

## The Illustrated Dust Jacket: 1920-1970

By Martin Salisbury  
200 pages, hardcover, \$39.95  
Published by Thames & Hudson  
thamesandhudsonusa.com

Who would have thought that the colorful book jackets that we often see on bookshelves and in bookstores everywhere started as dull paper wrappings? Before the 1900s, book jackets were known as “dust wrappers,” or plain paper that protected books from the dust and dirt of the city right up to the point of purchase—to be thrown away to reveal the leather bindings beneath.

This changed in the 1920s when publishers realized that a book’s cover had the potential to titillate, entice and tell a story through visual metaphor. It became a marketing tool for both artists and writers—one that would change the way books look forever.

In *The Illustrated Dust Jacket: 1920-1970*, Martin Salisbury honors the dust jacket of the era before the digital age, uncovering beautiful works across various popular genres while detailing the work of notable artists at the time, such as Edward Bawden, John Minton and Ronald Searle in the United Kingdom and Edward Gorey, Ben Shahn and George Salter in the United States. Salisbury’s eye for detail is impeccable, and I found myself reading the book almost cover to cover as he brings life and interest to the subject matter—even in the captions accompanying each image (371 illustrations in all!).

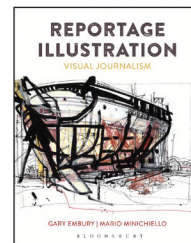
While at a quick glance, the book offers a feast for the eyes in terms of stylistic range, what stood out is the creativity and imagination displayed by artists who rose to meet the challenges posed by the format and subject matter of this particular art form—

elevating the ubiquitous dust jacket from necessity to art. —Amy Ng



**Mangasia**  
*The Definitive Guide to Asian Comics*  
By Paul Gravett  
An expansive survey of a book, *Mangasia: The Definitive Guide to Asian Comics*, by comics

expert Paul Gravett, details the history of manga through maps, timelines and art reproductions. After exploring manga’s humble origins in mid-nineteenth-century Japan, the guide then chronicles manga’s expanding influence on cultural and political landscapes throughout Asia, including those of China, South Korea, India and the Philippines. Gravett shows readers that there’s more to manga than big, sparkly eyes and epic robot battles. Even the most enthusiastic fan may be surprised to see manga for what it really is: a preservation of history that’s being continually reimagined through new artistic forms. 320 pages, softcover, \$39.95, *Thames & Hudson*. —Michelle Yee



**Reportage Illustration**  
*Visual Journalism*  
By Gary Embury and Mario Minichiello

The art of drawing live events offers great potential for fresh and

inventive storytelling. Authors Gary Embury and Mario Minichiello present in-depth advice from their decades as illustrators and their interviews with reportage artists representing a full range of styles and subjects. Included are Jenny Soep’s images of live music sessions, Sue Coe’s depictions of abused elephants healing at an elephant sanctuary in Thailand and Olivier Kugler’s illustrations of the refugee crisis in Europe. *Reportage Illustration* covers the history, materials and methods of the profession, plus tips for finding work. Whether using sketchbook and pencil or adding online animation and interactive elements, the possibilities will excite illustrators who can work quickly in public and have something to say. 176 pages, softcover, \$33.95, *Bloomsbury Visual Arts*. —Ruth Hagopian