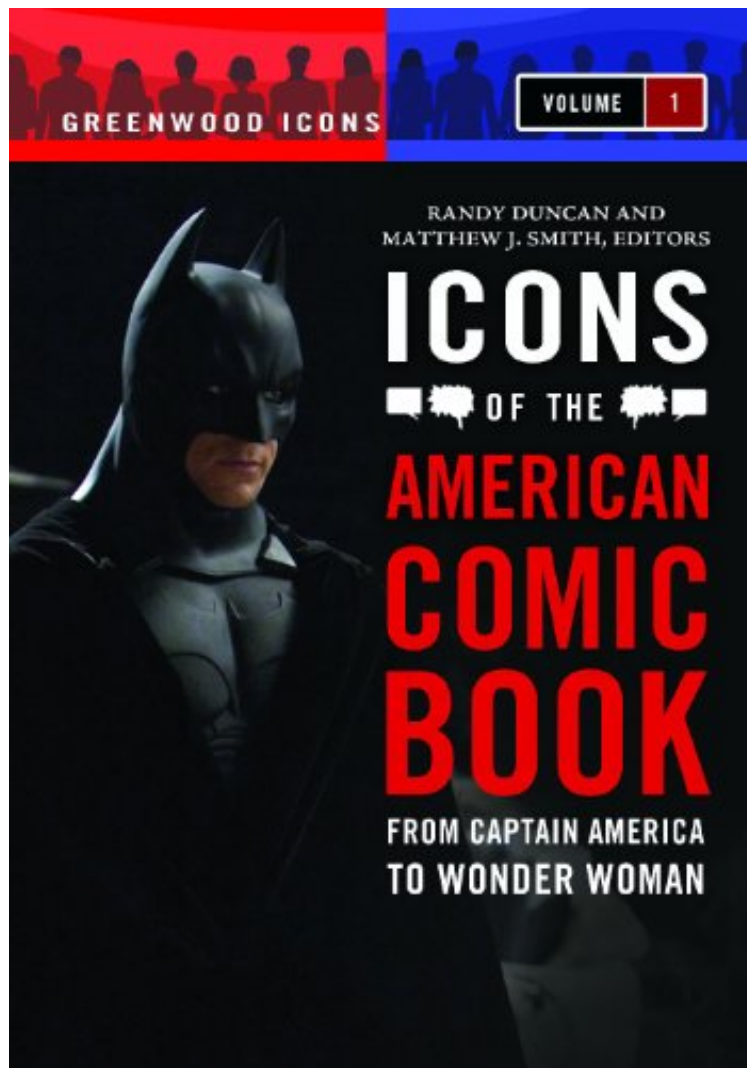


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## Icons of the American Comic Book [2 volumes]: From Captain America to Wonder Woman (Greenwood Icons)

*From Greenwood*

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**From Greenwood : Icons of the American Comic Book [2 volumes]: From Captain America to Wonder Woman (Greenwood Icons)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Icons of the American Comic Book [2 volumes]: From Captain America to Wonder Woman (Greenwood Icons):

This book explores how the heroes and villains of popular comic books and the creators of these icons of our

culture reflect the American experience out of which they sprang, and how they have achieved relevance by adapting to, and perhaps influencing, the evolving American character. Includes contributions from 70 expert contributors and leading scholars in the field, with some of the entries written with the aid of popular comic book creators themselves Provides sidebars within each entry that extend readers' understanding of the subject Offers "Essential Works" and "Further Reading" recommendations Includes a comprehensive bibliography

From Booklist This newest offering from the Greenwood Icons series considers American comic-book characters, creators, and culture. In addition to the series definition of what constitutes an icon (an individual who challenges the status quo, has influenced millions of people, and has had a lasting impact on American popular culture), the editors further limited choices to characters who originated in the comic-book medium and individuals who are uniquely related to comic books. As with other titles in the series, the need to consolidate available material into 100 representative entries meant making some difficult decisions, and the editors acknowledge that some choices regarding selection or omission might seem controversial. Subjects range from Little Lulu to Wolverine and from Mad magazine to Maus. In addition to characters, articles address writers and artists, publishers, individual works, and cultural phenomenon such as fanboys and Comic-Con International. Users also will find detailed information on individuals (Stan Lee, Will Eisner, Robert Crumb) and publishing houses (Marvel, DC, Dell) that shaped this industry. Articles average 10 pages and include historical and contextual background, the impact of the subject on American culture and why it deserves iconic stature, cross-references, and suggestions for further reading. Each article also includes at least one sidebar (Wonder Woman merits four) addressing quirky or parallel information (e.g., sidekicks, villains, love interests, censorship, the Comics Code, catchphrases, literary illusions, awards). Occasional black-and-white photos accompany the text. The two-volume set ends with a several-hundred-item bibliography consisting of websites, books, and articles. The individually signed entries come from a team of 70 contributors representing scholars and pop-culture historians. Any library serving comic-book enthusiasts will want to obtain this balanced and useful reference. This will also be of general interest to most academic, high-school, and public libraries. --Kathleen McBroom "These volumes offer the useful approach of the publisher's 'Icons' series as a 'port of entry' for students and general readers. . . . While these volumes cover material that can be found elsewhere, they combine greater detail than can be found in many comics reference works with greater scope and rigor than can be found in most popular sources. Summing Up: Recommended." - Choice "This material will have broad research appeal in public and academic libraries and will also be popular with those who already have an interest in comics." - Library Journal "Any library serving comic book enthusiasts will want to obtain this balanced and useful reference. This will also be of general interest to most academic, high school, and public libraries." - Booklist "Readers looking to bridge the gap between a reference book and book-length sketches will find this meaty and desirable." - ARBA About the Author Randy Duncan, PhD, is professor of communication at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, AR. Matthew J. Smith, PhD, is a professor of communication at Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH, where he teaches courses in media studies, including one in graphic storytelling.