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Golden age comics master captured at creative peak in *Adventures of Robin Hood* collection

Lost Art Books collects Ray Willner's 1956 collaboration with Reed Crandall for first time

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND—Picture This Press, an award-winning publishing house devoted to the graphic arts, takes aim at an unsung hero of golden age comics, **Ray Willner**. As part of the ongoing Lost Art Books imprint, *The Lost Art of Ray Willner: The Adventures of Robin Hood* represents the seventh collection of never-before-reprinted graphic works to be released by the publisher.

Republished for the first time since their original issuance in 1956, all 14 stories collected in this little-seen collaboration between Willner and EC Comics alum **Reed Crandall** are collected in *The Lost Art of Ray Willner*. With assistance from the artist's family, Joseph Procopio produces new scholarship that traces the contours of Willner's long creative life and contextualizes a comics career that stretches back to the medium's origins. In addition, a 24-page bonus gallery provides readers opportunities to compare some of Willner's original art with the final published pages as well as a sampling of his masterful pencil studies rendered in retirement.

Ray Willner was a casualty of the culture wars. With a comics career dating to 1939, Willner produced impressive work for publishers small and large throughout the 1940s. By 1949 he landed one of the only steady gigs in his career for an unusual publisher: The Brown Shoe Company. While working initially on their *Buster Brown Comic Book*—a giveaway created to drum up business in stores selling Brown's footwear for kids—Willner found a simpatico spirit in fellow artist Reed Crandall. Although their collaboration on the Brown Shoe Co.'s series *The Adventures of Robin Hood* lasted less than a year—cancelled in the wake of the scaremongering backlash against comics in the 1950s—the seven issues produced by Willner with Crandall represent a seldom seen high-water mark in comics art. They were the last comics Willner would ever draw.

The Lost Art of Ray Willner: The Adventures of Robin Hood is available now directly from the publisher (www.LostArtBooks.com) and other online retailers.

Details

The Lost Art of Ray Willner: The Adventures of Robin Hood

212 pages • 8 ½ x 11" • full color • paperback and hardcover editions

ISBNs: 978-0-9906932-1-5 (hardcover), 978-0-9906932-0-8 (paperback)

About

Picture This Press is an award-winning publisher dedicated to broadening the appreciation and awareness of artists who work in the fields of illustration, cartooning, graphic arts, photography, and poster design. Picture This Press founder Joseph Procopio and co-publisher Ellen Levy have a combined 35 years of publishing experience as writers, managing editors, and publications directors for a variety of organizations.

Lost Art Books, the flagship series from Picture This Press, collects and preserves the works of illustrators and cartoonists from the first half of the 20th century. Too many of these artists have gone underappreciated for too long, with much of their work uncollected or unexamined for decades, if at all. The Lost Art Books series aims to preserve this cultural heritage by re-introducing these artists to new generations of working artists, historians, and admirers of things beautiful.

Links

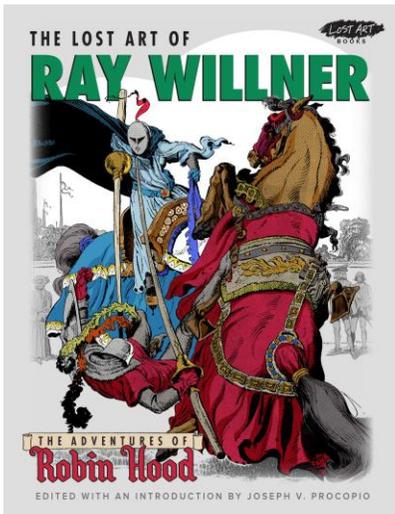
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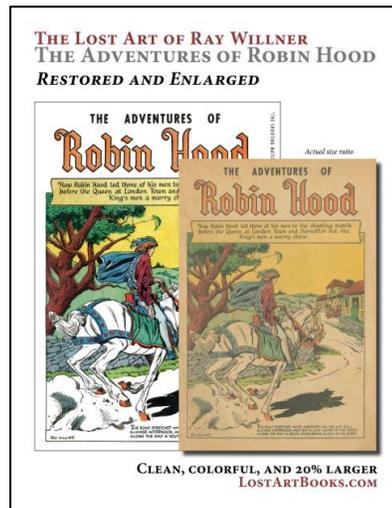
Facebook group: <http://tiny.cc/nzzfnx>

Interview with the publisher in the *Washington City Paper*: <http://tiny.cc/owzfnx>

Images (for hi-res files, see attachments to original email or contact the publisher at joseph.procopio@lostartbooks.com)



*The Lost Art of Ray Willner:
The Adventures of Robin Hood*



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