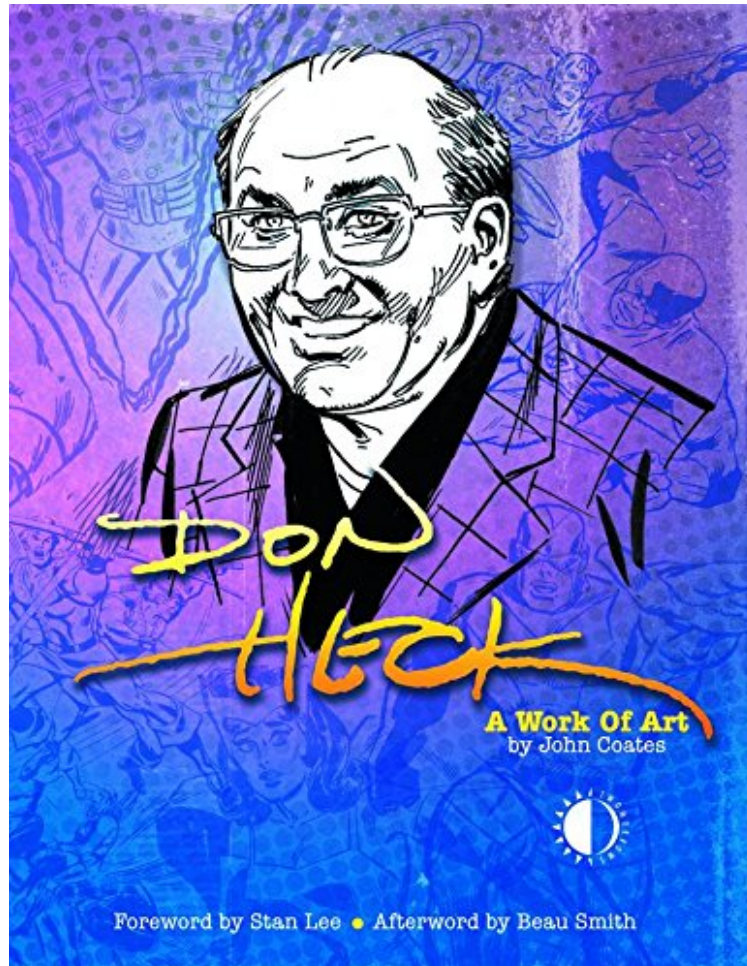


Don Heck: A Work of Art

John Coates

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John Coates : Don Heck: A Work of Art before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Don Heck: A Work of Art:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A master artist recognized at last By David J. Hogan Don Heck was a key architect of the Marvel Universe, but of all the important comic book artists of the early 1960s, he may be the last to be represented with an art book. Heck was very popular with comic book buyers of the time, and sold many millions of issues, but because he wasn't as aggressively dynamic in his work as Jack Kirby, or as frankly eccentric as Steve Ditko, his reputation has suffered with the passing years. This pleasing book from John Coates and TwoMorrows Publishing helps restore some of Mr. Heck's considerable luster. The earlier reviewers on this page cover key points nicely. I'll simply agree that the numerous examples of Heck's pencils and layouts are the book's visual highlights. He drew beautifully--more in the style of a commercial illustrator than an archetypal comic book artist. Besides a sophisticated sense of design, he had a keen understanding of anatomy and an illustrator's ability to

convincingly render street scenes and architecture, as well as the whole catalog of familiar objects, from aircraft to typewriters to sailing ships. And few could match his depictions of beautiful women. Heck showed his versatility by doing superior work in many genres. His pre-Code work in horror and war remains startling; in superhero comics, he excelled with the Avengers, Iron Man, Wonder Woman, the Flash, the Justice League, and many others. Heck preferred to ink his pencils himself but, as noted in a review above, during his career he was paired with far too many short-term inkers, some of whom were frankly unsuitable or inferior. Heck was thus prevented from creating a "brand" akin to Kirby-Sinnott, Colan-Palmer, or DC's Swan-Klein. Don's own inks were simultaneously loose and disciplined--a neat trick that gives those pages vitality and power. The book bursts with well-reproduced Heck art in color and black and white, but page design is very busy. My eyes jumped nervously around most spreads, and I didn't react well to a multiplicity of typefaces, some of which are not particularly attractive. But that has nothing to do with Don Heck. He was a professional's professional, and now he has a tribute he deserves.² of 2 people found the following review helpful. TwoMorrows and Don Heck cartoonist. By Paul S. Power A most enjoyable book on cartoonist Don Heck. I loved Don's art on the AVENGERS and Ant-Man/Giant Man. When he was teamed up with a good to decent inker, he was at his best. Sadly he got bums like Vince Colletta to ink and quite frankly Vinnie was murder on anyone that he fell prey to his rotten style of inking. Don was rock solid. He should've storyboarded movies in Hollywood. He was mistreated by editors at Marvel DC and left to feel inept. I wish I had made contact with him years ago. Hollywood would have LOVED his artwork in films. He was really good and mistreated by New York comic groups. Beau Smith wrote a nice closing to the book and the interviews with Don were very well done by John Coates and Beau Smith plus the interviewers. A fine tribute to a former Marvel cartoonist giant who in the end was treated poorly by foolish fan boy editors at Marvel DC. I include Stan Lee in that bunch of idiots as well.⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. co-creating characters like Iron Man and others By Dr Mavial Joseh Overlooked by his colleagues, overlooked by the editors, overlooked by the critics, Don Heck's work shaped what we all know today as "Silver Age of comic books", co-creating characters like Iron Man and others, and the most curious and strange thing: never credited for it...this book is an first attempt to honor this fantastic artist.

Don Heck remains one of the legendary names in comics, considered an artist's artist, respected by peers, and beloved by fans as the co-creator of Marvel Comics characters Iron Man, Hawkeye, and Black Widow, and for his long stint on Marvel Comics' team book The Avengers. In *Don Heck: A Work of Art*, author John Coates has meticulously researched and chronicled information on Don's storied 40-year career, including his time at DC, Dell, Gold Key, and as ghost artist on Lee Falk's *The Phantom* newspaper strip. From personal recollections from Don's surviving family, long-time friends, and industry legends, to rare interviews with Heck himself (where he discusses his career, artistic technique, triumphs, frustrations, and love of drawing), this book is full of insight into and first-hand anecdotes from the early days of Marvel Comics. It also features an unbiased analysis of sales on Don's DC Comics titles, an extensive art gallery (including published, unpublished, and pencil artwork), a Foreword by Stan Lee, and an Afterword by Beau Smith.

About the Author John Coates is Sadleirian Professor of Pure Mathematics at the University of Cambridge.