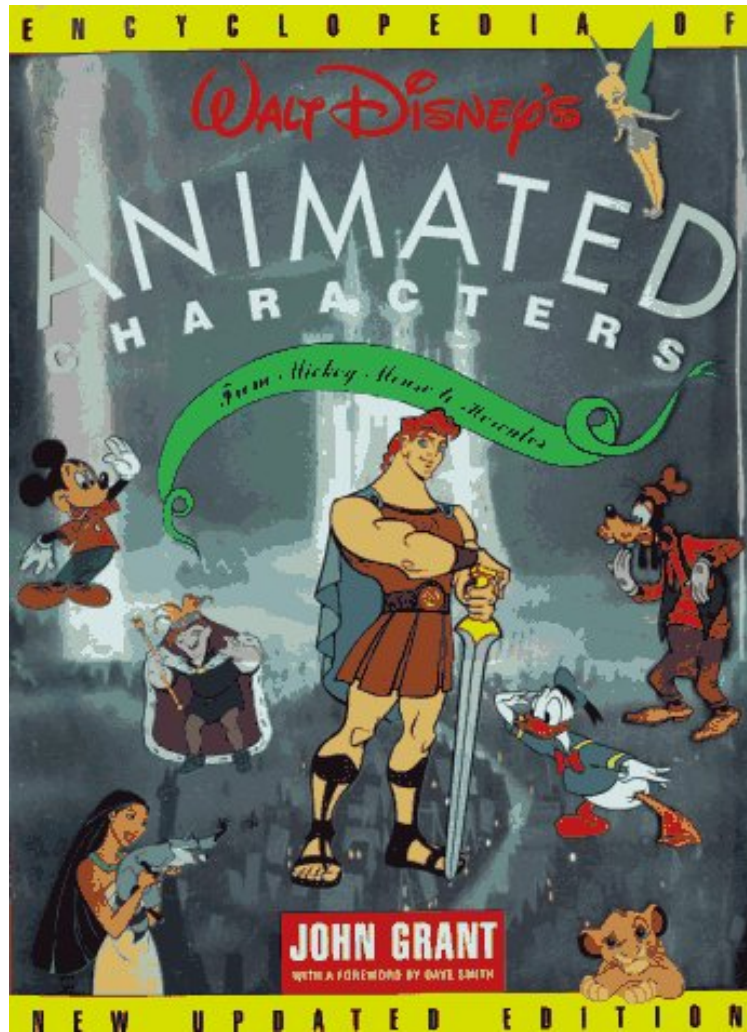


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Encyclopedia of Walt Disney's Animated Characters: From Mickey Mouse to Hercules

John Grant

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John Grant : Encyclopedia of Walt Disney's Animated Characters: From Mickey Mouse to Hercules before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia of Walt Disney's Animated Characters: From Mickey Mouse to Hercules:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Most Comprehensive Guide To The Disney CharactersBy VOne hallmark of Disney animation is its array of unforgettable characters. There have been so many of them over the years and more join the Disney family every year. In fact, some characters aren't even mentioned by name in the films that they appear in (i.e. Fantasia and incidental characters that appear in various cartoon shorts). This book is a valuable

resource in cataloging all the characters from the short films and feature films going as far as identifying the names of the incidental characters. The downsides are that some black and white stills from color films are used for some entries. This could be because some of the films (mostly short subjects and lesser known titles) weren't as accessible at the time of publication as they are today. The organization of the text can make it difficult in locating some names, but they are bold faced. Individual entries would have been better. The writing isn't the best, but does offer some good descriptions of each character. There are also a few errors in throughout that suggest that the author didn't watch many of the films. Overall, this still is the best guide to the Disney characters that is out there and there seriously needs to be an updated edition to this book. It's been 18 years since the last. 18 of 19 people found the following review helpful. New edition of the single most useful Disney reference book By S. C. Mitchell John Grant's "Encyclopedia of Walt Disney's Animated Characters" is, beyond doubt, the single most useful reference volume about Disney's animated films ever printed. The original edition, published in 1983, was phenomenally complete -- it seems Grant *saw* every Disney animation ever made, and listed them in two sections: "The Shorts" and "The Features." It was up-to-date for its time; the "Features" section ended at "The Great Mouse Detective," and information on what were then Disney's only animated TV series, "The Wuzzles" and "Gummi Bears," was included in the "Shorts" material. The first revision, published in 1993, brought the "Features" section up to date as of the summer of 1992, including a short entry on "Aladdin," still in production when the book went to press. It also added a third section on Disney's animated TV series. Unfortunately, the new material showed signs of having been hastily assembled. The television section included more promotional art than still frames; information was duplicated between the "Shorts" and "TV" pages; and there were a few noticeable inaccuracies (most egregious of all, a picture of the malignant asylum keeper from "Beauty and the Beast" was inexplicably captioned, "The old witch whose curse condemns the vain Prince to become the Beast"). First Net-rumors of a new revision were heard in the summer of 1997. The new edition was finally officially announced, with a release date of "November 1997." Now, nearly six months later, the third edition is available. The errors have been rectified, and don't seem to have been replaced by new ones. The TV section has been updated to cover, albeit briefly, the entire "Disney Afternoon" syndication lineup, as well as Saturday-morning shows. The "Features" section now fills two-thirds of the book's 460 pages. This is a large, thick, heavy volume. It is massively indexed, and gorgeously illustrated with still frames -- literally hundreds of them, most in color. And best of all, it's great fun to read. The section on "The Shorts" includes not only such classic characters as Mickey, Goofy, and Donald, but the nameless "lithe young male sapling" and "Garbo-esque lady sycamore" from the first Technicolor cartoon, "Flowers and Trees"; specific names for the Three Little Pigs; and sympathetic comments on Horace Horsecollar and Clarabelle Cow, co-workers of Mickey's from the early 1930s, who remained "perennial extras" as later characters soared to stardom. The huge section on "The Features," includes every animated Disney feature from "Snow White" to "Hercules," with plot outlines, character lists, voice casts, complete credits, and even release dates. What were the names of the ballet dancers in the "Dance of the Hours" segment of "Fantasia"? (Mlle. Upanova, Hyacinth Hippo, Elephanchine, and Ben Ali Gator.) Who was Namontack? (The Native American shot and wounded by Governor Ratcliffe in "Pocahontas.") What were the names of the elephants who ostracized Dumbo? (Prissy, Matriarch, Giggles, and Catty.) How about Cinderella's stepmother and stepsisters? (Lady Tremaine and her daughters, Anastasia and Drizella.) How many Dalmatian-spots appear in the animated "101 Dalmatians"? (6,469,952.) For the true Disney fan, this book is absolutely indispensable. I recommend it with no reservations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Richard Bonfiglio Needed this book for my Disney animated DVD collection.

From Mickey Mouse to Timon, Roger Rabbit to Hades, and Aladdin to Sebastian--the famous, the infamous, and the obscure--every character of the Disney honor roll is present and accounted for in this comprehensive volume that every true Disney fan and animation enthusiast will treasure.

From Library Journal Ten years after the first edition and six years since the second, Grant has again updated his mammoth illustrated guide to beloved Disney creations. Where the previous revision brought a new section on TV characters, the only substantial changes this time pertain to new Disney productions of the last few years. The ratio of information per page is high, particularly in the feature-film section where credits are followed by a history of the production and the critical and popular response, a plot synopsis, and analysis of all significant characters. The organization of the short-films section (which includes no new entries since 1992) is more idiosyncratic, though the writing is still a delight and not without occasional criticism of the company. The TV section is, however, not up to par, even if it has doubled in size this time to 20 pages. The real disappointment is the flat, even muddy quality of the illustrations that are lavishly spread throughout the text. A peerless reference work for those countless film fans and figurine collectors, this is still an imperfect coffee-table companion. Because there is relatively little new material, libraries with a second edition in good condition could probably wait for the inevitable fourth. A Eric Bryant, "Library Journal" Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.