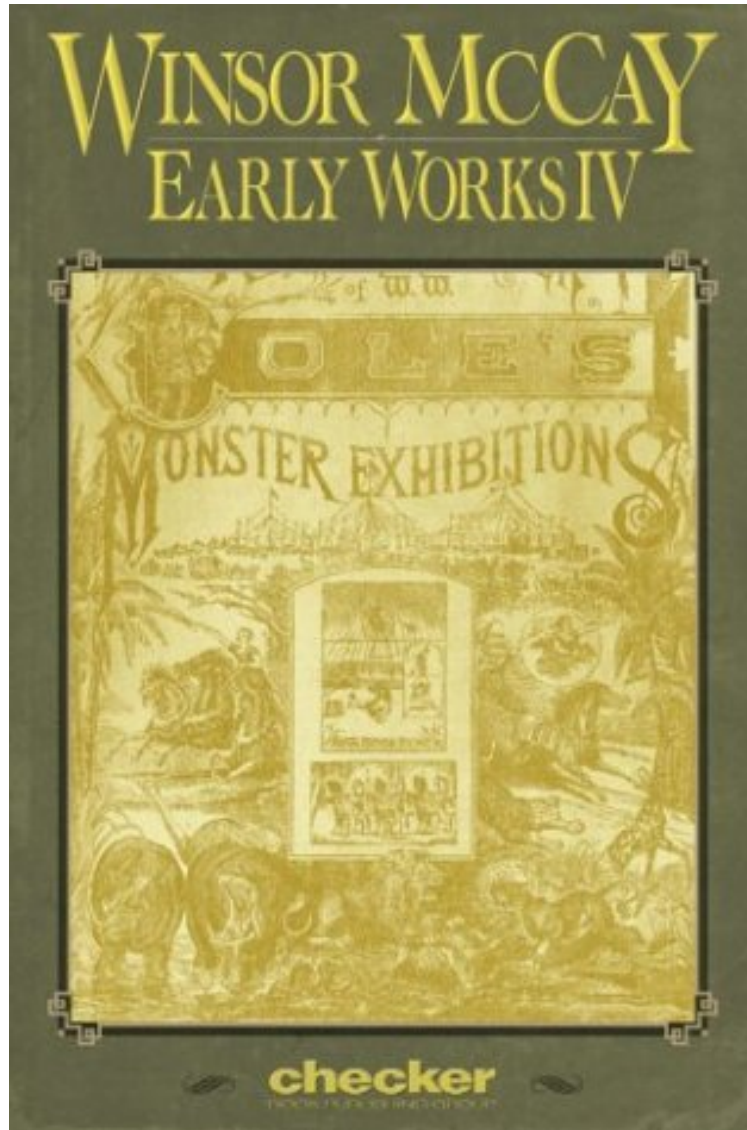


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Winsor McCay: Early Works Volume 4 (Early Works)

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Various : Winsor McCay: Early Works Volume 4 (Early Works) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winsor McCay: Early Works Volume 4 (Early Works):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A rare bit of the Stuff of Dreams By Thelonious Overall, this is wonderful stuff for McCay fans, but picture quality is spotty. Reproduction quality varies, often from page to page and all the work is considerably reduced in size. That said, it is pretty much all legible (a few blurry pages in mine - maybe in all?). About evenly divided into 4 sections - daily Rarebit, Saturday Rarebit, editorial cartoons, and Pilgrim's

Progress. So this volume is a little over half filled with Rarebit Fiend (which is what I bought these for). 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 as these have much better reproductions (but a smaller selection) When will someone do the complete Rarebit Fiend (incl some color)???? 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. THE FOURTH VOLUME IN THE OUTSTANDING SERIES By Tim Janson I've always felt it was important to preserve our popular culture which is why a company like Checker Books is so valuable. Checker has been taking classic comic strips and collecting them into book form and bringing characters like Flash Gordon, Steve Canyon, and Dick Tracy to a whole new generation of fans. Another project that Checker has undertaken is reprinting the works of legendary, early 20th century cartoonist Winsor McCay, creator of Little Nemo in Slumberland. As little Nemo has seen frequent re-printings over the years, Checker is reprinting all of McCay's other works including his other strips as well as editorial cartoons. This is the fourth in what will eventually be an eleven volume set of these works, and most of this work is seeing print for the first time in nearly one hundred years! The first part of the book reprints his late 1907 to early 1908 "Dream of the Rarebit Fiend" strips wherein the characters have surrealistic, bizarre, and darkly humorous dreams induced by a late night stack of Welsh Rarebit before bed. Now I've never eaten rarebit before but I take it that this concoction of melted cheese, beer, hot sauce/pepper spread over toast was the early 20th century equivalent to a convenience store burrito. Invariably the characters wake up swearing to never eat rarebit again. While the joke itself wears thin after several pages, the delight is seeing what McCay does with his characters while they are in their dreams. They turn into animals, are beset by tiny devils, see flying elephants, etc. You'll notice the strips are signed "Silas". Due to his contract, McCay could not sign them with his own name. By far the most interesting part of the book is the section that reprints many of McCay's editorial cartoons that he did while working for the New York Herald, New York Telegram, and New York American. Unconfined by the panel format, these cartoons really show off his artistic talent and eye for fine line and detail illustration, not to mention the very edgy nature of the cartoons. One shows Uncle Sam shoveling heaps of undesirable aliens into a barrel labeled "deportation". Another piece with an anti-technology theme depicts a giant, mechanical dinosaur ravaging a city...all this some 70 years before Mecha Godzilla would appear on film! Other editorial cartoons tackle subjects such as World War I and the anti-German sentiment, the plight of American Indians, crime, and poverty. Subjects as topical today as they were back then. If you're unfamiliar with McCay, this collection of his early works from Checker Books is a great place to start. Hats off to Checker for keeping his work alive. Reviewed by Tim Janson

Contains: Dream of the Rarebit Fiend (early 1908), A Pilgrim's Progress (early 1908), various Little Sammy Sneeze cartoons, and a selection of New York American editorial cartoons.

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 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.