

= Space Stories =

Space Stories was a pulp magazine which published five issues from October 1952 to June 1953 . It was published by Standard Magazines , and edited by Samuel Mines . Mines ' editorial policy for Space Stories was to publish straightforward science fiction adventure stories . Among the better @-@ known contributors were Jack Vance , Gordon R. Dickson and Leigh Brackett , whose novel The Big Jump appeared in the February 1953 issue .

= = Publication history and contents = =

The early 1950s saw dramatic changes in the world of U.S. science fiction (sf) publishing . At the start of 1949 , all but one of the major magazines in the field were in pulp format ; by the end of 1955 , almost all had either ceased publication or switched to digest format . Despite the rapid decline of the pulp market , several new science fiction magazines were launched in pulp format during these years . Space Stories was one of the last of these ; it was launched in October 1952 by Standard Magazines , which already published three other sf magazines : Startling Stories , Thrilling Wonder Stories , and Fantastic Story Magazine . Samuel Mines , the editor , had worked for Standard Magazines since 1942 , though not on the science fiction pulps ; he had taken over the editorship of the sf titles when Sam Merwin left Standard in 1951 .

In the first issue , Mines declared that Space Stories ' editorial policy would be focused on entertainment : it would be aimed at readers " who want action and thrills , strange and exotic backgrounds , weird and wonderful adventure " , instead of the " coldly mental story , the complex parable , the tale of social significance " . The response in the letters column of the magazine was positive , with several fans quoting Mines ' editorial approvingly . Mines was able to obtain stories from well @-@ known writers , including Gordon R. Dickson , Leigh Brackett , Jack Vance , and William Morrison , though few of the stories were memorable . The best @-@ known story published in the magazine was Brackett 's The Big Jump , which appeared in the February 1953 issue . Sf historian Wendy Bousfield regards most of the lesser @-@ known stories in the magazine as uninteresting , but praises Robert Zack 's " Expedition to Earth " , which is set in a " science fiction restaurant " where the alien staff are assumed to be merely wearing costumes , as a witty variation on the stereotypical hostile alien story . Bousfield also singles out Charles Foster 's " The Satyr Stratagem " as an example of an old @-@ fashioned sexist science fiction plot . In the story , a planet inhabited only by women welcomes a team of earth miners who will provide husbands for them . Bousfield comments that Joanna Russ and James Tiptree , Jr. would later " expose the absurdities of this stock science fictional situation " . In addition to the letter column , Mines included articles and essays on science . A book review column appeared in the April 1953 issue ; it did not appear in the next and final issue , which instead included some science @-@ fictional cartoons .

The interior art was of generally good quality ; the artists included Paul Orban , Virgil Finlay , Emsh , and Alex Schomburg . The cover art , by Emsh , Earle K. Bergey , and Walter Popp , was stereotypical , with Emsh 's cover for the February 1953 issue including what sf historian Wendy Bousfield describes as the three stereotypes of sf art : " the spaceman , the voluptuous blonde , and the threatening bug @-@ eyed monster " . Only the final issue 's cover , also by Emsh , was painted to illustrate one of the stories inside the magazine . Bergey died in 1952 , and his cover for the December 1952 issue was the last cover he painted for Standard .

= = Bibliographic details = =

Space Stories had one volume of three numbers , and a second volume of two numbers . It appeared on a regular bimonthly schedule . All five were published by Standard Magazines of Kokomo , Indiana , and edited by Samuel Mines . Each issue was in pulp format , priced at 25 cents , and 128 pages long .