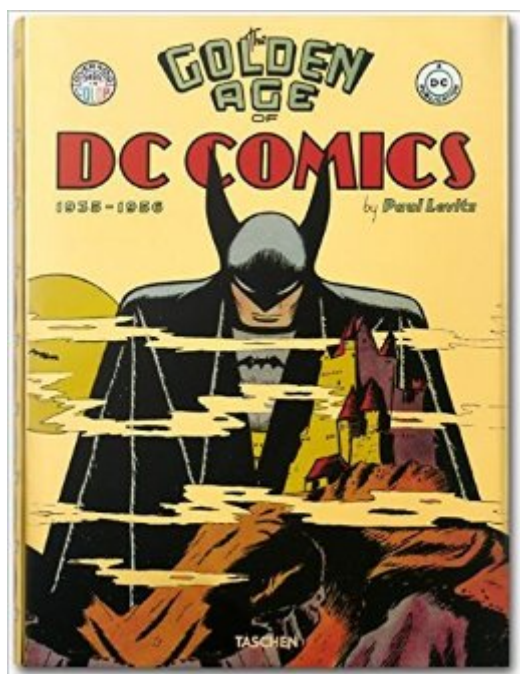


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# The Golden Age Of DC Comics



## Synopsis

This is how it all began: From the Man of Steel to Batman and Wonder Woman: the super hero is born. In June of 1938, Action Comics debuted with a new kind of comic book character on its cover: a costumed man with two identities, who possessed extraordinary strength and powers—a man able to protect the public when ordinary measures would not do. He was not the first super hero, but the Man of Steel would become the prototype for all super heroes thereafter.

Superman's story, and those of Batman, Wonder Woman, and hundreds of other DC Comics characters, are all told in The Golden Age of DC Comics. The single most comprehensive book on the subject, this volume traces the company's first decades, from its pulp origins up to the comic book burnings of the McCarthy 50s in more than 400 pages bursting with comics, art, comics, photographs, and more comics. Also included is an exclusive interview with legendary artist Joe Kubert! About the series: TASCHEN's series on DC Comics explores the origins of comics' most enduring legends and the behind-the-scenes stories of the men and women who created them, era by era. Expanded from the Eisner Award-winning XL book, 75 Years of DC Comics, this new series hits the shelf at a reader-friendly size with essays updated by author Paul Levitz and more than 1,000 new images across five volumes. Thousands of covers and interiors, original illustrations, photographs, film stills, and collectibles have been reproduced to bring the story lines, the characters, and their creators to vibrant life, making this an invaluable reference for comics fans.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First, a few words about the previous Paul Levitz book, "75 Years of DC Comics." Those of us who have purchased it know that it is a humongous book that you need a forklift to pick up. In its 12 x 16" size and almost 20 pounds, a solid coffee table was needed to support it. The book, as the title suggested, covered the entire history of DC Comics...and was very expensive. Now, Taschen Publishing has issued a smaller book based on the previous unwieldy book. As a matter of fact, they are releasing five separate volumes, each pulling material from the 75 Years book, and each highlighting a distinctive historical age in comic books. The first release is this one, devoted to - as the title suggests - The Golden Age of DC Comics, an era ending in 1955, when the Silver age was born. The first thing you will notice when you compare the 75 Years book to this more recent one is the 75 Years book looks like that muscular bully next to the skinny kid in those old Charles Atlas ads that ran in comics. That's not to say that the new book isn't a respectable size in its own right. It measures 9" x 12" and what intrigued me was the fact that it is listed as 400+ pages devoted to just the Golden Age of DC comics. The original 75 years book covered the origins and Golden age of DC in 239 pages... so, the thought of an additional 200 pages to a DC fan was sheer heaven. Prior to ordering this more recent book, I had read interviews that Levitz gave where he said the difference would be more illustrations than before. Like many of you, I wondered if it would be worth a double dip. I decided to take a chance and purchased it. I have just completed a side-by-side comparison that took several hours. I hope that the following review will help you decide.

Right after I ordered The Golden Age of DC Comics by Taschen I had a sudden fear. What if the book was nothing more than a reprinting of the Golden Age section from 75 Years of DC Comics: The Art Of Modern Mythmaking. Well, my fear was warranted and this indeed is the first section of a book I already own. Having said that I don't entirely regret buying this book. It does contain new material including an interview with Joe Kubert and many new images but everything written by Paul Levitz is kept unaltered as far as I can tell. As much as I love this book's much larger parent there is one big problem with 75 Years of DC Comics; it is simply unwieldy as reading material. You don't just pull 75 Years of DC Comics off a shelf and peruse it. You have to make plans to read it. Unless you have ever seen and held the book it is nearly impossible to get a sense of its size. In 2004 Taschen put out a biography on Mohamed Ali and the XXL version weighed in at a staggering 75 pounds. It was not meant to be read. Although 75 Years of DC Comics isn't nearly that large the effort it takes to pull it out of its protective case and somehow either rest it on the floor or, God help you, lay it across your legs, is not insignificant. Good luck trying to just hold it in your hands. Golden Age of DC Comics is the portable, readable version of 75 Years and that alone may make it worth

buying. 75 Years is like the collectable version to Golden Age's readable version. The Golden Age of DC Comics is not for everyone. Casual comic readers or non DC fans will likely be quickly bored. The only story in the book is the story of DC comics.

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