

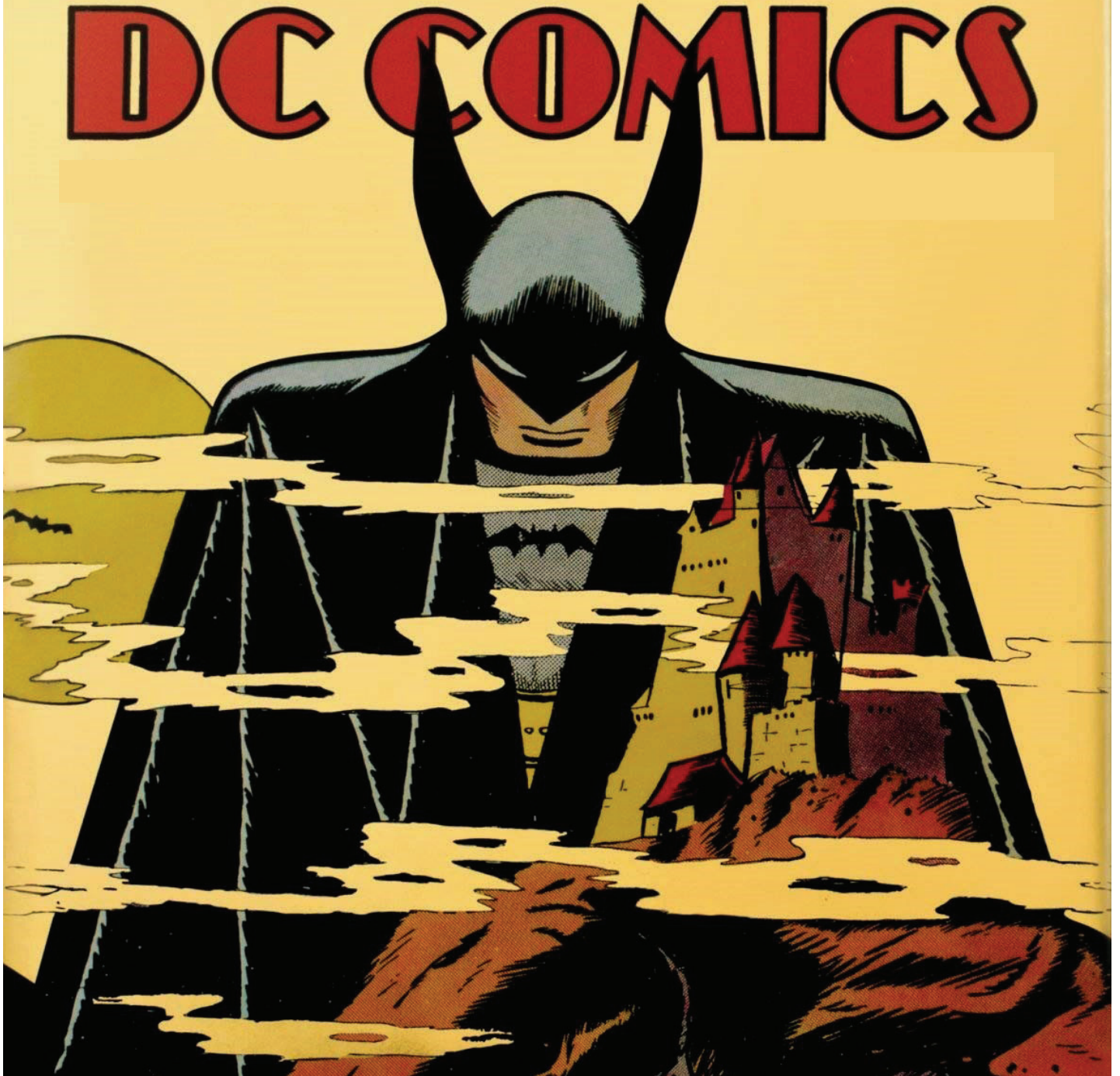
741.5

86 YEARS
OF..THE FLASH..SUPERBOY
BATMAN..THE JOKER
GREEN LANTERN..AND THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA!

MARCH 2021 - NO. 52

PLUS...DC TV ON DVD

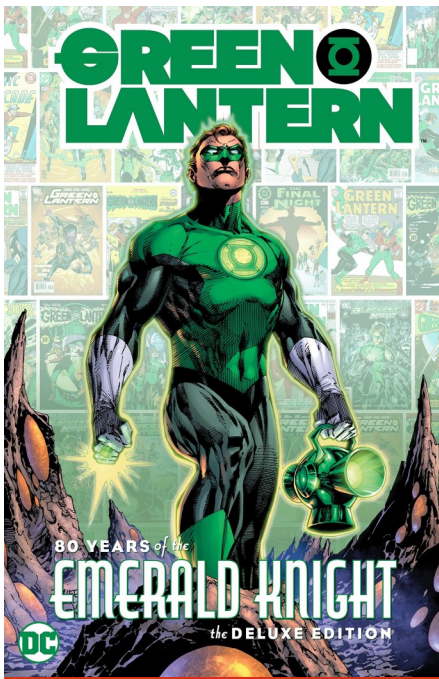
DC COMICS



The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



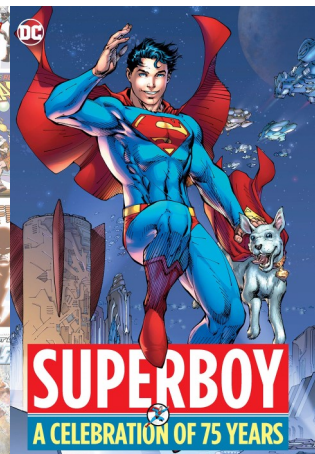
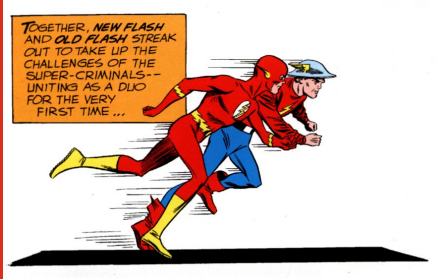
Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!



The company's name was National Periodical Publications, but the readers knew it as DC. Named after its breakout title *Detective Comics*, DC created the American comics industry when it introduced Superman in 1938. Twenty years later, DC re-launched its superheroes and kicked off a cultural revolution that's still ongoing.



In celebration of its eighty-plus year history, DC has released a slew of compilations covering their iconic characters in all their manifestations. *80 Years of the Fastest Man Alive* focuses on the career of that Flash whose 1958 debut began the Silver Age of Comics. But it also includes stories featuring his Golden Age predecessor, whose appearance in "The Flash of Two Worlds" (right) initiated the multiversal tropes so thrillingly explored in the pages of *Justice League of America*. From Starro the Con-



queror to the Justice League of Detroit to the grim'n'gritty throwdowns of the last two decades, the Justice League has been through it. So has the Green Lantern, whether in the guise of Alan Scott, Hal Jordan, Guy Gardner or any of the thousands of other members of the Green Lantern Corps. Space opera, streetwise relevance, emotional epics—all these and more fill the pages of *80 Years of the Emerald Knight*. Superboy began as a knock-off of Superman, but in time developed a wide-ranging mythology of his own with



the futuristic Legion of Superheroes and the contemporary Teen Titans. There's not one badly drawn story in this *Celebration of 75 Years*. Not many villains become as iconic as their opponents, but *80 Years of the Clown Prince of Crime* shows why the Joker leads the pack. Reserve these large'n'in charge comics at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)



As with many of its projects, European art imprint Taschen has followed its beautiful slab of a tome *The Golden Age of DC Comics* with a gorgeous block of a book reprinting most of that material in a more compact if no less solid format. Covering the seminal publisher from the depths of the Depression to the rise of the Comics Code, this upcoming item can be reserved at [lexpublib.org!](http://lexpublib.org/)

Meanwhile, the latest edition of *DC COMICS Year by Year* can be found at Beaumont, Eastside and Northside Teen. This "Visual Chronicle" (examples above right & left) begins in 1935 with issue #1 of *New Fun*, the first all-original comic, and ends in 2019 with *Detective Comics* #1000, with Nutsy Squirrel, the House of Mystery, Lobo and the Endless in between. It's a big, beautiful book!



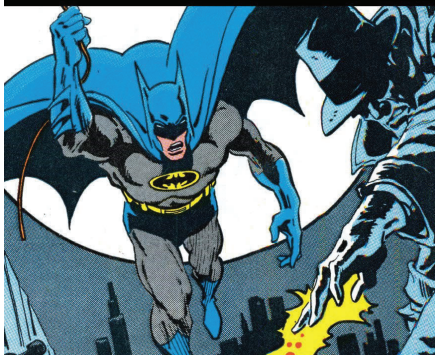
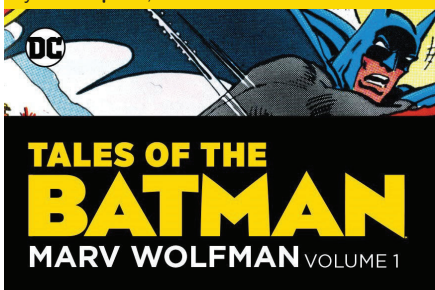
Marvel may rule the big screen, but DC reigns on the flatscreen. For almost a decade, DC properties have found new life on TV. It began in 2012 with *Arrow*, a knowingly *noir* adaptation of longtime DC B-lister Green Arrow. Successful beyond expectations, *Arrow* spawned other series—*The Flash*, *Supergirl*, *Black Lightning*, *Batwoman*—most of which now take place in the same "universe". DC's streaming service was home base for the PG-rated sagas of the formerly Teen Titans, a rougher, tougher *Swamp Thing* and the delightfully deranged *Doom Patrol* (see 741.5#9). Though *Constantine* stiffed on NBC, he found a home among CW's *Legends of Tomorrow*, a series that unashamedly embraces the sheer zaniness of superheroics. The newest show, *Stargirl*, is a coming-of-age epic that revels in the complex history of the DCU, especially the Golden Age of the Justice Society of America. These DVDs and more are available from LPL!



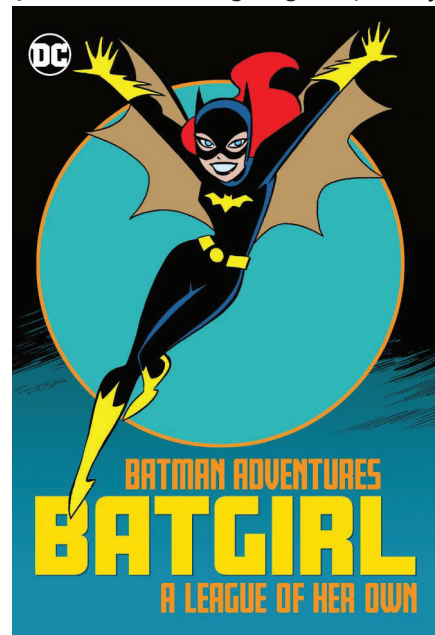


The true competition for the current crop of DC movies isn't Mighty Marvel. It's the previous interpretations of DC characters in other media. Specifically, animated cartoons: Many argue the cartoon versions of DC are superior to the cinematic. Said trend began in the 1990s with the debut of *Batman: The Animated Series*. So influential was that series and its spin-offs dedicated to Superman and the Justice League that even DC animated films not part of the so-called "Timm-verse" show the influence of producer/ animator **Bruce Timm**. *Superman: Red Son*, *Justice League Dark: Apocalypse War*,

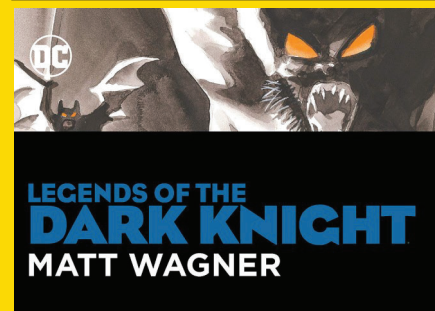
Even among the hip, literate post-collegiate crowd that wrote for the Marvel Comics Group in the mid-1970s, **Marv Wolfman** stood apart. He worked more in the DC vein of mood and character over plot and action long before he jumped ship to join the Distinguished Competition, best exemplified by his *Tomb of Dracula* series. **Wolfman** brought those shades of narrative and moral ambiguity to his scripts for the Batman comics of the 1980s, with art by **Jim Aparo**, **Dave Cockrum** and others!



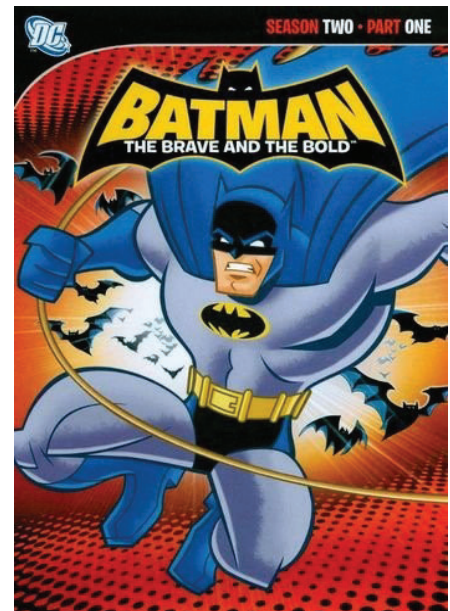
the adaptation of **Darwyn Cooke's** *New Frontier* and others reflect the dedication to quality writing and animation brought to the game by **Timm**, **Paul Dini** and their crew. Meanwhile, comic book versions of the Timmverse series are available in our Juvenile collections, including two new compilations of *Justice League Unlimited* and *Batgirl* (below). However, keep the kiddies well away from the new *Harley Quinn* cartoon series. *Big Bang Theory's* **Kaley**



MEANWHILE

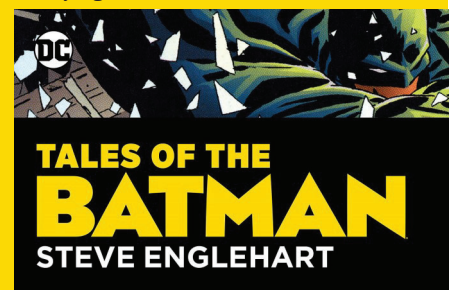


Legends of the Dark Knight is the reprint series dedicated to the artists who have brought Batman to life. Of those, the one true cartoonist, as opposed to illustrator, was **Matt Wagner**. He wrote and drew such stories as the Two-Face opus *Faces* and his modernized re-makes of early Golden Age epics like *The Monster Men*.



Cuoco is the Rated-R Superstar of this raw and uproarious take on the DC Universe. Suitable for youngsters but good enough for adults, *Justice League Action* features short but sharp adventures with a wicked sense of humor. The episode pitting Krypto and Streaky the Superpets against the Red Lanterns and a dumb-as-rocks Plastic Man is a must-see. In the words of a fellow fanboy, *Batman: The Brave and the Bold* gives us what we've wanted for years: a cartoon that looks like the intro to the Adam West show. A love letter to DC's Silver Age, *Batman: B&B* can be reserved at lexpublib.org!

Unlike **Marv Wolfman**, **Steve Englehart** was the most Marvelous of that company's 1970s crew. His work on *Defenders*, *Dr. Strange* and especially *Avengers* influences those series to this day. **Englehart** brought that intensity to DC from his first story "Night of the Stalker" (which many call the best Batman comic ever) to his ground-breaking work with artist **Marshall Rogers**. Their "Laughing Fish" arc re-established the Joker as DC's most terrifying villain. Get 'em all at LPL TEEN!



Back issues of 741.5 are available at lexpublib.org under the COLLECTIONS tab!