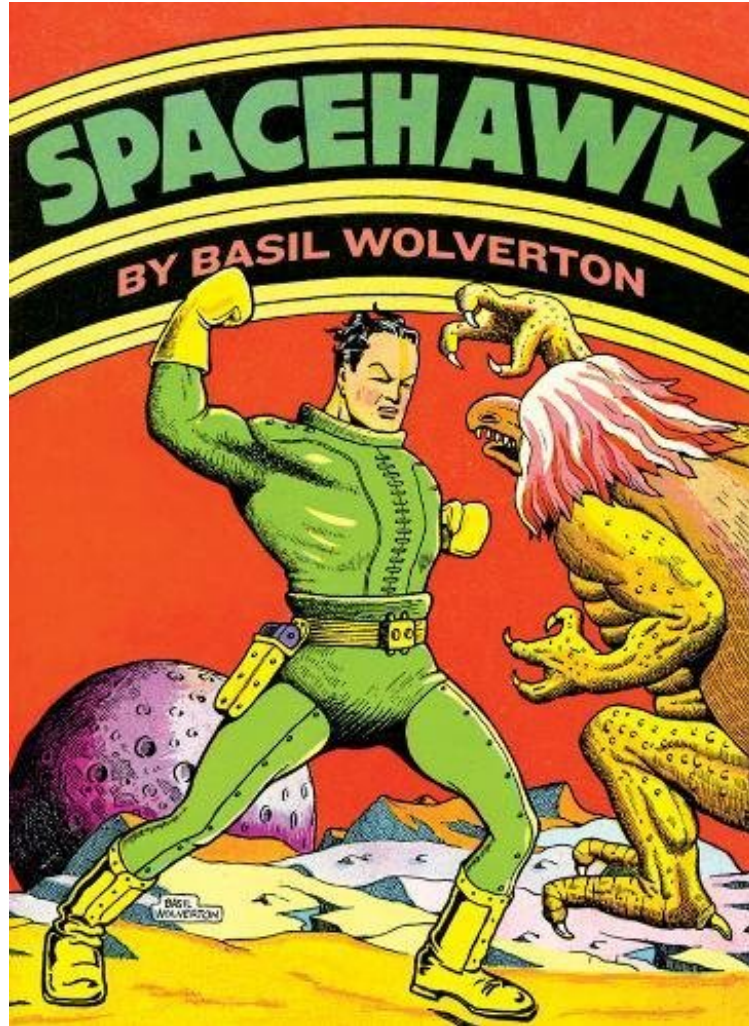


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Spacehawk

Basil Wolverton

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Basil Wolverton : Spacehawk before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Spacehawk:

26 of 26 people found the following review helpful. A Dream Come TrueBy Jim GrayI have waited a good 40 years to see this book! From the first articles on Basil Wolverton written by Bill Spicer, I've been dying to see the entire Spacehawk series made available. The issues of Target Comics have always been prohibitively expensive collectibles, so we've had to rely on anyone willing to reprint them.The earlier space-bound stories are wonderfully grim and existential, with a hero who shows no mercy to the wicked. It's amazing to see how sophisticated and creative these stories were, at a time when Superman was still merely leaping tall buildings, and most Golden Age heroes had not yet even been dreamed of. And even the earth-bound later stories are all wonderful to behold, in terms of Wolverton's art style.But until now, every attempt at a complete reprint has ended in failure.When Dark Horse was doing it, I wrote

them an impassioned letter complaining about them wasting valuable space on new Spacehawk stories (by current artists) that nobody needed or wanted in a Wolverton book, and the publisher wrote back and "assured" me that they would follow through with the entire series. I believe they made it to about 5 issues before giving up. So allow me to gush with praise at this fantastic volume by Fantagraphics! It's large-size, all in color, beautifully reproduced, and includes an intro by his son Monte Wolverton, who is also an artist. And it's every single Wolverton Spacehawk story (even the strange one about stealing tires during wartime rationing!) in sequence, plus the one Target cover and even a rough for an unused cover by Wolverton. A hardcover would be nice, but it would be churlish to complain about that, considering how long it took this to come out. If you're a Wolverton fan, this book is a dream come true. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Spacehawk is bad to the bone! By Trollbeard This big, sprawling, beautiful "Spacehawk" book from Fantagraphics is food fit for the gods! It contains the complete, 2-year epic run of Spacehawk (a sort of Superman/Flash Gordon clone). I was surprised to find the "Spacehawk" comics to be much more fun and exciting to read than the Superman, Batman and Captain America comics created around this same time. And, in my opinion, "Spacehawk" is better-drawn as well. Wolverton is quite the visual story-teller. The setting is planet Earth a year or so before WW2, and of course some of the bad guys are parodies of certain contemptible Axis characters. Needless to say, the stories are refreshingly politically incorrect, and also needless to say, Spacehawk has no issues with capital punishment. Hitler becomes Moosler and/or Nitwitler, and some of the themes of the pre-Dec. 7 1941 stories involve Spacehawk prophetically warning Moosler of disastrous consequences should Moosler succeed in bringing America into the war. All in all, this is one beautiful and fascinating book. Fantagraphics has performed a miracle in restoring Wolverton's artwork. The finely-drawn and detailed pen and ink work on these pages looks as clear as if they were drawn yesterday. And the large size of the book reveals every beautiful line and crosshatch in Wolverton's work. I only hope and pray that Fantagraphics' upcoming Wolverton "Creeping Death From Neptune" book is in this same large format, and not smaller as says in the book's description... I was initially disappointed because only one "Spacehawk" comic book cover appears in the book. My one gripe about Fantagraphics' "Blazing Combat" book was the lack of including full-size cover reprints. However, a quick check online seems to indicate that Spacehawk only appeared on the cover of this single issue of "Target" comics. If so, then Fantagraphics' "Spacehawk" book truly has all comics-and-covers bases covered. Well done, and thank you Fantagraphics! 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. One-of-a-kind Wolverton By Sean Burns There sure weren't many like Basil Wolverton working in mainstream comics, way back when or now. Self-taught, he developed a meticulously rendered style unlike anyone else. The "science" in his strips consisted of whatever he could dream up- anything and everything was possible. Logic was non-existent or thrown out the window: there were alien life forms that all thought and behaved just like humans, a superhero who could pretty much do anything, a hundred different species speaking the same language, all happening in a universe where you could be out walking in the forests of Saturn and bump into an old pal from the other side of the galaxy- twice. None of that matters if you let yourself get swept into his world- the clunky spaceships, beautiful women, dream-like flora and landscapes, but mostly the weirdest, most bizarre aliens ever imagined. "Spacehawk" is worth it for the first 9 stories alone, when he traveled throughout outer space, setting things right wherever he went. Once he was brought down to Earth to fight Nazis and bad guys (like so many other heroes of his day) something was lost. The art is still fine, but lacking those glorious interplanetary backgrounds and creatures it loses its greatest appeal. It's still nice to look at, but the villainy of Glak and Orak- reduced by Spacehawk to piles of bones by their own fiery gas- definitely has it over mere tire thieves and oil smugglers. The book is BEAUTIFUL. Big, beautifully reproduced and restored pages, nice heavy paper, saturated in vibrant color that complements Wolverton's feverish imagination perfectly. The cover is nice enough- I would have preferred they did the title without that red field separating it from the art- but considering the mediocre covers on some Fantagraphics books, this one is acceptable. The high-gloss varnish on the logo and the faces on the back cover are a nice touch that Fantagraphics has used to good advantage on prior books. This is a perfect prelude to Greg Sadowski's long-delayed (now set for April 2013) biography/volume of Wolverton's horror and sci-fi stories, from his first efforts in 1929 to his last "serious" comic book work in the mid-50's- when he created some of the most unique, intense, and disturbing stories in the genre. Take a flight with Basil Wolverton, and see worlds undreamed of.

The complete collection of Wolverton's legendary costumed crusader. Basil Wolverton is one of the greatest, most idiosyncratic talents in comic book history. Though he is best known for his humorous grotesqueries in MAD magazine, it is his science-fiction character Spacehawk that Wolverton fans have most often demanded be collected. The wait is over, as The Complete Spacehawk features every story from Spacehawk's intergalactic debut in 1940 to his final, Nazi-crushing adventure in 1942. Spacehawk is the closest thing to a colorfully-costumed, conventional action hero Wolverton ever created, yet the strip is infused with Wolverton's quintessential weirdness: controlled, organic artwork of strangely repulsive aliens and monsters and bizarre planets, and stories of gruesome retribution that bring to mind Wolverton's peer, Fletcher Hanks. Spacehawk had no secret identity, no fixed base of operations beyond his spaceship, and no sidekicks or love interests. He had but one mission in life: to protect the innocent throughout the Solar System, and to punish the guilty. He was a dark yet much more visually playful counterpart to Buck Rogers and

Flash Gordon. The Complete Spacehawk also includes the characters final and rarely-seen Earthbound adventures. As the U.S. became involved in World War II, Spacehawk returned to 20th Century America to join the United States efforts in defeating fascism, which he does by patrolling the Earths stratosphere, looking for wrongdoing. Full color throughout

From Booklist Although Wolverton is best known for his eccentric, zany humor comics, early in his career, he wrote and drew some 30 stories featuring the deadly serious Spacehawk, a no-nonsense dispenser of intergalactic justice. Debuting in 1940, the science-fiction hero battled Martian space pirates, mercenaries from Mercury, and other grotesque aliens, occasionally finding the time to romance the queen of Neptune. But by 1942, in his final adventures, Spacehawk had turned, as had many of his superhero brethren, to fighting Nazis and Japs back on Earth. The harsh treatment Spacehawk metes out to evildoers and Wolvertons blunt, blocky graphic style are reminiscent of the naive, loopy approach of his contemporary, Fletcher Hanks if Hanks had known what he was doing. Spacehawks stories may be absurd concoctions of primitive space opera and already-established tropes of the nascent superhero genre, but Wolvertons solid, elemental drawings already evincing his distinctive use of stippling combined with his intuitive design sense have a raw power that is rare among comic books of the era and impresses even today. --Gordon Flagg

About the Author Basil Wolverton was born near Medford, Oregon in 1909 and died in 1978. His Fantagraphics-published books include Basil Wolverton's Culture Corner and The Wolverton Bible, and his work is featured in Supermen!: The First Wave of Comic Book Heroes 1936-1941. Monte Wolverton is a syndicated editorial cartoonist (whose style is reminiscent of his father's) and managing editor of Plain Truth magazine where many of the illustrations in The Wolverton Bible originally appeared.