

= Beyond Fantasy Fiction =

Beyond Fantasy Fiction was a US fantasy fiction magazine edited by H. L. Gold , with only ten issues published from 1953 to 1955 . The last two issues carried the cover title of Beyond Fiction , but the publication 's name for copyright purposes remained as before .

Although not a commercial success , it included several significant short stories by distinguished authors , such as Isaac Asimov , Ray Bradbury and Philip K. Dick . The publication has been described by critics as a successor to the tradition of Unknown , a fantasy magazine that ceased publication in 1943 . It was noted for printing fantasy with a rational basis such as werewolf stories that included scientific explanations . A selection of stories from Beyond was published in paperback form in 1963 , also under the title Beyond .

James Gunn , a historian of science fiction , regarded the magazine as the best of the fantasy magazines launched in the early 1950s , and science fiction encyclopedist Donald H. Tuck contended it printed very good material . Not every critic viewed Beyond as completely successful , however ; P. Schuyler Miller , in a 1963 review , commented that the stories were most successful when they did not try to emulate Unknown .

= History and significance =

Beyond Fantasy Fiction was a fantasy @-@ oriented companion to the more successful Galaxy Science Fiction , which launched in 1950 ; Beyond had been planned by editor H. L. Gold from the time Galaxy was launched , but it had to wait until Galaxy was firmly established . Beyond 's first issue , dated July 1953 , included an editorial by Gold in which he laid out the magazine 's scope , excluding (in his words) only " the probably possible " and " the unentertaining " . Gold recruited Sam Merwin , who had recently quit as editor of Fantastic Universe , to help in editing , though the masthead of both magazines listed Gold as editor . A typical issue of Beyond included several stories that were long enough to be listed as novellas or novelettes , with the contents augmented with shorter works , usually for a total of at least seven stories .

The first issue featured Theodore Sturgeon , Damon Knight , Frank M. Robinson , and Richard Matheson . Other writers who appeared in the magazine included Jerome Bixby , John Wyndham , James E. Gunn , Fredric Brown , Frederik Pohl (both under his own name and with Lester del Rey under the joint pseudonym " Charles Satterfield ") , Philip José Farmer , Randall Garrett , Zenna Henderson , and Algis Budrys .

Five of the ten covers were surrealist , which was an unusual artistic choice for a genre magazine . The cover painting for the first issue was by Richard M. Powers ; Gold was one of the very few American magazine editors to use his work , though Powers was prolific in providing artwork for paperback covers . In addition to Powers , René Vidmer and Arthur Krusz (among others) contributed cover art . The magazine also carried interior artwork , usually multiple illustrations , for almost every story ; in addition , each story included a facsimile of the author 's signature , set at the end of the text . The best @-@ known interior artist Beyond used was Ed Emshwiller , though there were several other regular artists . The magazine carried almost no non @-@ fiction , though there were occasional " filler " pieces to occupy spaces at the end of stories . The publication contained no book reviews , and only the first issue carried an editorial .

The magazine was not commercially successful : at that time circulation figures were not required to be published annually , as they were later , so the actual circulation figures are not known . Its demise after less than two years can be attributed in part to the decreasing popularity of fantasy and horror fiction . In a 1958 advertisement in Galaxy for complete sets of the magazine for \$ 3 @. 50 , the publisher described Beyond as " a princely experiment to determine whether there were enough readers to support a truly handsome , fantastically high @-@ quality fantasy fiction magazine . There weren 't " , " as the rest of the country seemed to be ... out of town at the time and missed it on the newsstands " .

= Reception =

According to science fiction historian Donald H. Tuck , Beyond published " some very good material , " with appearances by many well known authors , and the magazine is often cited as being the successor to the unusual fantasy tradition of Unknown . Author James Gunn said of the new fantasy magazines that appeared in the 1950s that " the best of these was Beyond , created by Horace Gold as a companion fantasy magazine to Galaxy , which he had created three years before . Beyond Fantasy Fiction aimed at the same rationalized fantasy niche that Unknown had established and to which Gold had contributed stories . " Not everyone thought the magazine was completely successful in emulating Unknown , however ; P. Schuyler Miller , reviewing an anthology drawn from the pages of Beyond , was generally approving but commented that " Except for Budrys , Pohl , Brown and Sturgeon , these stories from Beyond are rather self conscious . They are best when they are not trying to be like Unknown . " Miller 's assessment of the magazine overall was that it " made a pass at the same position [as Unknown] but didn 't make it . "

Beyond 's selection of stories has been described by science fiction historian Michael Ashley as " seeking to achieve ? high quality fantasy fiction acceptable to all readers " ; he adds that Beyond was more successful than Fantastic Science Fiction , a competitor in this niche , because Gold " had a clearer vision and was more determined ? to achieve it . ? despite sales problems , Gold persisted in publishing fiction that sought to stretch the boundaries of imagination . "

Several significant or widely reprinted stories appeared during Beyond 's short history :

" ? And My Fear Is Great ? " , by Theodore Sturgeon (July 1953)

" The Wall Around the World " , by Theodore R. Cogswell (September 1953)

" Kid Stuff " , by Isaac Asimov (September 1953)

" The Watchful Poker Chip " , by Ray Bradbury (March 1954) . Generally reprinted under the title " The Watchful Poker Chip of H. Matisse "

" Sine of the Magus " , by James E. Gunn (May 1954)

" The Green Magician " , by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt (November 1954) . Part of the Incomplete Enchanter series

" Upon the Dull Earth " , by Philip K. Dick (November 1954)

Although no Hugo Awards were presented in 1954 , the 2004 World Science Fiction Convention awarded " Retro Hugos " for that year . Two Beyond stories appeared as runners up : Sturgeon 's " ? And My Fear Is Great ? " placed third in the novella category , and Cogswell 's " The Wall Around the World " fifth in the novelette category . In addition , Gold placed fifth in the editor category , though this recognized his work at Galaxy as well as at Beyond .

= = Bibliographic details = =

The publisher was Galaxy Publishing Corporation , New York . The magazine was initially titled Beyond Fantasy Fiction , and this remained the title on the masthead throughout the ten issue run . However , issue 9 changed the title to simply Beyond Fiction on the cover , spine , and table of contents . Issue 10 used the new , shorter title on the cover and spine , but reverted to Beyond Fantasy Fiction for the table of contents . As a result , the magazine is often listed as having changed its name for the last two issues .

The magazine began as a 160 page digest , priced at 35 cents . The price stayed the same throughout the run , but the page count was cut to 128 for the eighth issue , September 1954 . The magazine was bimonthly , but issues 9 and 10 did not carry month and year dates , which has led different bibliographers to catalogue them in different ways . However , the masthead for these issues indicates that the magazine remained bimonthly , and so they are now usually catalogued as November 1954 and January 1955 , respectively ; the copyright dates on the last two issues correspond to these dates . The volume numbering was completely regular ; volume 1 had six numbers , and volume 2 ceased with its fourth number . The stories were printed in the two column format usual to digest magazines .

A British edition of the magazine ran for four issues on a bimonthly schedule starting in November 1953 and finishing in May 1954 . These copied the first four issues of the US version , with slightly

cut contents . They were numbered 1 to 4 but were not dated . Ten years after the magazine folded , nine stories from Beyond were collected into the 160 @-@ page paperback Beyond , published in 1963 by Berkley Books (F712) and edited by Thomas Dardis (who was not credited on the book) .