

= Two Complete Science @-@ Adventure Books =

Two Complete Science @-@ Adventure Books was a pulp science fiction magazine , published by Fiction House , which lasted for eleven issues between 1950 and 1954 as a companion to Planet Stories . Each issue carried two novels or long novellas . It was initially intended to carry only reprints , but soon began to publish original stories . Well @-@ known contributors included Isaac Asimov , Robert A. Heinlein , Arthur C. Clarke , Poul Anderson , John Brunner , and James Blish . The magazine folded in 1954 , almost at the end of the pulp era .

= = Publication history = =

The early 1950s saw dramatic changes in the world of U.S. science fiction (sf) publishing . At the start of 1949 , all but one of the major magazines in the field were in pulp format ; by the end of 1955 , almost all had either ceased publication or switched to digest format . Despite the rapid decline of the pulp market , several new science fiction magazines were launched in pulp format during these years . Planet Stories , a pulp sf magazine that focused on interplanetary adventure , was sufficiently successful to switch to from quarterly to bimonthly in late 1950 . The publisher , Fiction House , also decided to launch a companion magazine , aimed more specifically at the growing readership for pocket books . This was Two Complete Science @-@ Adventure Books ; the first issue was dated Winter 1950 , and it appeared three times a year on a regular schedule . Malcolm Reiss , who oversaw several of Fiction House 's magazines and comics , was editorially involved with the Two Complete Science @-@ Adventure Stories throughout its life , but for the first three issues Jerome Bixby , who at that time was editing Planet Stories , took on the new magazine as well . Bixby left in 1951 to work for Standard Publications . After this , Reiss was left in sole control until 1953 , when Katherine Daffron was appointed editor . Daffron edited the magazine for the last two issues . Fiction House tried another companion magazine that year , Tops in Science Fiction , but it lasted for only two issues . Two Complete Science @-@ Adventures Books outlasted Tops in Science Fiction by only a few months ; it was cancelled in 1954 , amid the collapse of the overall pulp market . The final issue was dated Spring 1954 , and Planet Stories itself only lasted until the following year .

Two Complete Science @-@ Adventure Books typically carried about 80 @,@ 000 words , which was noticeably more than most of its competitors , which usually ran from 45 @,@ 000 to 75 @,@ 000 words . Fiction House paid \$ 300 or more for the original novels it printed .

= = Contents = =

The magazine was originally intended to be a vehicle for reprinting novels . The title and format were an echo of Two Complete Detective Books Magazine , which had been published , also by Fiction House , in the 1930s . The first issue included Isaac Asimov 's Pebble in the Sky , and L. Ron Hubbard 's " The Kingslayer " . Both of these were reprints : Pebble in the Sky had been published by Doubleday earlier in the year , and " The Kingslayer " had appeared in Hubbard 's short story collection The Kingslayer , published by Fantasy Publishing Company , Inc . , in 1949 . Subsequent issues abandoned the policy of reprinting two novels , and for a while each issue featured one original story and one reprint . In some later issues both stories were original .

Although the authors included well @-@ known names such as James Blish and Poul Anderson , much of the material was , in the words of sf historian Joseph Marchesani , " derivative space opera " , particular the original novels . The original stories that appeared in the magazine included " The Wanton of Argus " , an early story by John Brunner ; " Seeker of the Sphinx " , by Arthur C. Clarke ; " Sword of Xota " and " Sargasso of Lost Cities " , both by James Blish ; and " The Tritonian Ring " , by L. Sprague de Camp . Reprints included The Time Machine by H.G. Wells ; Beyond This Horizon , by Robert A. Heinlein (under the pseudonym Anson MacDonald) ; and The Humanoids by Jack Williamson .

Bixby included a column for readers ' letters in the issues he edited , but Reiss and Daffron did not ,

and none of the three wrote editorials .
The following table shows which novels appeared in which issues .

= = Bibliographic details = =

Two Complete Science @-@ Adventure Books was edited primarily by Jerome Bixby for the first three issues , then by Malcolm Reiss for six issues , and then primarily by Katherine Daffron for the last two issues . Reiss was involved with editing the magazine throughout its run .
The schedule was completely regular , with issues dated Spring , Summer , and Winter of each year . The magazine was in pulp format throughout ; each issue was priced at 25 cents . The first three issues were 144 pages ; this was reduced to 128 pages for the Winter 1951 issue , reduced again to 112 pages for the Spring 1952 issue , and reduced further to 96 pages for the next four issues . The last two issues were 128 pages long . The publisher was listed as Wings Publishing Co . , in New York for the first six issues and in Stamford , Connecticut , for the last five issues .