

= Strange Stories =

Strange Stories was a pulp magazine which ran for thirteen issues from 1939 to 1941 . It was edited by Mort Weisinger , who was not credited . Contributors included Robert Bloch , Eric Frank Russell , C. L. Moore , August Derleth , and Henry Kuttner . Strange Stories was a competitor to the established leader in weird fiction , Weird Tales . With the launch , also in 1939 , of the well @-@ received Unknown , Strange Stories was unable to compete . It ceased publication in 1941 when Weisinger left to edit Superman comic books .

= = Publication history and contents = =

Fantasy and occult fiction had often appeared in popular magazines before 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 . In 1939 , two magazines were launched in the same niche : one was Unknown , from Street & Smith ; the other was Strange Stories , published by Standard Magazines and edited by Mort Weisinger , who was already editing Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories for Standard . Weisinger obtained stories from many authors who contributed to Weird Tales , including August Derleth , Henry Kuttner , and Robert Bloch , who between them accounted for 40 of the 148 stories the magazine printed over its thirteen issues . Critics consider little of the fiction memorable . Among the better @-@ received stories were two by Kuttner : " Cursed be the City " and " The Citadel of Darkness " in the April and August 1939 issues respectively ; " Logoda 's Heads " , by Derleth , which science fiction historian Robert Weinberg described as " perhaps Derleth 's best weird fantasy for any magazine " ; and some stories by Manly Wade Wellman in the early issues . Other contributors included Eric Frank Russell , C. L. Moore , and Seabury Quinn . There were no serialized novels ; at the time , Standard 's policy forbade them . Weinberg described the covers by Standard 's in @-@ house artists , Rudolph Belarski and Earle K. Bergey , as " among the worst ever seen on any pulp " . The magazine was an attempt to imitate Weird Tales , but Weisinger was never able to give it any distinctive character of its own . It received little assistance from its sister magazines in Standard 's publishing stable ; typically each magazine carried advertisements for other Standard publications , but Startling Stories and Thrilling Wonder Stories rarely mentioned Strange Stories in this way .

Weisinger left Standard Magazines in 1941 to edit Superman comics , and Leo Margulies , the editorial director at Standard , was not interested in continuing the magazine . The final issue was dated February 1941 . Some of the stories purchased for Strange Stories but left unpublished later appeared in the other Standard magazines , including " The Road to Yesterday " , by Kuttner , which appeared in the August 1941 issue of Thrilling Adventure , and " I Married a Ghost " , by Seabury Quinn , which was published in Thrilling Mystery in July 1941 .

= = Bibliographic details = =

The thirteen issues of Strange Stories were in pulp format . They were 128 pages long and priced at 15 cents until June 1940 , after which the page count went down to 96 and the price was reduced to 10 cents . The editor was Mort Weisinger , who was not credited . The publisher was Better Publications , a subsidiary of Standard Magazines of New York . Strange Stories stayed on a bimonthly schedule throughout its run . There were three issues to a volume , except the final volume which had only one .