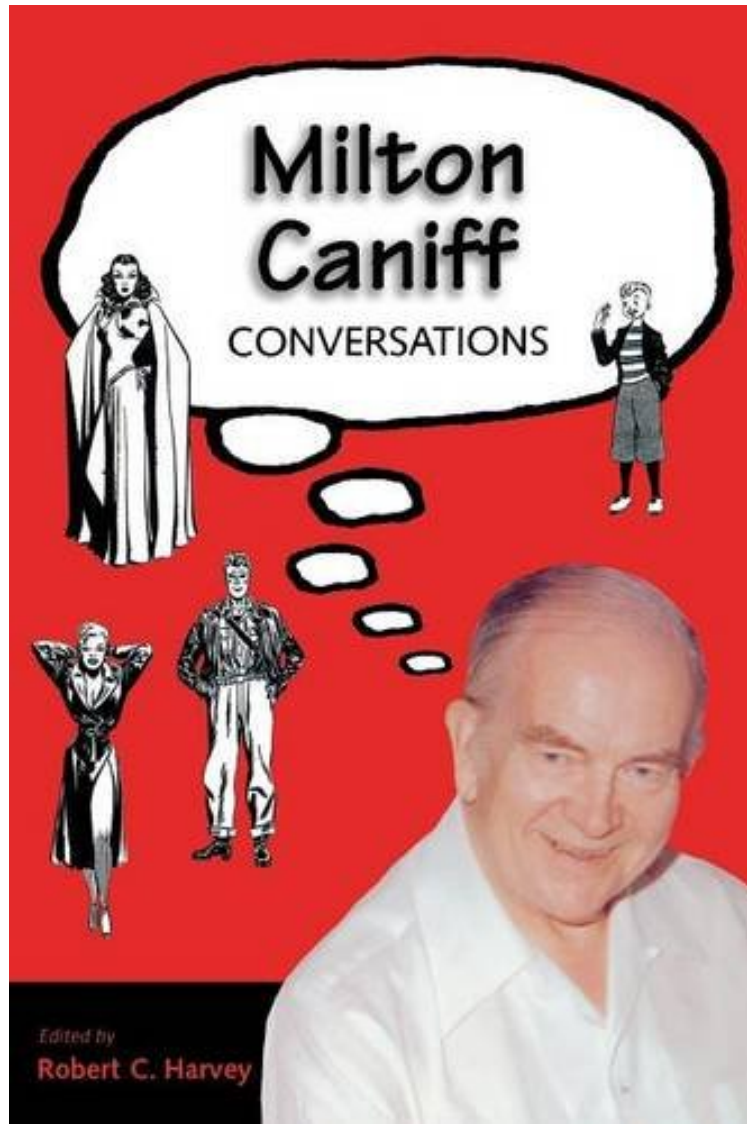


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Milton Caniff: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series)

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From Brand: University Press of Mississippi : Milton Caniff: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Milton Caniff: Conversations (Conversations with Comic Artists Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By D.J. Coffman One of the greatest cartoonists. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Cover To Cover Milton Caniff In His Own Words By Melissa Ann

MinnersWhen I first set out to read this book, I was dubious. I barely remembered having heard of his most famous strips, Terry and the Pirates Steve Canyon. However, once I picked up this book, I found it hard to put down! It kept me interested with highly informative interviews, select comic strip excerpts and more. I was intrigued by Milton Caniff's innovative style in cartooning, from his insistence on authenticity to his cinematic scene style. The man was an incredible cartoonist and a born patriot, incorporating both in his strips. Some interview compilations tend to be repetitive, but the editor's choices of interviews are different in style and information, making the reader anxious to read the next one. If there are some points repeated, the reader hardly notices! Definitely a book to read whether you are an avid comic strip fan or an aspiring cartoonist! I find myself wanting to read reprints of his strips and feel like I missed out by being born in the wrong era and not witnessing them first hand.

In this collection of more than a dozen interviews one of the giants of American comic strips talks about his life and his craft. The years spanning 1937 to 1986, when the interviews were conducted, embrace almost all of Caniff's career as he was producing the legendary Terry and the Pirates and his post-World War II masterpiece Steve Canyon. In long interviews with such comics luminaries as Jules Feiffer and Will Eisner, Caniff (1907-1988) discusses his signature chiaroscuro style, his passion for realism in every detail, and his relationships with such other cartooning greats as Al Capp (Li'l Abner), Noel Sickles (Scorchy Smith), and Alex Raymond (Flash Gordon). As Caniff speaks earnestly about his art, his techniques, and his intentions, he discloses his inspirations. He based his characters on real persons and his material on contemporary politics and military issues. He gives candid opinions about the effects of the marketplace, business, and sales upon his art. "I would have created Blondie if I'd known that I could have sold it, you can be damn sure." He notes that the cause for terminating his association with Terry and the Pirates and his creation of Steve Canyon was neither lack of interest nor censorship but the opportunity to exert full creative control over his work. Few of the interviews in this volume are likely to have been seen or read widely, for most have been gleaned from publications not in general circulation. Interviews from U.S. military publications attest to Caniff's status as a spokesman for the military, particularly for the Air Force. These interviews reveal how Caniff contributed to uplifting servicemen's wartime morale with both Terry and the Pirates and Male Call, a somewhat risqu strip he drew for military newspapers, and how Caniff's loyalty to the military cost his strip vital circulation as Vietnam War protest mounted. Besides interviews this collection includes rare examples of Caniff's graphic art--preliminary sketches for Steve Canyon, pin-ups from military publications, drawings he created for the magazine of his college fraternity, and samples of vintage strips he drew.

From BooklistIndicating growing respect for the comics medium, the university publisher of collected interviews with eminent filmmakers and writers adds a book of talks with an acclaimed denizen of "the funny papers." Caniff, creator of "Terry and the Pirates" and "Steve Canyon," remains highly esteemed by comics aficionados seven decades after his work first saw print. His strips' high-adventure story lines, exotic locales, and sexy female characters may have accounted for their popularity; but Caniff's bold, realistic, movie-influenced drawing style and innovative storytelling techniques made him the most influential comics artist of his era. Reflecting the fame of "Terry" in wartime America, the earlier interviews here include a 1944 New Yorker profile and a Time cover story from 1949, when Caniff was preparing to launch "Canyon." The later interviews, published in small-circulation comics fanzines, provide the real insights, however, as in them Caniff thoughtfully discusses his work with knowledgeable questioners. Editor Harvey supplies an informative background essay and illustrates with examples of Caniff's art. May other leading cartoonists receive similar treatment. Gordon FlaggCopyright American Library Association. All rights reservedFrom the Inside FlapCollected interviews with the master cartoonist who created Terry and the Pirates and Steve CanyonAbout the AuthorRobert C. Harvey, a cartoonist, columnist, and critic of cartoon art, and the author of The Art of the Comic Book: An Aesthetic History, The Art of the Funnies: An Aesthetic History, and (with Gus Arriola) Accidental Ambassador Gordo: The Comic Strip Art of Gus Arriola (all published by the University Press of Mississippi), was appointed by Caniff as his official biographer.