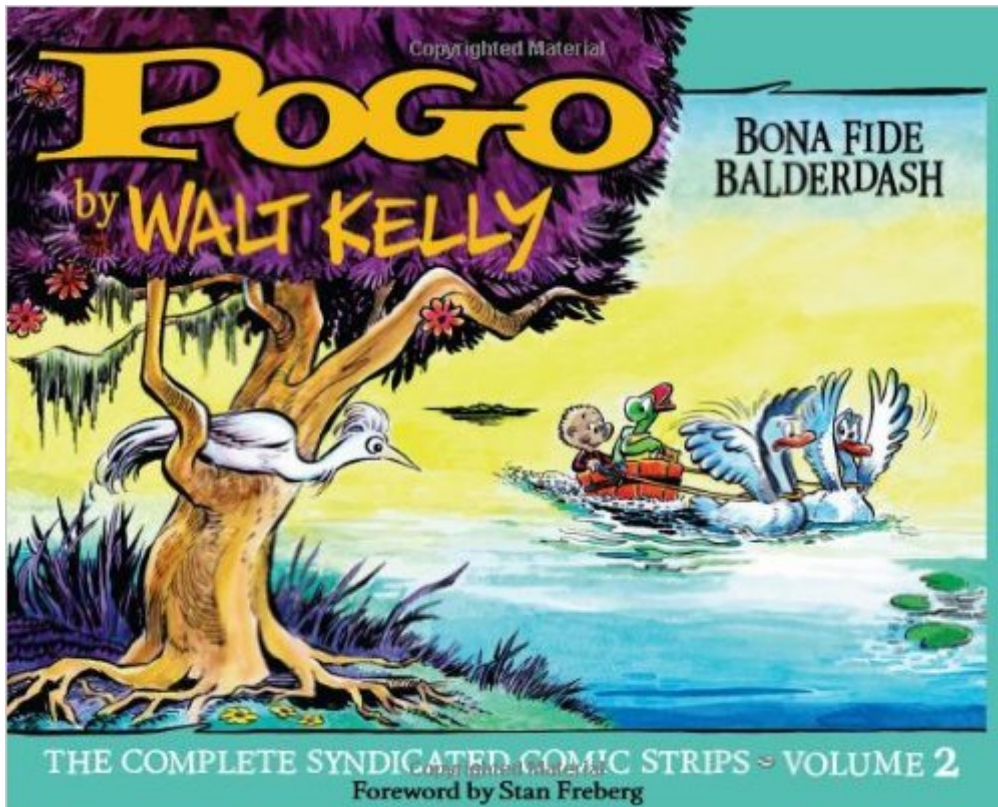


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Pogo: Bona Fide Balderdash (Vol. 2) (Walt Kelly's Pogo)



Synopsis

This volume collects the years 1951-1952 dailies of the popular comic strip, with extras such as an introduction by Stan Freberg. In November of 2011, Fantagraphics released the first volume of its much-anticipated, long-promised series reprinting in its entirety the syndicated run of Walt Kelly's classic newspaper strip, Pogo. Pogo: Through the Wild Blue Wonder immediately became the company's best-selling book of the last five years. Exactly one year later, the second volume, Pogo: Bona Fide Balderdash, will be released, featuring all the strips from 1951 and 1952. With sources found for the more elusive strips (in the past, our scheduling downfall), we're confident that these collections will become an annual affair. Even though Pogo had been in syndication for less than two years as this volume begins, Kelly's long professional experience (including seven years creating Pogo stories for comic books) had him at the peak of his powers, and this book features page after page of gorgeously drawn, hilarious vaudevillian dialogue and action among the swamp denizens, as well as Kelly's increasingly sharp-tongued political satire — especially on display during the 1952 election season. Kelly was famous for his prolific creation of recurring characters, and by the end of this second volume, the count will already have topped over one hundred. New arrivals include Tammanany the Tiger, the voluble P.T. Bridgeport, the sinister Sarcophagus MacAbre (with his funereal speech balloons), Uncle Antler the bull moose... and Bewitched, Bothered, and Bemildred, the adorable trio of bats. The two years of daily strips in this volume have been collected before but in now long-out-of-print books; and even there they were not as meticulously restored and reproduced as in this new series. Bona Fide Balderdash also reprints, literally for the first time ever in full color, the two full years of Sunday pages, also carefully restored and color-corrected, shot from the finest copies available. This second volume is once again edited and designed by the cartoonist's daughter, Carolyn Kelly, who is also handling much of the restoration work. It includes a new introduction by the legendary author, recording artist, and satirist Stan Freberg, who was not only a friend of Kelly's but the voice of Albert the Alligator in the I Go Pogo: Pogo for President movie. There will also be more extensive annotations by comic strip historian and expert R.C. Harvey, as well as additional historical information from writer Mark Evanier. 344

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There must be thousands of us who have hung on to the Simon & Schuster "Pogo" reprints from the 1950s -- reading and re-reading them until the bindings gave out. Now comes Fantagraphics Books' fabulous projected 12-volume reprinting of the entire "Pogo" oeuvre, and for dedicated Pogophiles it's a dream come true. Volume One, "Through the Wild Blue Yonder," took the strip from its pre-syndication days through 1950, and is instructive in showing how Walt Kelly developed the characters; apparently identical scenes from the New York Star and from the syndicated strip show subtle alterations as his cartooning style matured. Volume Two, "Bona Fide Balderdash," shows Kelly fully in command of his medium. Among the highlights this time around: The introduction of P. T. Bridgeport; Wiley Catt and Sarcophagus Macabre's plot to dine on Churchy LaFemme; Bun Rabbit's attempt to celebrate every holiday; Pogo runs for President, sort of (launching the "I Go Pogo" movement); and various critters disguise themselves as characters from "Little Orphan Annie" (or, as is suggested by Beauregard, "Li'l Arf an' Nonny"). For those of us who have had to make do with the S&S reprints of yore, the Fantagraphics series is a particular delight, as it reproduces many strips left out of the paperbacks. This is the whole thing, in order. Nothing could be more satisfying. Annotations draw the reader's attention to details not apparent to the casual fan. For example, Kelly's fight with the Post-Hall Syndicate about exactly who owned the copyright led him to sign the strip for a while with pseudonyms such as "Motley Crewcut" and "Parsley Shawl." Once the dispute was settled (in Kelly's favor), the authentic name reappeared, as the proud "Copr. 1952 Walt Kelly.

Buy it. Buy many. Buy the first one. Buy the next one. Give them as gifts, leave them in taxis, donate them to schools, pass them out on the streets, change your kid's name to Grundoon, befriend a

cigar-smoking alligator, leave your estate to the Walt Kelly Is A God And Deserves Himself A Nice Church Foundation, no trifle is too small, no global Pogo Day celebration too big. Those aren't five little stars. Those are five massive, searing orbs of space fire, billions of fathoms wide. So pay attention. History keeps trying to remind us what happens when we try to get along without her. Making sure every budding American has read Pogo will make her job a bit easier. Why? You're on a computer, aren't you? G**gle it! A deft and nuanced satirical take on American culture and politics from the days when a computer was some math dork with a slide rule, Pogo was the Doonesbury of its day, and these books are actually a magnificent history lesson. There's no tits, not much cussing, and the whole world seemed to have a sort of Mayberry rhythm to it (again, look it up), so it isn't trying to compete with androgynous angsty robot vampires turning into pickup trucks and blowing up New Jersey. It is a chance to reconnect with the middle America that actually did exist, in a way, back then, by reading what they read back when reading was about all there was to do if you didn't have the 15 cents for a double bill plus cartoon and newsreel movie ticket. This may look like a bunch of cartoons about talking animals in a swamp, but so does the Washington Post, and people take that seriously, don't they?

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