

= Amazing Stories Quarterly =

Amazing Stories Quarterly was a U.S. science fiction pulp magazine published from 1928 to 1934 . It was launched by Hugo Gernsback as a companion to his Amazing Stories , the first science fiction magazine , which had begun publishing in April 1926 . Amazing Stories had been successful enough for Gernsback to try a single issue of Amazing Stories Annual in 1927 , which had sold well , and he decided to follow it up with a quarterly magazine . The first issue of Amazing Stories Quarterly was dated Winter 1928 and carried a reprint of H.G. Wells ' When the Sleeper Wakes . Gernsback 's policy of running a novel in each issue was popular with his readership , though the choice of Wells ' novel was less so . Over the next five issues only one more reprint appeared : Gernsback 's own novel Ralph 124C 41 + , in the Winter 1929 issue . Gernsback went bankrupt in early 1929 , and lost control of both Amazing Stories and Amazing Stories Quarterly ; his assistant , T. O 'Conor Sloane , took over as editor . The magazine began to run into financial difficulties in 1932 , and the schedule became irregular ; the last issue was dated Fall 1934 .

Authors whose work appeared in Amazing Stories Quarterly include Stanton A. Coblentz , Miles J. Breuer , A. Hyatt Verrill , and Jack Williamson . Critical opinions differ on the quality of the fiction Gernsback and Sloane printed : Brian Stableford regards several of the novels as being important early science fiction , but Everett Bleiler comments that few of the stories were of acceptable quality . Milton Wolf and Mike Ashley are more positive in their assessment ; they consider the work Sloane published in the early 1930s to be some of the best in the new genre .

= = Publication history = =

Although science fiction (sf) had been published before the 1920s , it did not begin to coalesce into a separately marketed genre until the appearance in 1926 of Amazing Stories , a U.S. pulp magazine published by Hugo Gernsback . The new magazine was successful , and in 1927 Gernsback brought out a double @-@ sized Amazing Stories Annual , which also sold well . These successes convinced him to start a companion magazine to Amazing Stories , titled Amazing Stories Quarterly . The first issue , dated Winter 1928 , appeared on newsstands on January 5 that year .

Gernsback went bankrupt in early 1929 , and lost control of both Amazing Stories and Amazing Stories Quarterly . After a short period in receivership , they were acquired by Bergan Mackinnon , who sold them on to Bernarr Macfadden 's Teck Publications . T. O 'Conor Sloane , who had worked on both magazines for Gernsback , took over as editor . In 1932 the magazine , which was probably never very profitable , began to suffer from financial problems , and the quarterly schedule became irregular after the Winter 1932 issue . The last two issues were filled completely with reprints from early issues and from Amazing Stories . The last issue was dated Fall 1934 , though the decision to discontinue the magazine was not taken until some time later , as an editorial comment in the May 1935 issue of Amazing Stories mentioned that further issues might still appear .

= = Contents = =

The first issue of Amazing Stories Quarterly contained a reprint of H. G. Wells ' novel When the Sleeper Wakes , though for some reason Wells did not provide Gernsback with the revised text published in 1910 under the title The Sleeper Awakes ; the text printed was that of the original 1899 edition . The other material in the issue was original , and the following issues included material by Edmond Hamilton , Stanton A. Coblentz , R.F. Starzl , David H. Keller , S.P. Meek , J. Schlossel , and Clare Winger Harris , one of the earliest women writers of sf . Although readers ' reactions to the Wells novel were negative , they approved of Gernsback 's policy of publishing a novel in each issue . The only other reprint in the early days of the magazine was Gernsback 's own novel Ralph 124C 41 + , which appeared in the Winter 1929 issue . The novel , set in the year 2660 , was little more than a series of predictions about the future tied together by a minor plot . Gernsback included a letter column , and began a competition for the best editorials submitted by readers ; the first prize

was awarded to Jack Williamson , later to become a successful science fiction writer but at that time just starting his career . Gernsback also started other departments to engage the readers , including book reviews , science quizzes , and science news . The last issue under Gernsback 's control was dated Spring 1929 ; under Sloane 's editorship , most of these nonfiction departments ceased .

According to Milton Wolf and Mike Ashley , historians of science fiction , over the next two years Sloane published some of the best sf of the early years of the field in *Amazing Stories Quarterly* . Wolf and Ashley cite " Paradox " , by Charles Cloukey , an early time @-@ travel story ; *The Bridge of Light* , by A. Hyatt Verrill , a novel about a lost civilization in South America ; *The Birth of a New Republic* , by Miles J. Breuer and Jack Williamson , in which a man of the 24th century reminisces about a revolt by the inhabitants of the Moon rebel against the Earth ; " Paradise and Iron " , by Breuer ; and *White Lily* , by Eric Temple Bell , under the pseudonym John Taine , about a form of crystal life that endangers the planet . After 1931 , according to Wolf and Ashley , the fiction in *Amazing Stories Quarterly* became less entertaining . Everett Bleiler , the author of a detailed review of the first ten years of science fiction magazines , is less complimentary , describing John W. Campbell , Jr . ' s space operas , which appeared from 1930 to 1932 , as " turgid " , and commenting that only a dozen or so of the stories in the magazine 's entire run " might have been considered worth reading if one could put oneself back in the 1930s , accepting the standards of the time " . Bleiler mentions three authors , Coblenz , Taine , and Breuer , as having produced notably original material , but adds that their work was " not strong enough for mainstream fiction " and had " too little action and too much sophistication for pulp " . Bleiler does however agree with Wolf and Ashley that the magazines 's quality declined over time . Brian Stableford , in the *Science Fiction Encyclopedia* , also highlights Coblenz , Taine and Breuer , along with Williamson and Verrill , among the magazine 's contributors ; Stableford regards their contributions as being among " the most important early pulp sf novels " .

= = Bibliographic details = =

Amazing Stories Quarterly was published by Hugo Gernsback 's Experimenter Publishing until Spring 1929 . A single issue appeared from Irving Trust , the trustee in Gernsback 's bankruptcy ; then four issues , from Fall 1929 to Summer 1930 , again under the Experimenter Publishing imprint , and then four more from Radio @-@ Science Publications . The last ten issues , from Fall 1931 to Fall 1934 , were published by Teck Publishing , of Washington and Dunellen . The magazine was in large pulp format throughout , and was 144 pages long , except for the last two issues , which were 128 pages . It was priced at 50 cents . The first six issues were edited by Hugo Gernsback ; from the Summer 1929 issue on , the editor was T. O 'Conor Sloane . There was a Canadian reprint of a single issue , Fall 1934 .

Another 27 issues of *Amazing Stories Quarterly* appeared from Ziff @-@ Davis from 1940 to 1943 , and also from 1949 to 1951 , but these were not original magazines , only rebound issues of *Amazing Stories* .