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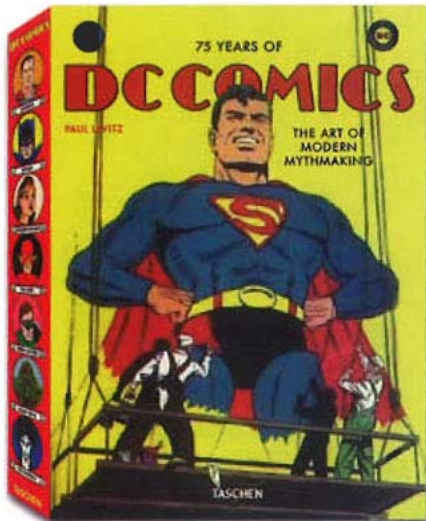
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON



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75 Years of DC Comics: The Art of Modern Mythmaking

BY PAUL LEVITZ



Excerpted from:
75 Years of DC Comics
The Art of Modern Mythmaking
650-page hardcover
Published by TASCHEN
Coming this Fall

From Batman and Wonder Woman to Watchmen and Sandman, the single most comprehensive book on DC Comics leaps off the page in an extra-large edition even Superman might have trouble lifting.

Celebrating DC's 75th anniversary, the book includes over 2,000 images, many of them never before published, massive fold-out timelines, and biographies of the artists, writers, editors, publishers, and actors who brought DC's characters to life.

Comic-Con special guest and longtime DC writer/editor/publisher **Paul Levitz** provided us with an exclusive preview of his introduction to the book along with some actual pages.

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INTRODUCTION

There are characters and there are characters.

The characters portrayed in DC Comics are among the best known fictional characters in the world, and their stories are best told by the wealth of visual imagery swirling through this book, as their images captured the popular imagination.

The characters who created DC Comics are far less well known, and their stories, and the evolution of DC itself, are best told in narrative history, providing a context to the extraordinary events they presided over.

It's impossible in a single volume to do full justice to the characters. There have been over a million pages of comics published by DC, thousands of hours of television and animation, and dozens of films, serials and cartoons made for the movie theaters . . . plus work in every other creative medium commercially viable in the last seven decades. For all the heft of what you're holding, it's only a tasting. You could fill a shelf with books written about Superman alone, from Alvin Schwartz's *An Unlikely Prophet*, recalling sitting in a taxicab, meeting the manifestation of the Man of Steel he wrote, to Tom De Haven's scholarly *Our Hero: Superman On Earth*. Or consider that Les Klinger's four volume annotation of Sandman examines just that one Vertigo series. The visuals selected here attempt to show some of the most amazing images, and to place

DC's history in the larger context of the culture that shaped the company.

It's impossible in a single volume to do full justice to the characters. There have been thousands of talented creative people contributing to DC, and bringing the characters to life in the many different media they've enlivened. Many of them led lives worthy of full biographies, and their work has been the subject of many monographs. They appear here too briefly, to introduce themselves and their most important moments in the pageant of DC's history.

No matter how familiar you are with DC, you will find pictures and moments that you don't know within these pages. And it's our hope that whether you first visited this world through a comic book's pages, a screen, or by putting on a Halloween costume, you'll find a connection to your history here, and an invitation to explore more.

Come, walk among the characters...and begin before the beginning...

PAUL LEVITZ is a comics fan who has worked as editor/publisher of *The Comic Reader*, edited many DC Comics titles, and written over 300 stories. He ended his 35-year stint with the company as president and publisher and returned to writing in 2010 with a new series of Legion of Super-Heroes stories and other projects.

