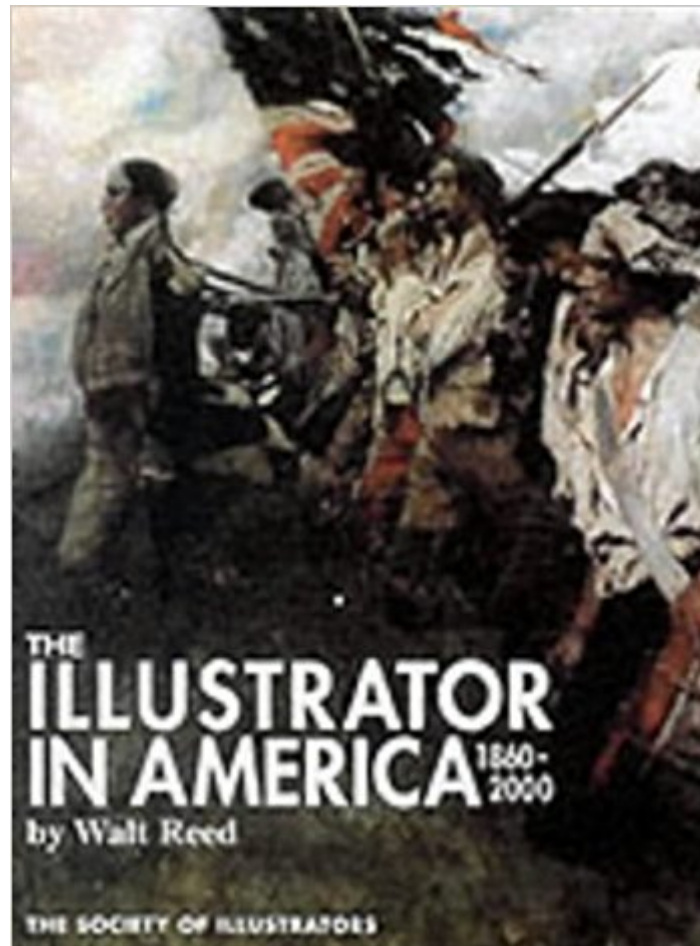




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The Illustrator In America: 1860-2000



Synopsis

A comprehensive reference covering over 140 years and 650 artists from the Civil War through the entire 20th century, *The Illustrator in America* includes a biographical sketch on each artist along with a time-line chart that provides the various influences of styles and schools needed to understand the artists and their work. First published in 1964 and revised in 1984, this third edition is now offered in paperback for the first time. Included in this incredible compendium are the works of Winslow Homer, Norman Rockwell, Jessie Wilcox Smith, J.C. Leyendecker, Milton Glase, Chris Van Allsberg and many more. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Hardcover: 452 pages

Publisher: The Society of Illustrators; 3rd edition (February 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0942604806

ISBN-13: 978-0942604801

Product Dimensions: 1.5 x 9 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #353,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #91 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Design](#) #301 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Illustration](#) #602 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Art History](#)

Customer Reviews

I purchased this as a textbook for my History of Illustration class in college. In school, I used this baby as a paper weight. It became much more valuable after leaving college. This is an excellent resource to explore different styles and to learn about artists that have otherwise been forgotten by history. I've read about plenty of artists in this book that had little more than a passing mention on the Internet. Even if you're not a big reader, this is an essential text for illustrators. It's made well. It even uses the artists' signatures as title headings, a nice touch!

As an illustrator myself, I really appreciate learning about the history of illustration, and finding new illustrators who may have lived over 100 years ago, but that I still have some kinship with either through subject matter or stylistically. Each small entry serves to be a point of research for any who might be interested.

This is an excellent reference to the work of illustrators whose work is vastly unappreciated. The book is beautifully laid out and I have given it as a gift to painters and they equally enjoyed it.

Note: I made some immature reader angry over my negative reviews of books out to prove the Book of Mormon, and that person has been slamming my reviews almost as fast as I post them. A short review is not necessarily a bad review if it leads you to a good book. Your "helpful" votes are appreciated. Thanks! I'm not an art critic, but I love this book. There are several illustrations that I return to again and again. Here are a few of them: "Leaving Southfield," by Ben Prins. It shows a cop giving a man a ticket next to a sign that reads, "Southfield, the Friendly City." The cover illustration for "The American Weekly," 1951, by E. Everett Henry. It shows some children playing by the road on a beautiful fall day. Highly evocative of idealized Americana. The Coca-Cola advertising illustration, 1922, by Irving Nurick. It shows a young woman sitting in a hammock at night. Intriguing. "The Art Director," by Robert Fawcett, 1951. This funny illustration shows a cynical-faced boss looking at a painting done by a company employee. He's not impressed. There are too many great illustrations to list, but I'll note one final illustration as one of my favorites. It's James Bingham's illustration of the Perry Mason story for the Saturday Evening Post, 1958. It shows a man in a trench coat at the top of a curved set of stairs. He's saying good night to a woman. The purples, blues, and yellows are super. If you like black-and-white illustrations, check out "A Celebration of Humanism and Freethought," by David Allen Williams. It's full of rare 19th century engravings opposite selections of poetry and prose. Even non-humanists will enjoy this book (One shows a preacher pointing to a Bible as he argues with an angel from God. Another shows a man beating a winged horse). See: A Celebration of Humanism and Freethought

In music, I've always preferred chamber music, a woodwind quintet, over a full-blown symphony orchestra. Similarly, ever since high school I've been fascinated by book and magazine illustration over Rembrandt and Picasso. I've built up quite a collection of illustrated books and magazines, plus covers and jackets, ranging from Leyendecker and Rockwell to Frazetta and the Hildebrandts. This volume is less a history of American illustration than an encyclopedic catalog of some 650 of its practitioners, from the HARPER'S WEEKLY "special artists" of the Civil War period to modern artists of science fiction paperback covers. There's a brief bio sketch for each with an example or two of their work, organized by decade -- though placement within a decade is somewhat arbitrary for those with lengthy careers. All my old favorites are here, like John Held (I used to work with his

grandson), Gordon Hope Grant, Hannes Bok, N. C. Wyeth, Winsor McCay, Donald Teague, Floyd Davis, and many, many others. I also discovered many artists whose work I had seen but whom I knew nothing about. Besides being a first-rate reference book, this is a great time-sink, and it will have a permanent place on my art shelf -- if I can every bring myself to put it down.

If you are an artist, illustrator, or simply love fine figurative art, this book is a must-buy. Most of the greatest illustrators are represented here. As a painter, illustrator, I especially revere the works of the Brandywine artists and those from the 1920's thru the 1960's. The colors are terrific and the vast array of illustrators is wonderfull. I have always felt that commercial illustrators were better trained and more disiciplined therefore more competent and confident in experimenting with style and media than those trained in the fine arts. However, as great as the images were in The Illustrator in America, for those who seek a bit more, especially those who paint, several things are lacking: Editorial content-the tag line that always accompanies book or magazine illustration which explains the event captured in paint, would be so helpful to have, and as a painter to me knowing the size and media of eaach piece is invaluable and instructive. I own the last two issues but I hope the authors do a bit more research and give us the above information, as well as a bibliography because in case we want to buy old magazines for the larger full-size reproductions, having the year and month or issue number would be extremely helpful.

If you love illustration, this is a must have. If you study illustration, this is a must have. Beautiful book.

This is a superb piece of scholarship with integrity, class and taste. It is encyclopedic in scope. There is no other book in the field of illustration that comes close to this one, and I have read them all.

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