

## Pogo Volume 11

Walt Kelly

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**Walt Kelly : Pogo Volume 11** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pogo Volume 11:

30 of 30 people found the following review helpful. A must for die-hard fansBy David A. BeamerThis review is for all the volumes in this series of reprints being created by Fantagraphics of all of the Pogo daily strips, starting right from the beginning. (As of this 9/2001 writing, they're up to vol. 11, but they're coming out wayyyy toooooo slooowwwwwly for my taste.)R.C. Harvey has set out to chronicle the entire Pogo oeuvre, and do so in a semi-academic fashion. One of the highlights (or eminently skippable, depending on your view) of all these books is the long intro by Harvey in each volume, wherein he gives some needed historical reference points (esp. in these early-50s books), for example, the pointed humiliation Kelly gives to McCarthyism (which is scattered thru vols. 6 to 9). It is in the the 1951-to-1953 period where Kelly really finds his voice in political lampooning. (One of the nice features of the intros is an ongoing compilation of the Complete Cast of Characters in the Swamp -- by vol. 11, the count is up to 142.)That is not to say this and the others are merely political cartoons. The bulk of the action is sheer joyous nonsense, repleat with cockamamie money-making schemes, confused identities, and just plain absurd nonsense. Kelly's touch with the English language was second to none (at least on the comics page), and his lush artwork puts almost all other comics to shame. His work started to take on a political tone in 1951, and he revisited the topic whenever the politics of the age got a little too silly. (Some of his best work in this arena is for the 1968 election, captured in "Equal Time for Pogo".)As far as quality comic-strips of the 20th century goes, Kelly's Pogo has only 3 serious competitors: George Herman's "Krazy Kat", Trudeau's "Doonesbury", and the all-too-short run of "Calvin and Hobbes" by Bill Watterson. (And Watterson makes it clear that his two main artistic influences were Krazy Kat and Pogo.)Now, if they could just Get On With It and publish the rest of the work (the first 11 volumes have gone from his start in 1948-1949 up to early 1954, and Kelly published until his death in 1974, so that means that they've got about another 50 volumes to go -- each one contains about 5 months of dailies), and then also do a compilation of the

Sunday comics, us Pogo nuts would be all set to laugh our fool heads off well into our doddering years...btw, you can try to build your own Pogo collection by getting all the books published during Kelly's lifetime -- however, they are almost all out of print, and it would cost you a fortune...1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nostalgia and NotBy David M. GilbertI first "read" Pogo back in the 1950's - I was in elementary school, and I loved comics. I completely missed all the political satire, and just enjoyed the characters and their back-and-forth sass, though I found the misspellings challenging. Fast forward to the present - I ran across a reference to Pogo in some article, and thought, "I wonder if that's still in print." Fortunately, it was, and now I've been enjoying the political references - the introduction does an excellent job at orienting those of us who were too young at the time to focus on the political machinations. Surprise! Not much has changed in politics - or human interactions - in more than half a century. Read and heed - or just read and enjoy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Polgo Vol. 1By Norma HayesThere are not enough good things to be said about Walt Kelly and his creation "Pogo". The characters are cleverly drawn and there's always some little critter doing something amusing or looking on in a corner that adds to the amusement of the reader. The sometimes underlying political barbs are more than relevant today. Example: Pogo and friend encounter an area covered with litter to which Pogo comments: "We have met the enemy and he is us." In this day of smog, oil spills, chemical river contaminations, atomic energy facilities flooded, etc. who can say anything more to the point. Kelly's wit, detailed art, clever character creations and their doings more than deserve being published again in book form.

Collection from esteemed cartoonist Walt Kelly.