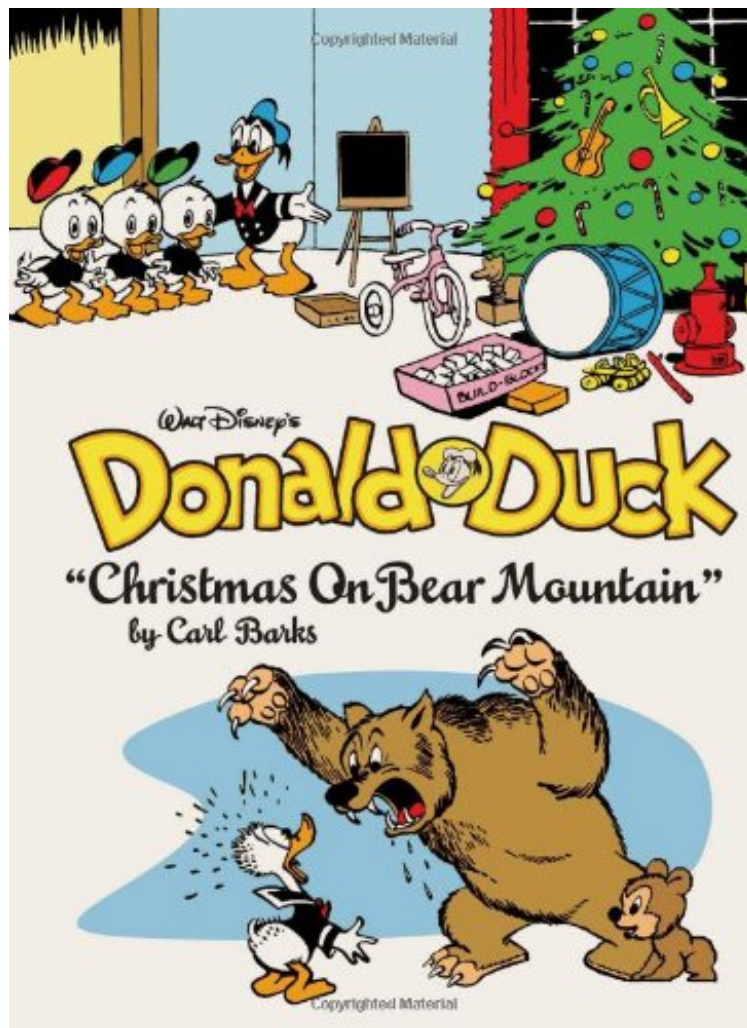


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Carl Barks : Walt Disney's Donald Duck: "Christmas On Bear Mountain" (The Complete Carl Barks Disney Library) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Walt Disney's Donald Duck: "Christmas On Bear Mountain" (The Complete Carl Barks Disney Library):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Earliest Carl Barks....so farBy Stephen Vincent KemptonChristmas On Bear Mountain is volume 5 in Carl Barks Library. So this is earliest material so far published. Carl Barks first duck story was in 1942, these stories collected are from 1947 and one from Jan 1948. While only five

years in to writing the ducks, Barks might not have quite reached the peak of his form, but still he is a master storyteller. My favorites are of course the title story Bear Mountain which featured the creation of Scrooge McDuck a character who would become just as important as Donald in the legend of Disney. My other favorite is Donald Duck And The Ghost Of The Grotto. It is a 26 page Tour-De-Force which is educational, exciting, fast paced and action packed mystery and adventure still filled with humor. An abandoned ship, a giant octopus and a ghost in a suit of armour are some of the story elements. This is the type of story Barks excelled at and nobody in the history of comics ever did better. This volume is 200 pages of pure magic and Love. Fantagraphics has assembled a masterpiece and the source material has never looked better. The storynotes are a wonderful bonus and treasured as much as the comics. Highly Recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good, but not great Barks By Hal Jordan I'm a huge Carl Barks fan and have been since I first read his stories as a kid in the early 1960s -- long before I knew his name. Barks took a while, though, to find his stride, and these stories -- originally published in 1947 -- are a mixed bag. The volume reprints four long stories -- "Volcano Valley," "Christmas on Bear Mountain," "The Ghost of the Grotto," and "Adventure Down Under" -- along with eight shorter 10-page stories, and five one-page gag strips. Of the long stories, I would rate only "The Ghost of the Grotto" as an unqualified success. It combines an exotic locale, an historical take, well-executed humor, and surprising developments. Both "Volcano Valley" and "Adventure Down Under" are rather weak. While "Adventure Down Under" has some strengths -- if you can look past the dated depiction of the native Australians -- "Volcano Valley" has little to recommend it. "Christmas on Bear Mountain," famous for introducing Uncle Scrooge -- Barks's greatest invention -- is unfortunately not all that good either. It has a few strong points, but Scrooge as depicted in this story is a long way from where Barks would take him in a few years in stories like "Only a Poor Old Man" or "A Christmas for Shacktown" (both of which are available in volumes Fantagraphics has already published). The 10-pagers are also of uneven quality. Fireman Donald is one of the best short stories Barks ever produced, but a couple of others are clinkers. Fantagraphics does an excellent job with these books. My only quarrel with their presentation is that I wish they were reproducing the covers. Some of Barks's best art was the covers he drew for these books (although the cover to Four Color 178 -- where "Christmas on Bear Mountain" originally appeared -- was not drawn by Barks). So even when Fantagraphics finishes publishing all the volumes in "The Complete Carl Barks Library," some of his work will be missing. I know that the binding on this volume is supposed to be inferior -- apparently, Fantagraphics has admitted as much -- but I have had no problems with my copy, which appears to have been bound as well as the other volumes in this series. In short, I recommend this book, although Barks's best work can be found in later volumes, some of which have already been published because Fantagraphics is not publishing the books in chronological order. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The one-star reviews are wrong! By Chateau d'If As noted by others, there is nothing missing from this book (Barks drew no covers during the time period covered in this volume), and a great deal is offered. The volume is a delight, filled with unexpected, imaginative humor and genuine thrills and suspense. From an early period in Barks' career, this "pre-peak" collection (predating his very best work) is a joyful excursion with a master storyteller and artist who would only get better and better. Don't be misled by the misinformed one-star reviews.

This collection of Carl Barks' world-famous Disney comics includes Uncle Scrooge's first appearance, a Christmas tale and many other adventure yarns. Scrooge McDuck is now such a fixture in the Disney universe that few remember Carl Barks had been writing and drawing Donald Duck stories for half a decade before he cooked up the miserly multiplujillionaire ? for what he thought would be a one-time Christmas yarn involving Donald, the nephews, Scrooge in a bearskin, and (inevitably) a couple of real bears. "Christmas on Bear Mountain" is one of Barks's funniest holiday stories and a true landmark in comics history, and offers a fascinating look at a rough-edged, genuinely nasty character whom Barks would soon soften... Scrooge aside, there's plenty of fun to be had in this volume. In "Volcano Valley" Donald and the Nephews end up stuck in Volcania, a south-of-the-border country inhabited by sombrero-wearing, siesta-addicted Volcanians. Other long-form adventures include the self-explanatory "Adventure Down Under," as well as one of Barks's most atmospheric thrillers, the West Indies-based "Ghost of the Grotto," which includes a lovely night-time sequence drawn in Barks's trademark silhouettes and a giant octopus- vs.-hot-chili-peppers throwdown that climaxes in an explosive splash panel. The book is rounded off with seven of Barks's hilarious 10-pagers, and as with the previous volumes, Walt Disney's Donald Duck: Christmas on Bear Mountain has been scanned from crisp vintage art and meticulously colored to match the original printing's warm, simple hues, and features abundant critical and historical notes penned by some of duckdom's finest experts. We are also offering a boxed set that combines the new Walt Disney's Donald Duck: Christmas on Bear Mountain with the 2012 release Walt Disney's Donald Duck: A Christmas for Shacktown for a great Christmas-themed box set (see following page). Full color

From Booklist From the 1940s through the '60s, Barks wrote and drew hundreds of comics featuring Donald Duck and his relatives, but he toiled in anonymity (the only name the stories bore was that of impresario Walt Disney). In recent decades, however, he has come to be recognized as one of the masters of the comics medium. This volume in the ambitious project collecting Barks' entire Duck Family oeuvre introduces Donald's skinflint uncle, Scrooge McDuck,

who would go on to become the most enduring of the original characters Barks created to expand into the world of the animated cartoons. Other stories depict Donald's squabbles with his nephews, Huey, Dewey, and Louie; his doomed get-rich-quick schemes; and his globetrotting adventures in foreign lands. These tales from 1947 exemplify Barks' strengths: vivid yet precise cartooning; brilliant comedic dialogue and timing; and incisive characterizations (of ducks, no less). The pristine, full-color restoration of the vintage pages and the insightful historical notes do justice to these timeless tales, which remain as enthralling and delightful today as when they first appeared, nearly seven decades ago. --Gordon Flagg

About the Author Carl Barks (1901-2000) spent most of his life in Oregon. In 1987, he was one of the three inaugural inductees in the Will Eisner Comic Book Hall of Fame (along with Eisner and Jack Kirby). He's also a Disney Legend.