

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-10879-0 — The Cambridge Companion to the Graphic Novel
Edited by Stephen E. Tabachnick
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Since the graphic novel rose to prominence half a century ago, it has become one of the fastest growing literary/artistic genres, generating interest from readers globally. The *Cambridge Companion to the Graphic Novel* examines the evolution of comic books into graphic novels and the distinct development of this art form both in America and around the world. This *Companion* also explores the diverse subgenres often associated with it, such as journalism, fiction, historical fiction, autobiography, biography, science fiction, and fantasy. Leading scholars offer insights into graphic novel adaptations of prose works and the adaptation of graphic novels to films; analyses of outstanding graphic novels, like *Maus* and *The Walking Man*; an overview which distinguishes the international graphic novel from its American counterpart; and analyses of how the form works and what it teaches, making this book a key resource for scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students alike.

STEPHEN E. TABACHNICK is Professor of English Literature at the University of Memphis. He has edited or written eleven books, including three on the graphic novel, and has been teaching university courses on the graphic novel for over twenty years. In 2015, he guest-edited a special issue of the journal *Studies in the Novel* on the graphic novel. He recently won the University of Memphis' award for distinguished research in the Humanities. His original field of specialization is Lawrence of Arabia as a writer, and Tabachnick has written or edited four books on Lawrence, including *Images of Lawrence*, the 1988 centenary volume published by Lawrence's own publisher, Jonathan Cape, in London.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-10879-0 — The Cambridge Companion to the Graphic Novel
Edited by Stephen E. Tabachnick
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

THE CAMBRIDGE
COMPANION TO
THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

EDITED BY
STEPHEN E. TABACHNICK
University of Memphis



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-10879-0 — The Cambridge Companion to the Graphic Novel
Edited by Stephen E. Tabachnick
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
4843/24, 2nd Floor, Ansari Road, Daryaganj, Delhi - 110002, India
79 Anson Road, #06-04/06, Singapore 079906

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107108790
DOI: 10.1017/9781316258316

© Cambridge University Press 2017

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2017

Printed in the United States of America by Sheridan Books, Inc.

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-1-107-10879-0 Hardback
ISBN 978-1-107-51971-8 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy
of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication,
and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain,
accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>List of Contributors</i>	ix
<i>Chronology</i>	x
Introduction	i
1 How the Graphic Novel Works RANDY DUNCAN AND MATTHEW J. SMITH	8
2 From Comics to the Graphic Novel: William Hogarth to Will Eisner STEPHEN E. TABACHNICK	26
3 The Development of the American Graphic Novel: From Will Eisner to the Present STEPHEN WEINER	41
4 The International Graphic Novel DAN MAZUR AND ALEXANDER DANNER	58
5 Historical Fiction HUGO FREY	80
6 Revisionist Superheroes, Fantasy, and Science Fiction DARREN HARRIS-FAIN	97
7 The Autobiographical and Biographical Graphic Novel MARTHA KUHLMAN	113
8 Other Non-Fiction JAN BAETENS	130
	v

CONTENTS

9	Novel to Graphic Novel	144
	ESTHER BENDIT SALTZMAN	
10	Graphic Novel into Film	160
	M. KEITH BOOKER	
11	Some Classics	175
	BART BEATY	
12	Learning from the Graphic Novel	192
	JAMES BUCKY CARTER	
	<i>Further Reading</i>	210
	<i>Index</i>	214

FIGURES

1.1	Writer Ken Crossen and artist Jerry Robinson created “The Making of the Mightiest Man” in <i>Atoman</i> no. 1 (1946). The complete story is in the public domain and may be read at the Digital Comic Museum: http://digitalcomicmuseum.com/ .	page 9
2.1	The protagonist in Otto Nückel’s <i>Destiny</i> jumps out of a window to her death as a policeman shoots at her. Eisner has stated that Nückel as well as Frans Masereel and Lynd Ward, other creators of graphic novels without words, were major inspirations for his own work. By permission of Dover Publishing.	32
2.2	Painter Max Ernst’s wordless <i>Une Semaine de Bonté</i> , a “surrealistic novel in collage,” is also an important precursor of the graphic novel with words. By permission of Dover Publishing.	34
3.1	Cartoonist Terry Moore experimented with minimalist imagery for an early graphic novel cover, <i>Strangers in Paradise</i> . By permission of Abstract Studios.	46
3.2	Cartoonist Ellen Forney conveys a conflicted mind through a myriad of words and a single illustration. Page 22 from <i>Marbles, Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me: A Graphic Memoir</i> (2012). By permission of Gotham Books.	55
4.1	Caran d’Ache (Emmanuel Poiré) (1858–1909), <i>Maestro</i> , 1894. A proposed 360-page wordless graphic novel about a musical prodigy by the great 19th-century French cartoonist Caran d’Ache, <i>Maestro</i> , had it been completed, might very well have been a landmark in comics history. Instead, the project was known of only through an 1894 letter by the artist, pitching the book to the newspaper <i>Le Figaro</i> . That he had actually drawn at least 100 pages of <i>Maestro</i> remained unknown until 1999, when the originals were discovered in a private collection and purchased by the Centre National de la Bande Dessinée et de l’Image in Angoulême, France.	60

LIST OF FIGURES

4.2	Canadian Jeff Lemire continues to produce compelling literary fiction set in rural Canada. This page from Lemire’s multi-generational epic trilogy, <i>Essex County</i> (2009), shows an old man remembering his long-ago betrayal of his brother. <i>Essex County</i> © Jeff Lemire.	71
5.1	Page 143 from George A. Walker, <i>Written in Wood</i> (Richmond Hill, ON: Firefly Books, 2014), “Book of Hours: A 9/11 Story.” Images of daily life on 8/11 New York: the pictures in this silent work need no comment. Reproduced with permission from the Porcupine’s Quill © 2015 George A. Walker.	86
5.2	Page 144 from George A. Walker, <i>Written in Wood</i> (Richmond Hill, ON: Firefly Books, 2014), “Book of Hours: A 9/11 Story.” Images of daily life on 8/11 New York: an example of the power of “silence” in wordless graphic novels. Reproduced with permission from Porcupine’s Quill © 2015 George A. Walker.	87
6.1	Revising Shakespeare, revising fantasy. From <i>The Sandman: Dream Country</i> © 1990 DC Comics. Written by Neil Gaiman and illustrated by Kelley Jones, Charles Vess, Colleen Doran, Malcolm Jones III, Dave McKean, Robbie Busch, and Steve Oliff. Courtesy of DC Comics.	102
7.1	Zograf draws himself representing the conflict in Serbia through a jagged page layout that portrays national leaders as a monstrous beast. © 2007 Aleksandar Zograf, <i>Regards From Serbia</i> , by permission Top Shelf Books.	118
7.2	In his weakened state due to chemotherapy, Harvey Pekar struggles to remember who he is. © 1994 <i>Our Cancer Year</i> , Harvey Pekar and Joyce Brabner. By permission of Running Press, a member of the Perseus Books Group.	121
8.1	Joe Sacco, <i>Safe Area Goražde</i> , page 59. © Fantagraphics Books. Reproduced with kind permission of the publisher.	139
9.1	Griffin transforms into the Invisible Man. From <i>The Invisible Man</i> by Rick Geary. By permission of First Classics, Inc.	148
9.2	Dr. Jekyll transforms into Mr. Hyde. <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> by Lorenzo Mattotti and Jerry Kramsky, page 17. By permission © CASTERMAN S.A.	153
12.1	Page 136 of volume 1 of <i>Maus</i> affords a panel rich with text complexity, a strong scaffold for readers, some of whom may not know to look for such depth from comics.	198
12.2	This page from Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons’ <i>Watchmen</i> offers many clues for understanding textual elements, especially for a deep reader willing to hypothesize from visual elements. © DC Comics.	199

CONTRIBUTORS

JAN BAETENS, University of Leuven
BART BEATY, University of Calgary
M. KEITH BOOKER, University of Arkansas
JAMES BUCKY CARTER, Independent Researcher and Educator
ALEXANDER DANNER, Emerson College
RANDY DUNCAN, Henderson State University
HUGO FREY, University of Chichester
DARREN HARRIS-FAIN, Auburn University at Montgomery
MARTHA KUHLMAN, Bryant University
DANIEL MAZUR, Art Institute of Boston; Brookline Arts Center
ESTHER BENDIT SALTZMAN, University of Memphis
MATTHEW J. SMITH, Radford University
STEPHEN E. TABACHNICK, University of Memphis
STEPHEN WEINER, Maynard Public Library

CHRONOLOGY

- 1697–1764 William Hogarth, painter, printmaker, cartoonist (*A Harlot's Progress, A Rake's Progress*)
- 1756–1815 James Gillray, caricaturist, printmaker (*John Bull's Progress*)
- 1756–1827 Thomas Rowlandson, artist, caricaturist (*Dr. Syntax*)
- 1757–1827 William Blake, poet, painter, engraver (*Songs of Innocence and Experience, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*)
- 1799–1846 Rodolphe Töpffer, author, painter, cartoonist, caricaturist (*Histoire de Monsieur Jabot*)
- 1800–1862 Charles Philipon, caricaturist, editor of *Le Charivari*
- 1812–1887 Henry Mayhew, journalist, playwright, editor of *Punch*
- 1832–1908 Wilhelm Busch (*Max und Moritz*)
- 1863–1928 Richard Felton Outcault (*The Yellow Kid, Buster Brown*)
- 1871–1956 Lyonel Feininger (*Wee Willie Winkie's World*)
- 1871–1934 Winsor McCay (*Little Nemo in Slumberland*)
- 1880–1944 George Herriman (*Krazy Kat*)
- 1888–1955 Otto Nückel (*Schicksal: Eine Geschichte in Bildern/Destiny: A Novel in Pictures*)
- 1889–1972 Frans Masereel (*Mon Livre d'Heures/Passionate Journey*)
- 1891–1976 Max Ernst (*Une Semaine de Bonté/A Week of Kindness*)
- 1894–1947 Max Gaines (Maxwell Ginsburg) (*Famous Funnies*)
- 1895–1953 Milt Gross (*He Done Her Wrong*)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1905–1985 Lynd Ward (*Six Novels in Woodcuts*)
- 1907–1983 Hergé (Georges Prosper Remi) (*Tintin*)
- 1914–1992 Joe Shuster (*Superman*)
- 1914–1996 Jerry Siegel (*Superman*)
- 1917–1943 Charlotte Salomon (*Leben? oder Theater?/Life? or Theatre?*)
- 1917–1994 Jack Kirby (Jacob Kurtzberg) (*Young Love, X-Men*)
- 1917–2005 Will Eisner (*The Spirit, A Contract with God and Other Tenement Stories, Comics and Sequential Art*)
- 1922–1992 William Gaines (*Tales from the Crypt*)
- 1922– Stan Lee (*The Amazing Spider-Man, X-Men*)
- 1924–1993 Harvey Kurtzman (*Mad*)
- 1927–1995 Hugo Pratt (*Corto Maltese*)
- 1928–1989 Osamu Tezuka (*MW, Astro Boy/Mighty Atom, Buddha*)
- 1937– Tom Phillips (*A Humument*)
- 1938– Trina Robbins (*Wimmen's Comix*)
- 1939–2010 Harvey Pekar (*American Splendor*)
- 1941– Hiroyasu Miyazaki (*Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*)
- 1943– R. Crumb (*Fritz the Cat, Mr. Natural, The Book of Genesis Illustrated*)
- 1940– Gilbert Shelton (*The Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers*)
- 1946– Jacques Tardi (*C'était la Guerre des Tranchées/It Was the War of the Trenches*)
- 1947–2017 Jiro Taniguchi (*The Walking Man/Aruko Hito*)
- 1948– Aline Kominsky-Crumb (*Need More Love*)
- 1948– Art Spiegelman (*Maus*)
- 1952– Bryan Talbot (*The Adventures of Luther Arkwright*)
- 1953– Alan Moore (*Watchmen, V for Vendetta*)
- 1957–2007 Didier Lefèvre, photographer, journalist (*The Photographer/Le Photographe*)

CHRONOLOGY

- 1957– Gilbert Hernandez (*Love and Rockets*)
- 1957– Frank Miller (*Batman: The Dark Knight Returns, Sin City*)
- 1958– Thierry Groensteen, theoretician (*Système de la Bande Dessinée/The System of Comics*)
- 1959– David Beauchard (*L'Ascension du Haut Mal/Epileptic*)
- 1959– Jaime Hernandez (*Love and Rockets*)
- 1960– Neil Gaiman (*The Sandman*)
- 1960– Scott McCloud, graphic novelist, theoretician (*Understanding Comics*)
- 1960– Joe Sacco (*Safe Area Goražde*)
- 1962– Frederic Lemercier (*Le Photographe/The Photographer*)
- 1962– Étienne Robial, designer of the *Métal Hurlant* logo
- 1964– Emmanuel Guibert (*The Photographer/Le Photographe*)
- 1966– Guy Delisle (*Pyongyang, Shenzhen*)
- 1966– Dylan Horrocks (*Hicksville*)
- 1967– Chris Ware (*Jimmy Corrigan, Building Stories*)
- 1969– Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*)