An anonymous setting for the adventure. Abstract space in the origins of the Italian western comic book (1935-1965)

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Abstract

The essay deals with the first thirty years of Italian western comic book starting from the space representation analysis. In doing so, it connects with other fields of re-elaboration of the genre (literature, cinema, lyric opera).

Keywords

Comics; western; Salgari; Italian Fascism; Bonelli; Stati United States of America

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Italian comics are known in Italy as fumetto [fuˈmetto], plural form fumetti [fuˈmetti]. The most popular Italian comics have been translated into many languages. The term fumetto (literally little puff of smoke) refers to the distinctive word balloons that contain the dialog in comics (also called nuvoletta in Italian). The term fumetti is often used in English to refer to photo comics, regardless of origin or language. Western comics is a comics genre usually depicting the American Old West frontier (usually anywhere west of the Mississippi River) and typically set during the late nineteenth century. The term is generally associated with an American comic books genre published from the late 1940s through the 1950s (though the genre had continuing popularity in Europe, and persists in limited form in American comics today). Western comics of the period typically featured dramatic scripts about cowboys, gunfighters, lawmen, bounty hunters, outlaws, and Native Americans.

Origins. Western novels, films, and pulp magazines were extremely popular in the United States from the late 1930s to the 1950s. Comics and comic books are one of the most pervasive and influential media forms of 20th-century popular culture. A survey of current scholarly indexes demonstrates that researchers in the fields of history, sociology, and literature are discovering that studying comic books provides unique and valuable insights on 20th-century culture. Thus, many research libraries have experienced an increase in requests for information on, and copies of, comic books. This work contains over 21,000 color illustrations of the covers of comic books produced during 1935-1965 the Gold and Silver Age of comic book publishing. Essays provide a wealth of information on cataloging, preservation, restoration of comic books, the social and historical impact of comic books and much more.