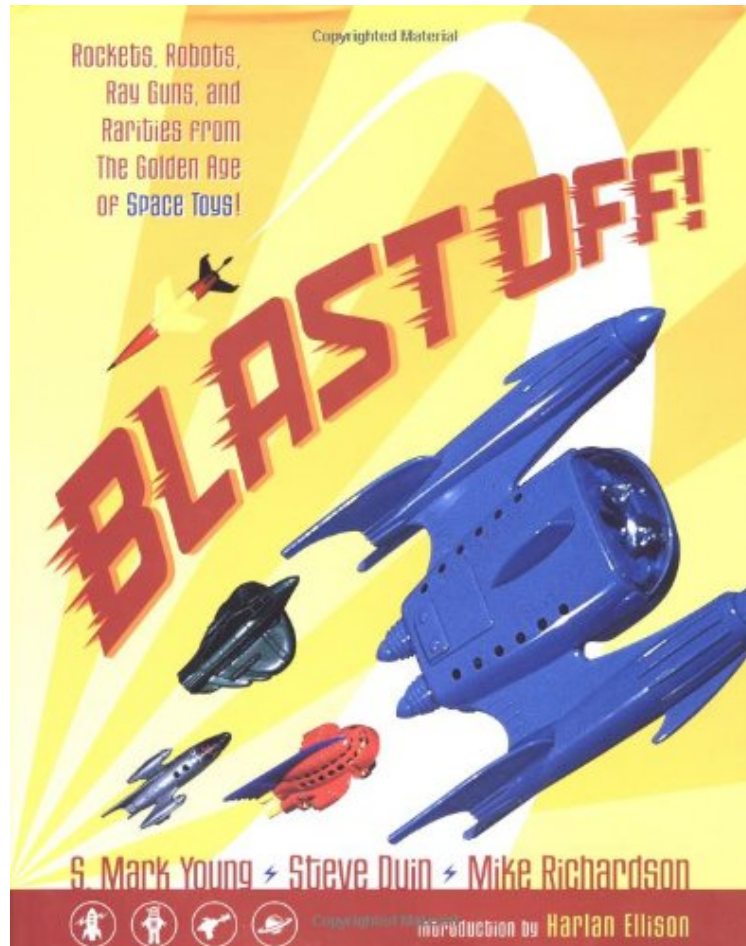


[Read now] Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns, and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys

Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns, and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys

S. Mark Young, Steve Duin, Mike Richardson, Harlan Ellison
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#2045793 in Books Dark Horse Books 2001-11-07 2001-10-09Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 .85 x 8.86 x 11.30l, 2.69 #File Name: 1569715769256 pages | File size: 67.Mb

S. Mark Young, Steve Duin, Mike Richardson, Harlan Ellison : Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns, and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns, and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys:

16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. This Book Has it AllBy Gord WilsonBlast Off! does what other collector's books only pretend to do. Collector books usually center around value guides, and pass themselves off as glorified shopping lists for toy shows and antique malls. Other books forego any knowledge of the subject whatsoever, and go with photographic essays of the nostalgia craze. A third sort of book tells long stories about growing up in some bygone era. All three sorts of books have, understandably a small readership and limited popular appeal.The authors of Blast Off!, on the other hand, did the hard work of writing a real book, somehow combining it with the best photos and graphics I've seen in a collector's book, and sprinkling in enough anecdotes and oral histories to keep it

interesting. This book is a major effort from an accomplished team: a knowledgeable collector, a lively writer, and an avid fan and history buff--the last being Mike Richardson, publisher of Dark Horse comics and owner of the Things from Another World sci-fi comic shops. Blast Off! launches itself as an overview/ intro to the golden age of space toys, but its appeal is really wider than that. This is a book collectors will want, not simply to locate market values for haggling at the junk shop, but to remind them what they like about their hobby. Beautiful and imaginative graphics evoke the promise and wonder of the space age, but the book is so lively and informative I had to read it twice: once to read the captions and look at the pictures, and again just enjoying the text. It's impossible to overstate how great this book is. The photographs are incredibly clear and bright, and the subject matter is drawn from endlessly rich collections. Books like this tend to fall through the cracks--not really appealing to the general reader, and yet not in-depth enough for the collector. But a reader from the first category who casually glances at this book may find a new interest, and seasoned collectors may find rarities they didn't know existed. Every era has volumes that define it; for the space age, that would be Blast Off!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Blast Off the Definitive Study of Space Toys By Eugene W. Metcalf

Over the years there have been many books written about space toys. From Leland and Crystal Payton's Space Toys: A Collectors' Guide, 1982, to the sections on space toys in Stuart Schneider's now classic 1993 book Collecting the Space Race, to the recent UFO Alien Collectibles Price Guide published last year by Dana Cain, numerous publications have presented space toys of one kind or another. Yet despite the substantial interest in the topic, the definitive study remained to be written - until now. For some of the best writings on space toys, like the Payton's book, are now painfully outdated; others, like Cain's, suffer from slipshod research and shoddy organization; and many, like the recent Space Toys of the 60s: An Illustrated Collector's Guide by James Gilliam are too tightly focused on a particular toy type to offer a survey of the field as a whole. Blast Off changes all that. It is a book that sets a new standard for the study of space toys and for toys in general. Many things make this book a pacesetter. To begin with, it is fastidiously accurate. Years in the making, it is the result of painstaking original research about the toys and toymakers who created the most popular space toys. From Archer to Johillco to the origins of Japanese tin robots, each manufacturer and their toys are presented in detail. In addition, the book covers virtually all the categories of space toys including: rayguns, tin robots, playsets, comic books, pulp magazines, original advertising, space figures, space helmets and clothes, games, card sets, and many more. Yet it is not only toys that are exhaustively studied in this volume, the book also presents extensive information on all of the major Golden Age space heroes like Buck Rogers, Flash Gordon, Dan Dare, Tom Corbett, Captain Video, and the Space Patrol television show. And that's only the beginning. Blast Off contains extensive interviews with many prominent collectors and authorities in the field as well as hundreds of incredible color photographs, patent drawings and advertisements, many of which have never been illustrated in any other volume. Wrap all this up into a book that is beautifully designed and visually stunning, and there you have it - the definitive study. If, perchance the thought, you could only have one book on space toys, Blast Off should be it. I was especially interested in the newly unearthed information about the ties between English and American space toys, the story of the recent Griffith Robot Collection Auction at Sotheby's in December of 2000, and the interviews with collectors and authorities like Robert Lesser and Bob Burns. This is a remarkable, and a breakthrough, book. I loved it, and I hope it sets a model for books about toys in the future.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Blast off a fantasy come true By A Customer

BLAST OFF is not only a beautiful book to behold it is researched by and with the help of fans who love the space toys of the 30's, 40's and 50's. The team at Dark Horse has given space toy fans a bookmark in the history of childhood toys. BLAST OFF includes photos and information on toys inspired from the space heroes of Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon to the Space Opera heroes of Space Patrol, Tom Corbett, Rocky Jones and other role models of the 1950's. There are chapters on the English toys and the robots from Japan along with well-researched sections and chapters on the makers of the space toys of our childhood, Archer, Marx and Pyro. Many of the toys displayed in this book are rare and hard to find items that have not been seen before now. However, the backbone of the book is the interviews with collectors and fans of space toys. Why we remember and kept these playthings of our childhood is as interesting as the fantastic photos and ads that are generously spread throughout the book. I found that I would move back and forth between chapters, reading about the toys that I remembered but had not seen in many years. It brought back many good memories along with information and research that should be saved and shared with future generations. A must have book for any science fiction or space toy collector. Thank you Dark Horse Books and the creative team of Mark, Steve and Mike for bringing us this fantastic slice of childhood back to life. I hope BLAST OFF stays in print for many years to come as a reference point in the history of not just toys but SPACE TOYS!!!!

Back in print in a softcover edition, Blast Off! chronicles the golden era of space toys, featuring hundreds of color photos of these beautiful and sometimes bizarre playthings, plus prototypes, original packaging and instructions, catalogs, advertisements, vintage comic-strip and pulp-magazine art, and more from every corner of the globe. An essential resource for the collector or anyone with an eye for pop culture and the love of fun! Introduction by Harlan Ellison.

From the PublisherMark Young has been collecting Golden Age space toys and researching their origins and societal impact for many years. He is particularly interested in how space toys and science fiction have influenced popular culture and actual scientific progress in space. Mark holds a joint appointment as the KPMG Foundation Professor of Accounting and as Professor of Management at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.