

= Wonder Story Annual =

Wonder Story Annual was a science fiction pulp magazine which was launched in 1950 by Standard Magazines . It was created as a vehicle to reprint stories from early issues of Wonder Stories , Startling Stories , and Wonder Stories Quarterly , which were owned by the same publisher . It lasted for four issues , succumbing in 1953 to competition from the growing market for paperback science fiction . Reprinted stories included Twice in Time , by Manly Wade Wellman , and " The Brain @-@ Stealers of Mars " , by John W. Campbell .

= = Publication history and contents = =

The first science fiction (sf) magazine , Amazing Stories , was launched in 1926 by Hugo Gernsback at the height of the pulp magazine era . It helped to form science fiction as a separately marketed genre , and by the mid @-@ 1930s several more sf magazines had appeared , including Wonder Stories , also published by Gernsback . In 1936 , Ned Pines of Beacon Publications bought Wonder Stories from Gernsback , changed the title to Thrilling Wonder Stories , and in 1939 and 1940 added two more sf titles : Startling Stories and Captain Future . Pines had acquired reprint rights to the fiction published in Wonder Stories as part of the transaction , and some of this material ran in Startling Stories and Captain Future , but neither magazine had room for some of the longer stories in the backfile . At the end of the 1940s a boom in science fiction magazines encouraged Pines to issue a new magazine , titled Fantastic Story Quarterly , as a vehicle for reprinting this older material , with the first issue dated Spring 1950 . It was successful enough for Pines to add another reprint magazine , Wonder Story Annual , later that year . Pines ' plan was to use the new magazine to reprint novels , with only a few short stories included to fill out the magazine . The first issue was dated 1950 and appeared in the summer of that year .

The reprinted novels were Twice in Time , by Manly Wade Wellman ; Gateway to Paradise , by Jack Williamson ; and The Onslaught from Rigel , by Fletcher Pratt (titled Invaders from Rigel when it eventually saw publication in book form in 1960) , and The Death of Iron , by S.S. Held , a French writer (the novel was translated into English by Pratt for the original serialization in Wonder Stories , which began in 1932) . The magazine also reprinted some shorter material , including " The Brain @-@ Stealers of Mars " by John W. Campbell , " Nothing Sirius " by Fredric Brown , " The Irritated People " by Ray Bradbury , and " The Eternal Man " , by D.D. Sharp , which combined Sharp 's earlier " The Eternal Man " , from the August 1929 Science Wonder with " The Eternal Man Revives " from the Summer 1930 Wonder Stories Quarterly . Although Wonder Story Annual was well @-@ received and initially successful , it faced strong competition for sf readers from paperbacks , including reprint anthologies . In response it labelled itself " America 's Best Science Fiction Anthology " , but by 1953 the battle was lost , and that year 's issue was the last .

= = Bibliographic details = =

The magazine was issued annually for four years , from 1950 to 1953 . The editor was Sam Merwin for the first two issues , and Samuel Mines for the second two . There was a single volumes of three issues , and a final volume of one issue . The magazine was in pulp format and was priced at 25 cents ; the first issue was 196 pages and the remaining three all had 160 pages . The publisher was Better Publications of Chicago and New York for the first issue , and Best Books , of Kokomo , Indiana , for the next three ; Better Publications was an imprint of Standard Magazines of New York , and Best Books was owned by Standard .

A Canadian edition of the first issue appeared from Better Publications in Toronto with the same contents as the U.S. edition .