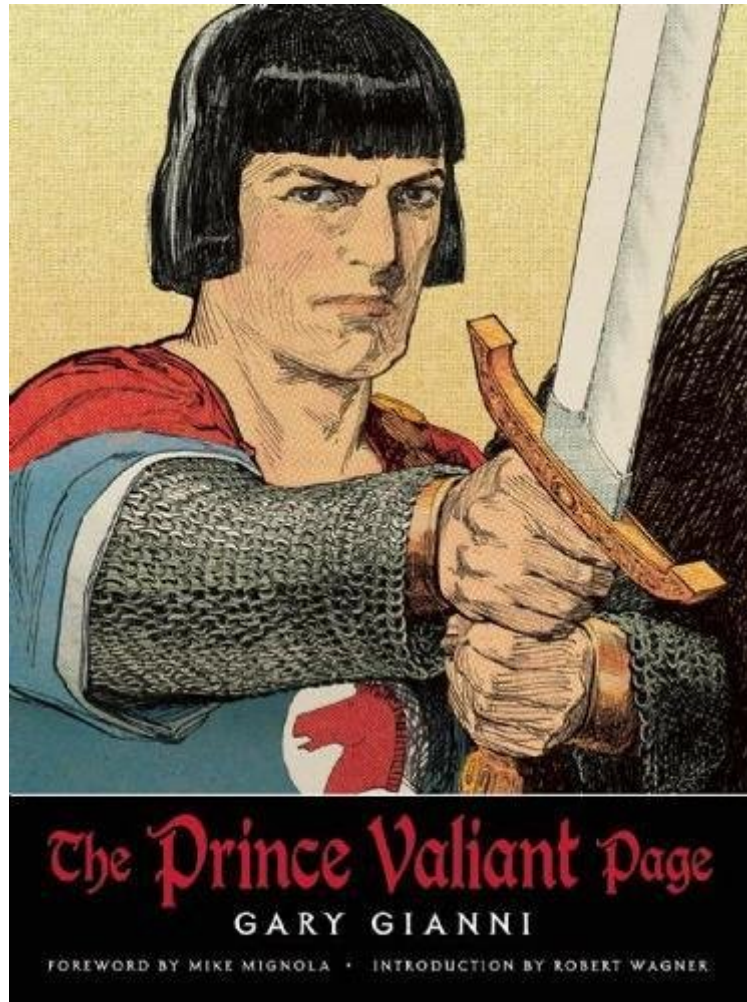


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The Prince Valiant Page

Gary Gianni

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Gary Gianni : The Prince Valiant Page before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Prince Valiant Page:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely Stunning! Don't miss out on this one! By KermitWhat an amazing piece of work! Both fans of comic books and classic illustration will find a lot to glean from in this book. If you're not familiar with Gary Gianni's work, check him out at GaryGianni.com and look at some of his amazing pen and ink samples. The guy clearly stands on the shoulders of some of the pen and ink masters like Coll and Booth and yet he still manages to bring a new spin to the techniques of the masters. Basically, what you'll find in this book is a behind the scenes look at the creation of the Prince Valiant page that Gianni and Mark Shultz have been helming for several years. There's lots of drawings and studies depicted in the making of this masterpiece. There's also some examples of Gianni's other works from Batman, The Shadow, and his comics translation of 20000 Leagues Under The

Sea (which is going to be released very soon by Flesk Publications). Gianni gives a lot of insights to what he uses to create this work including his pen nibs and paper as well as his thoughts and his thinking behind some of his artistic decisions on the series. One thing that I thought was kind of neat were the notes that Gianni received from the former Prince Valiant master artist when Gianni was just getting started assisting on the strips. It's kind of like seeing George Bridgeman grade Norman Rockwell and reminds me of the Famous Artist School where you send your art lessons to a master and they put an overlay on top, critique them, and redraw portions to show you how to do it better. There's also several full color foldout Valiant strips that I believe have been specially colored for this edition only. The entire book is very well made and the paper is heavy and beautiful. The tones of Gianni's work are reproduced in ways that I've never seen before. Usually, reproductions of Gianni's works (Batman, The Shadow, Conan, etc.) are specifically black and white, and yet this book gives you the tones that Gianni creates in his work that are often missed by standard reproduction. So anyway, buy this book and you won't be disappointed. And while you're at it, buy some of the books of the masters that inspired Gianni from the same publisher. Franklin Booth and Joseph Clement Coll Legacy in Line are tremendous, and Mark Shultz's work (co-writer of Valiant and creator of Xenozoic Tales) is also available. I can't say enough about these works. Having started reading comics with Todd McFarlane's Spiderman and Jim Lee's X-Men (which I still insist are fun) I was completely floored when I saw an inking demonstration by Mark Shultz. The guy took comic art to new levels. Anyway, following Shultz' work lead me to Gary Gianni, and both of them lead me to other great artists like Hal Foster, Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon, Al Williamson, etc. Alright. I'm done gushing. To end all, this book is really terrific. Buy it and enjoy it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Look from the Inside By Carole This is a terrific introduction to the difficulties of putting a story into an illustrated-visual form. Gary Gianni does a great job with the text, which is a pleasant surprise for an artist. When one sees the scope of his work it is easily seen why the Foster illustrations of the 40s and 50s looked better. From the designer's point of view he had a lot more space to deal with. The current funnies are a fourth page that make production much more challenging. It is also apparent that all three of the illustrators who have worked on the series are master craftsmen and cannot be fairly compared as they were appealing to vastly different audiences with different technologies. The similarity of Gianni to Foster is readily apparent in THE PRINCE VALIANT PAGE in the expanded reproductions of his preliminary pencil sketches and ink drawings. The most salient difference that I can see is the coloring. Foster's work is with water color while the pictures in this book appear to be computer generated. Any enthusiast of the series will covet this book.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Making of a Sunday comic By Oscar Solis You know how movie companies put out "The Making Of..." movie books? Well this is the making of a Sunday comics page and it's probably the best book you'll ever see about the subject. Not only do you get great artwork but you get to see the process. You'll learn why the artist works the way he does (or did as Gary Gianni no longer draws Prince Valiant). It's informative and for anyone wanting to draw comics of any kind it is a must see.

The Prince Valiant Page is the first book collection featuring Gary Gianni's work on Prince Valiant. This book gives a well-rounded informative look at both Gianni's rendition of the Prince Valiant Sunday strip and his own working procedures. After 25 years as a professional illustrator, Gianni describes his new role as an assistant to John Cullen Murphy (who assisted Hal Foster--Prince Valiant's creator). Upon Murphy's retirement, Gianni became the third artist in the 70-year history of the feature. It continues with in-depth knowledge of the strips creative process (i.e., receiving the script, photographing models, making preliminary drawings and pencil roughs, then concluding with the finished illustrations). Supporting artwork includes collaborations between Murphy and Gianni, with Murphy's hand written notes and instructions. Examples of Gianni's work over the previous thirty years as a professional illustrator are included as well. Gianni's entertaining, insightful text reveals his methods and working relationships with Murphy and current Prince Valiant writer, Mark Schultz. Further, he explains the usage of his tools and provides many tips learned during the course of his career. Prince Valiant aficionados, those interested in the creation process, and enthusiasts of Gianni's artwork will all find this book appealing. Most reproductions are direct from the original artwork, rendered with archival quality, and displayed in museum catalog format. Gianni's originals are delineated using brush and pen. He utilizes these tools to create tones and variations often lost in the pure black and white reproduction methods characteristically employed in newspapers and comics. Gianni's work has never been reproduced in this manner before. His full tonal range will be revealed for the first time. This book includes three gatefolds of Prince Valiant strips in color to showcase the finished works.