

[Free pdf] Oh Skin-Nay!: The Days of Real Sport

## Oh Skin-Nay!: The Days of Real Sport

*Wilbur D. Nesbit*

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**Wilbur D. Nesbit : Oh Skin-Nay!: The Days of Real Sport** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oh Skin-Nay!: The Days of Real Sport:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cartoons from a golden age of boyhoodBy Orange NewtDrawn Quarterly's edition of OH, SKIN-NAY! is a 'facsimile reprint' of the original 1913 publication. It's a substantial, quality production -- cloth spine, illustrated board cover, heavy paper stock, in a 9" x 13" size."The Days of Real Sport" -- the cartoon's actual title -- is a large single panel, with often a lot happening in both foreground and background. It was a nostalgia piece even when these cartoons first appeared in 1911-1913, harking back to Briggs' growing-up years in the last quarter of the 1800's. In the times depicted here, iPods, video games, and cell phones were more than a hundred years in the future - and boys in small towns appear to have had a lot more fun things to do than they do today.It's not a complete collection of "Real Sport", but a selection of cartoons (61 by my count) from the first three years of its run. The book follows the course of a year, starting with New Years' morning and ending with Christmas and covering the seasons and seasonal pastimes in between -- cold mornings, April Fool's, summer sports, back to school, hickory-nuttin' time, Halloween, the first frozen-for-sliding sidewalks, and lots more.Each cartoon is accompanied by a short verse, by Wilbur Nesbit, on the facing page. The author of the book's afterword thinks the verses were unnecessary, but I found them both entertaining and occasionally helpful in understanding what's going on in the cartoons. In one, for example, a suddenly-popular boy is surrounded by eager new friends because he's carrying a new football -- but until I read the verse, I thought it was a watermelon! Footballs were shaped differently back then...At the end of the book there's a new, 8-page afterword/article by Jeet Heer. I would have liked to learn how long "Real Sport" ran, and also its frequency -- I assume weekly, it's hard to imagine Briggs drawing one of these more often -- but Heer doesn't say. Instead he provides an overview of Briggs' life and career. In the early years of the 20th century, newspapers and the cartoonist's profession were viewed differently from today, and Briggs was successful enough to attain a rock star/movie star level of celebrity (which brought some strain on his health and personal life). It's interesting, but -- the publisher, maybe in an overzealous attempt to distinguish the afterword from the book's

original content, has printed the afterword on red-tinted paper; and small type and red paper are a really poor combination for legibility. When you try to read Heer's article, hold the book close up to a bright light, is my best recommendation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great cartoon nostalgia By Jeff Kelleher This is a replica of a once-famous but long-forgotten cartoon anthology first published in 1913. At the time, it was already a piece of nostalgia, celebrating the artist's (Clare Briggs's) 1880s childhood. I read and re-read it as a child in the 1950s. It was like having a great grandfather who was a captivating storyteller. The setting is a rural midwestern town. Each cartoon has a dozen or more characters, hitching a ride on the runners of a sleigh, running through the water plug's stream, skinny-dipping at the reservoir, cadging ice off the ice truck in summer, playing post office, hanging out on Saturday night (and pulling the wooden tub out of the closet for the weekly bath), and mocking a poor kid's first long pants. A precursor of "Peanuts" in its profundity, but even richer and more flavorful. Delightful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great early cartooning By Featherwood Kid, Gordon One has to appreciate the skill that went into such early cartoons. Many appear to be dated by today's standards, but to see how the average, or lower middle classes lived at the beginning of the 20th century, there is no better way to get quickly acquainted than with cartoons. J.R. Williams was another cartoonist who has left us with memories of the twenties and thirties, and how people coped with a different sort of life than we now have.

Poetry Verses by Wilbur D. Nesbit Afterword by Comics Historian Jeet Heer A grittier and less sentimental predecessor to Norman Rockwell, Clare Briggs exemplified the larger journey of American society from small-town innocence to urbane sophistication. The son of a farm machinery salesman, Briggs left his rural home as a young man to forge a career as an illustrator and cartoonist, earning success in such big-city papers as *The Chicago Examiner*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *New York Tribune*. Within a few years, he became one of the most popular and imitated cartoonists in America: Frank King, Milton Caniff, and the first generation of *New Yorker* cartoonists all emulated Briggs. Eschewing the roughneck humor of early comic strips, Briggs drew low-key strips in two modes: nostalgic reveries focused on memories of small-town boyhood and satirical strips about the squabbles inherent in married life. First published in 1913 by P. F. Volland and Company of Chicago, *Oh Skin-Nay!* is a collaboration between Briggs and poet Wilbur D. Nesbit and portrays a year in the life of small-town America through the eyes of the twelve-year-old boywood gathering, sleigh rides, games of post office, swimming holes, and sandlot ball games. This book is presented as a facsimile edition of double-page spreads containing short poems and full-page cartoons as well as an expanded afterword on Briggs by comics historian Jeet Heer.

From Publishers Weekly Briggs is a masterful, if mostly forgotten, early 20th century cartoonist who is related to the Midwestern sentimentality of, say, *Gasoline Alley's* Frank King and the great illustrator Norman Rockwell. His work was nostalgic even for his contemporary audience, and his beautiful, quavering line always delineated an optimistic, fun and happy America. This book, a facsimile edition of a 1913 collaborative volume with the poet Wilbur D. Nesbit, captures life in small town America as viewed by a 12-year-old boy. Big, full page drawings sit across the pages from elegant verse, all in service to the idea of an ideal, eternal summer of the mind. Jeet Heer provides an informative essay, describing Briggs' life and times, and, as ever, the book itself is an exquisite object. Most of all, it serves as a reminder of a lighter time; those frustrated with the current American moment will find this a pleasant diversion. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Born in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, in 1875, Clare Briggs died of pneumonia in 1930, after struggling with a nervous disorder that was destroying his optic nerve and ability to draw. About the Author Born in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, in 1875, Clare Briggs died of pneumonia in 1930, after struggling with a nervous disorder that was destroying his optic nerve and ability to draw.