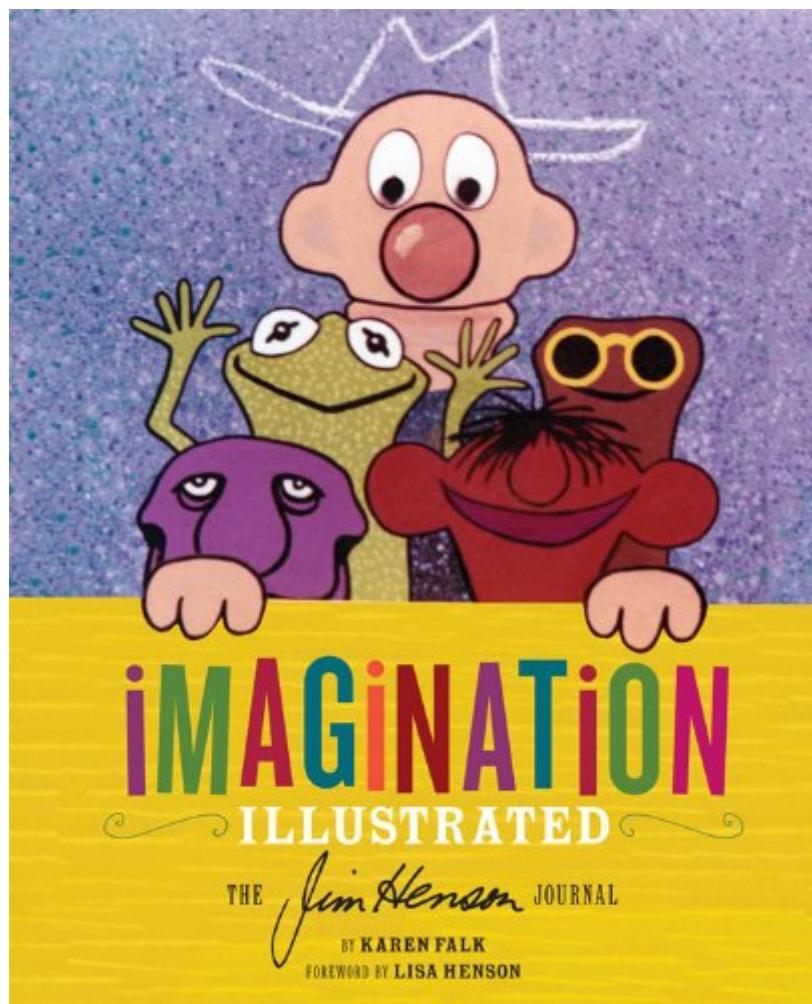


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# Imagination Illustrated: The Jim Henson Journal



## **Synopsis**

Jim Henson's iconic puppet characters, fantastic worlds, and warm humor have delighted millions of people of all ages. His incredibly diverse body of work, from the Muppets to the world of The Dark Crystal, reveals his charm and genius to fans old and new. Compiled directly from The Jim Henson Company archives, *Imagination Illustrated* adapts the diary that Jim faithfully kept throughout his career, supplementing it with a trove of little-seen visual material, including rare sketches, personal and production photographs, storyboards, doodles, and much more. Throughout, archivist Karen Falk delves into the behind-the-scenes details of Henson's life and artistic process. Sure to delight anyone who has enjoyed Henson's creations—“seeing early drawings of Kermit and Rowlf is like smiling over childhood photos of dear friends”—this lovely book celebrates Jim's life and his magic.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

As a fan of the blog "Jim's Red Book," I've always wanted to see it turn into an actual book. My prayers have been answered. The book features notes from Jim Henson's journal that he compiled from 1954 to 1988. The real joy is seeing rarely seen photos and material from The Jim Henson Company Archives. Despite the major Muppet brands being owned by three companies (Henson,

Disney, Sesame Workshop), it is wonderful that they cooperated to give Muppet fans a detailed and comprehensive look behind-the-scenes at all the Muppet productions, with thoughts from Jim himself. Complete with sketches and exciting photos of Henson characters and staff, *Imagination Illustrated* is a real treat. Any real Muppet/Jim Henson fan will want this book. My only complaint is that the Henson Archives is probably so vast, not everything could fit into this book. I propose a sequel.

I'm a huge Jim Henson fan. Huge. I was excited about this book- I ordered it as soon as I knew it existed- but it let me down. It is a compilation of photos, sketches and documents that accompany a journal- really like a scrap book. The journal entries are brief- one or two lines- and the accompanying images are meant to flesh out the story. My real beef with this book is the way it gives equal weight to the entries- the major movies of the 1980's are each discussed for a page, maybe two. His personal relationships are not discussed much at all. There are much more compelling volumes on Jim Henson, including "Jim Henson: The Works", which is a marvelous reference that includes many interesting interviews and makes much better use of the same types of photos and other "scraps" that are offered in *Imagination Illustrated*. Brian Jay Jones' "Jim Henson: The Biography" is another book I'd highly recommend- that volume delves deeply into Henson's personal life in addition to his work. If you've read "The Works" and "The Biography", you're not going to find anything new or really even interesting here.

The book contains a lot of interesting information about Jim Henson's early career that most people are too young to have seen firsthand. This includes early television shows and his work in commercials. There is also plenty of concept art used to develop characters and sets. I would have liked to see more details on certain subjects, but given how long and varied Jim Henson's career was that would be impractical.

Amazing book. I bought this book to follow along with while I listened to the amazing biography by Brian Jay Jones. When I found this, I expected to pay \$50+ for it. It's a great price with a wealth of history for any thorough Henson fan.

I bought this for a student who loves Jim Henson. He can't put it down! The pages are full of beautiful, full-color photographs. The text gives you a glimpse into the fine minds at the Jim Henson studio. Appropriate for late elementary through high school students.

I recommend this book without any reservation to both Muppet fans and archivists. It is a terrific compilation of Jim Henson's career as viewed through his 1965-1988 journal of notable events in his personal and commercial life. Karen Falk must have one of the best jobs in the world :)

This was a nice general overview of Jim Henson's career. I was really looking forward to seeing the journal entries and photos but they did not translate well to ebook format. I checked it out from my library and purposely downloaded it to my iPad (instead of my kindle) since the screen is a nice size and it's in color. Sadly, the photos of the journal entries and the other photos were pretty tiny and you could not zoom. The book does "translate" the journal entries before each set of pictures so you can see what they say, but it's not quite the same as seeing it in Jim's own handwriting. And the numbers identifying each picture are so small that you can't always read them. So in that regard, the book was disappointing. I have no idea if the pictures are easier to read/see in the paper copy. The book felt a bit like a museum exhibit-- it was nicely organized and easy to read and informative. I suggest trying the paper copy instead of reading it on your iPad or color tablet (especially the smaller sized ones).

I'm so happy and grateful that I have this book to add to my Jim Henson biography library. So many rare photos. Though there are pictures in this book that aren't on Henson.com's Jim's Red Book blog and vise versa (both are based on Jim Henson's Journal "The Red Book") But I love it as is. I travel with it and look at it and read it all the time. It's a must have for Jim Henson historians, and Muppet fans alike :)

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