

= Ghost Stories (magazine) =

Ghost Stories was a pulp magazine which published 64 issues between 1926 and 1932 . It was one of the earliest competitors to *Weird Tales* , the first magazine to specialize in the fantasy and occult fiction genre . It was a companion magazine to *True Story* and *True Detective Stories* , and focused almost entirely on stories about ghosts , with many of the stories written by staff writers but presented under pseudonyms in a " true confession " style . These were often accompanied by faked photographs to make the stories appear more believable . Ghost Stories also ran original and reprinted contributions , including works by Robert E. Howard , Carl Jacobi , and Frank Belknap Long . Among the reprints were Agatha Christie 's " The Last Seance " (under the title " The Woman Who Stole a Ghost ") , several stories by H.G. Wells , and Charles Dickens ' " The Signalman " . The magazine was initially successful , but began to lose readers , and in 1930 was sold to Harold Hersey . Hersey was unable to reverse the magazine 's decline , and Ghost Stories ceased publication at the start of 1932 .

= = Publishing history and contents = =

Fantasy and occult fiction had often appeared in popular magazines prior to the twentieth century , but the first magazine to specialize in the genre , *Weird Tales* , did not appear until 1923 . Ghost Stories , which was launched in July 1926 , was one of *Weird Tales* ' earliest competitors . The publisher , Bernarr Macfadden , also published true confession magazines such as *True Story* ; Ghost Stories followed this format , with the contents mostly written by the publisher 's staff writers , and attributed in print to a first @-@ person narrator . The magazine was initially printed on slick paper , which was sufficiently good quality to allow photographs to be used , and many of the stories had accompanied photographs purporting to be of their protagonists . These were replaced by line drawings when the magazine switched to a pulp layout in July 1928 . Ghost Stories did occasionally print contributions from outside writers , including " The Apparition in the Prize Ring " , by Robert E. Howard , under the pseudonym " John Taverel " . Frank Belknap Long , Hugh B. Cave , Victor Rousseau , Stuart Palmer , and Robert W. Sneddon all sold stories to Ghost Stories , and Carl Jacobi 's first published story , " The Haunted Ring " , appeared in the final issue , though this was not his first sale ? " Mive " , which he had sold to *Weird Tales* , did not appear in print until the following month .

In addition to original material , Ghost Stories included a substantial number of reprints , including well @-@ known Victorian ghost stories such as " The Signalman " by Charles Dickens , and " The Open Door " by Mrs. Oliphant . Agatha Christie 's " The Last Seance " appeared in the November 1926 issue , under the title " The Woman Who Stole a Ghost " , and six stories by H.G. Wells were reprinted , including both ghost stories such as " The Red Room " and stories with less obvious appeal to Ghost Stories ' readership , such as " Pollock and the Porroh Man " . Arthur Conan Doyle 's " The Captain of the Polestar " appeared in the April 1931 issue , and he also contributed a non @-@ fiction piece , " Houdini 's Last Escape " , which appeared in March 1930 . An arrangement was set up by Macfadden with Walter Hutchinson , a U.K. publisher , to exchange suitable material with *The Sovereign Magazine* and *Mystery @-@ Story Magazine* , two of Hutchinson 's U.K. genre pulps , and many stories appeared on both sides of the Atlantic as a result .

The magazine was initially fairly successful , but sales soon began to fall . In March 1930 Harold Hersey bought the magazine from Macfadden and took over as editor , but he was unable to revive the magazine 's fortunes . In 1931 the schedule slipped to bimonthly , and three issues later the magazine ceased publication , probably because readers grew bored : the limited scope meant that the contents of the magazine eventually became predictable . The final issue was dated December 1931 / January 1932 .

= = Bibliographic details = =

Ghost Stories was published by Bernarr Macfadden , under the imprint Constructive Publishing Co .

, of Dunellen , New Jersey , until the March 1930 issue , after which it was taken over by Good Story Magazine Co. of New York , which was run by Harold Hersey , who had earlier edited The Thrill Book . The editorial director of Constructive Publishing during MacFadden 's ownership was Fulton Oursler ; his assistants , who worked on the magazine , were Harry A. Keller , W. Adolphe Roberts , George Bond , Daniel Wheeler , and Arthur B. Howland , who (in that order) each spent close to a year editing , though the dates of transition for each are not known . When Hersey took over , his assistant was Stuart Palmer .

The magazine began as a slick , in bedsheet format and switched to pulp layout with the July 1928 issue ; it remained as a pulp until the end of its run with the exception of eight issues in large pulp format from April to December 1929 . There were six issues per volume , with the last volume including only four issues . The price was 25 cents throughout ; it had 128 pages when it was pulp @-@ sized , and 96 pages when it was a bedsheet and when it was a large pulp .

No anthologies have selected their contents solely from Ghost Stories , but two magazines have done so : True Twilight Tales and Prize Ghost Stories , both published by League Publications , a subsidiary of the company which owned the rights to the original stories , MacFadden @-@ Bartell . Prize Ghost Stories published one issue , dated 1963 , and True Twilight Tales published two , dated Fall 1963 and Spring 1964 . Both magazines were in large pulp format , with 96 pages , and both were priced at 50 cents . The first issue of True Twilight Tales was edited by Helen Gardiner , who probably also was the editor of Prize Ghost Stories ; the second issue of True Twilight Tales was edited by John M. Williams . There may have been other issues of both titles , as neither was numbered .