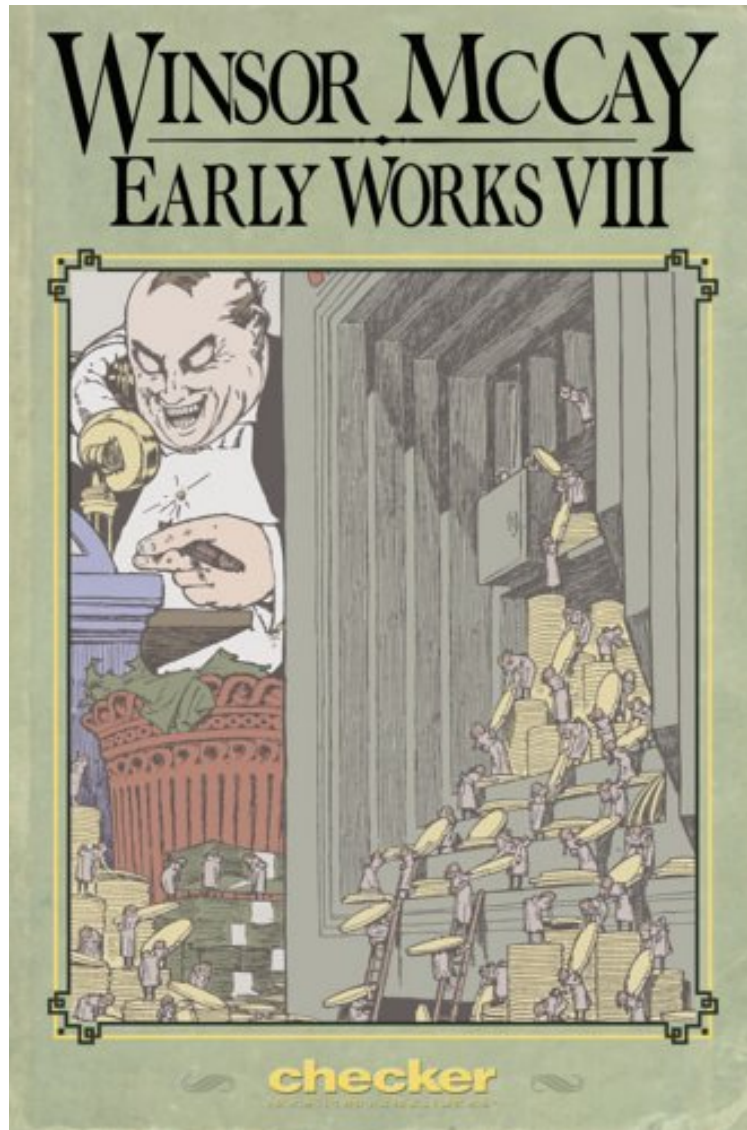


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Winsor McCay

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Winsor McCay : Winsor McCay: Early Works Volume 8 (Winsor McCay: Early Works) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winsor McCay: Early Works Volume 8 (Winsor McCay: Early Works):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Better than some, but...By Thelonious Continuing their lackluster series of McCay reprints, Checker has here at least given us a generous helping of McCay's more inventive work -

about 80 pages of Rarebit Fiend (including, on p. 38, a strip whose original artwork can be seen in the San Francisco Comic art Museum). This is followed by about 20 pages of mostly uninteresting editorial and advertising work (though there are a couple of real gems in here). We then get 60+ pages of Poor Jake and 20 or so of Pilgrim's Progress. Neither of these strips is particularly interesting to me. As usual, the reproduction quality is spotty and many of the better images have been severely reduced in order to fit the pages. Although it does have a good selection of Rarebit Fiend strips, there are now much better collections of available here and here. If your interest is in the editorial cartoons (many of which are fascinating and exquisite) you are better off with Daydreams and Nightmares or the Canemaker book on McCay as these have much better reproductions (if also a smaller selection). Really for completists only.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Checker Scores a Winner With Vol. 8
By Tim Janson
It can't be easy to sell Winsor McCay. After all, McCay was doing his work long before the greats of Comic's Golden Age started making their mark. Heck, in most cases, even before they were born. When one considers that the work in this volume is a hundred years old it's nearly hard to fathom. While the McCay market may be a niche market, he still deserves a place among the great pioneers of cartooning, a very important place if truth be told. Checker Books continues its long running series presenting the cartoonist's non-Little Nemo in Slumberland work. This eighth volume includes more of McCay's other strips such as Dream of the Rarebit Fiend, Poor Jake, Pilgrim's Progress, as well as editorial cartoons and even some of his cigarette advertisements. It's quite an eclectic sampling. Dream of the Rarebit fiend ran from 1904 - 1911 in the New York Evening Telegram. The formula is simple: someone eats a late night snack of Welsh Rarebit which brings on bizarre, often humorous dreams which always end in the subject swearing to never eat Rarebit again. Rarebit is a spicy cheese on toast concoction that was a popular British snack. I'd guess I might compare it to eating a late night burrito from a convenience store these days. The dream sequences are sometimes funny, sometimes horrific, and sometimes quite...hallucinogenic, and one wonders was it Rarebit they ate or something else! Characters see things like ballerinas riding flying donkeys, and a stable full of piglets crowding their way into bed. Then there is a strip depicting a black woman, speaking in stereotypical black slang, who dreams of using bleach to make herself a white society woman. It's painfully racist but one does have to take into account the era these strips were done and I applaud Checker for including the strip as it is an important look at our culture through hundred year-old looking glass. McCay's ads for Lucky Strike cigarettes are a scream as they boldly proclaim that they've "removed the prejudice against cigarettes" by making them safer to the smoker. It seems little has changed with the tobacco industry in the last century. McCay seemed to have a strong handle on the mood of America that shows up in his editorials, which I personally find to be some of his finest work. McCay pulled no punches and he could easily carry his weight with any modern day editorial cartoonist. For those with a love of cartooning and an appreciation of its history and roots, I cannot recommend Checkers Winsor McCay series any more robustly. Reviewed by Tim Janson

As popular as McCay was during his lifetime, in the eighty years since his death, his work has been poorly preserved, and latter generations have been unable to learn about his cartooning legend. Volume 8 features a large selection of McCay's lavish, detailed illustrations from his New York editorial period.

Readers for whom this very highly recommended collection will be their first exposure to McCay's legendary newspaper comic strip, will also be interested in reading the Daily strips collected in the Checker series Winsor McCay: The Early Works (along with other material from the period). James Cox --Midwest Book Included in this collection are over 180 strips by Winsor that exhibit and provoke thought and imagination in readers. Lance Eaton --Bookloons
About the Author
Winsor McCay began his artistic career in the 1890's, yet the sheer innovation of his images still leaps from the pages. He was a master illustrator, with a talent for draftsman-like precision, natural perspective, brilliant color theory and an imagination that has never yet been rivaled.