

NEWS
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FANTASY-NEWS

the science fiction weekly newspaper

PRICE:
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CENTS.

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 11

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 1941

WHOLE NUMBER 142

'STRANGE STORIES' SUSPENDS!

13th ISSUE JUNK SCREECHES SWAN SONG

With the thirteenth issue of **STRANGE STORIES**, **STANDARD Pubs** have announced that the mag will suspend for the time being. Whether the suspension is permanent or not has not as yet been ascertained.

The present fate of **STRANGE STORIES** was anticipated by a page and price cut with the Aug 1940 number.

As far as can be determined, the suspension, though presumably due to insufficient circulation, is not so much the result of poor quality or editorial policy, but rather of existing market conditions.

Apparently weird and fantasy fiction is unpopular at present. Every magazine devoted to this type of story has been suffering. **WEIRD TALES** had to limp along under bi-monthly publication for the first time since 1931, in addition to cutting price and pages. **UNKNOWN** has been forced to go bi-monthly, and **FANTASTIC ADVENTURES** also found it necessary to reduce the size and rate of issuance and at one time to suspend altogether. Even **FAMOUS FANTASTIC MYSTERIES** and **FANTASTIC NOVELS** have had to tighten their belt by combing.

The straight science fiction magazines, on the other hand, seem to be doing at least reasonably well considering the great number of them in the field.

During its short career, **STRANGE STORIES** published numerous outstanding stories and presented a magnificent line-up of authors and artists. A few of the many famous authors they featured were Otis Adelbert Kline, Ralph Milne Farley, C. L. Moore. (next column)

Dr. David H. Keller, A. Hyatt Verrill, E. Hoffman Price, Seabury Quinn, Carl Jacobi, Eli Colter, Dorothy Quick, Thump McCluskey, Eric Frank Russell, John Beynon Harris, Ray Cummings, Lloyd Arthur Eschbach, Manly Wade Wellman, Arthur J. Burks, August W. Derleth, Leigh Brackett, Don Tracy, Oscar J. Friend, Henry Kuttner, Robert Bloch, Maria Moravsky, Norman R. Daniels, Don Alvisio, R.R. Winterbotham, Amelia Reynolds, Long, Frank Belknap Long, Vincent Cornier, and numerous others.

They reprinted a number of yarns from fan magazines, among which we were "The Dead Woman" by Dr. David H. Keller, taken from Fantasy Magazine; "The Toad God", also by Dr. Keller and scheduled to appear in EM before that publication's collapse. "The Man From Dark Valley" by August W. Derleth was reprinted from Dunstons. Wollheim's ill-fated Fanciful Tales; and "The Slanting Shadow" and "Birkett's Twelfth Corpse" also by the Derleth both reprinted from The Fantasy Fan. Charlie Hornig's well like fan mag.

Perhaps when better days appear on the horizon for Weirdon, **STANDARD** will revive **STRANGE STORIES**.

"LEST DARKNESS FALL" GETS RAVES!!!

The **SATURDAY REVIEW OF LITERATURE** (The English prof's bible) for March 8 has a long article by Basil Davneport called "Travels In Time" about time-travel yarns in general and "Lest Darkness Fall" in particular, with an excellent photograph of the authro L. Sprague deCamp. Other reviews have appeared in the N.Y. Times, the Sun, and **NEW YORKER**.

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