

= Strange Tales (pulp magazine) =

Strange Tales (cover @-@ titled Strange Tales of Mystery and Terror) was a U.S. pulp magazine first published from 1931 to 1933 by Clayton Publications . It specialized in fantasy and weird fiction , and was a significant competitor to Weird Tales , the leading magazine in the field . Its published stories include " Wolves of Darkness " by Jack Williamson , as well as work by Robert E. Howard and Clark Ashton Smith . The magazine ceased publication when Clayton entered bankruptcy . It was temporarily revived by Wildside Press , which published three issues edited by Robert M. Price from 2003 to 2007 .

= = Publication 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 , appeared in 1923 and by the 1930s was the genre 's industry leader . Strange Tales , launched in 1931 by Clayton Publications as a direct rival to Weird Tales , was one of a handful of magazines to seriously challenge for leadership of the field . It was edited by Harry Bates , who also edited Clayton 's Astounding Stories of Super Science , which had begun publication the previous year . Strange Tales was launched as a fantasy magazine , but like Weird Tales it often published science @-@ fiction stories , although unlike its rival its focus was on action stories rather than strange ideas . The title was originally planned to be Strange Stories , but Macfadden Publications , who had published True Strange Stories in 1929 , challenged the title and forced Clayton to change it .

Bates paid two cents per word , a higher rate than Weird Tales . As a result , Strange Tales attracted some of the better writers of the day . Well @-@ received stories included " Wolves of Darkness " by Jack Williamson , " Murgunstruum " by Hugh B. Cave , and " Cassius " by Henry Whitehead . Clark Ashton Smith contributed five stories , including " The Return of the Sorcerer " in the first issue , and Edmond Hamilton and August Derleth also appeared in the magazine . Robert E. Howard , later to become famous as the author of the Conan the Barbarian stories , sent several stories to Strange Tales ; some of the stories Bates rejected , such as " The Thing on the Roof " and " The Horror from the Mound " , later appeared in Weird Tales , but Bates accepted " The People of the Dark " after asking for revisions , and it was published in the June 1932 issue . Howard also sold " The Valley of the Lost " to Bates , but it had not yet appeared when Clayton went bankrupt , and did not finally see publication until the 1960s . H.P. Lovecraft submitted several stories to Bates in early 1931 , before the first issue had appeared , but the only work of his that appeared in Strange Tales was Henry Whitehead 's " The Trap " , part of which had been ghost @-@ written by Lovecraft , and which appeared in the March 1932 issue . In one of Lovecraft 's letters he comments that he would not contribute to Strange Tales because " Bates couldn 't guarantee me immunity from the copy @-@ slasher 's shears and blue pencil " , but unpublished letters of his make it clear that his stories were too atmospheric and lacking in action for Bates . Lovecraft 's response was dismissive , and he was subsequently contemptuous of both Bates and Clayton in his letters . The cover art for all seven covers was painted by Hans Wessolowski , under his professional name of " Wesso " . Science @-@ fiction historian Robert Weinberg asserts that Strange Tales published better material than Weird Tales during its short run , and fellow historian Mike Ashley regards it as a " close rival " to Weird Tales .

Between 2003 and 2007 , Wildside Press brought out three further issues , undated and numbered 8 through 10 , edited by Robert M. Price . The contents included stories by L. Sprague de Camp , Richard Lupoff , and John Betancourt , and a reprint of " The Devil 's Crypt " , a story by E. Hoffmann Price that had appeared in Strange Detective Stories .

= = Bibliographic details = =

The full title was Strange Tales of Mystery and Terror , and the magazine is sometimes indexed under this title . Each issue was 144 pages long and priced at US \$ 0 @.@ 25 (equivalent to about

\$ 4 in 2015) . The seven issues were divided into two volumes of three and a final volume of a single issue . A reprint anthology in facsimile format , also titled *Strange Tales* , appeared in 1976 from Odyssey Press , edited by Diane Howard , William H. Desmond , John Howard , and Robert K. Wiener . In addition , all stories from the first four issues , and most from the next two , were reprinted in four magazines edited by Robert A.W. Lowndes from the mid @-@ 1960s to the early 1970s : *Magazine of Horror* , *Startling Mystery Stories* , *Weird Terror Tales* , and *Bizarre Fantasy Tales* .

The three Wildside Press revival issues were 112 pages , 92 pages , and 58 pages long , respectively ; the size increased with each issue , from small pulp size , to a slightly larger format , to a full size pulp layout . They were not printed on pulp paper . Between 2004 and 2008 Wildside also reissued three of the original magazines in facsimile format ; the issues chosen were dated March and October 1932 , and January 1933 .