

= Tales of Magic and Mystery (magazine) =

Tales of Magic and Mystery was a pulp magazine which published five monthly issues from December 1927 to April 1928 . It was edited by Walter Gibson , and published a mixture of fiction and articles on magic . It is now mainly remembered for having published a story by H.P. Lovecraft .

= = Publication history = =

Tales of Magic and Mystery was published by Personal Arts , which was owned by International Correspondence Schools (ICS) . In 1927 ICS had had success with a mailing titled " Secrets of the Ages " . Bill Kofoed and Walter Gibson suggested a magazine to appeal to the same audience as the mailing , and Haddon Press , also owned by ICS , provided cost estimates that seemed very positive . Kofoed checked the numbers with Haddon Press and was convinced they were accurate , and the magazine was launched in December of that year with Gibson as editor .

The contributors included H. P. Lovecraft , with " Cool Air " , and Frank Owen , with three stories : " The Yellow Pool " , " The Black Well of Wadi " , and " The Lure of the Shrivelled Hand " . A story by Miriam Allen deFord , " Ghostly Hands " , also appeared , though it later became apparent that it had been printed without permission or payment . Gibson later recalled that the Kofoed obtained some of the submissions from stories submitted to Brief Stories , which Kofoed edited ; science fiction historian Mike Ashley suggests that Gibson may not have been fully aware of how the submissions were obtained , and believes it is possible that some of the other material printed was also not paid for .

The magazine is now extremely rare , and has become a collectors ' item because of the connection to H. P. Lovecraft . Most of Lovecraft 's short fiction appeared in Weird Tales , and it is possible that he submitted to Tales of Magic and Mystery because of his interest in Harry Houdini ? he had ghost @-@ written a story for Houdini a couple of years earlier , and Gibson was a friend of Houdini 's . In addition to fiction the magazine published articles about magic , all of which were written by Gibson , some under pen @-@ names . The articles included one on bullet @-@ catching (illustrated by Earle K. Bergey) , one on mysterious people , and a series on Houdini . Overall , the magazine focused more on magic than on fiction , but the stories chosen were readable . The weird and occult fiction genre was dominated by Weird Tales in the years before World War II ; Tales of Magic and Mystery and Ghost Stories were the only two magazines to attempt to rival Weird Tales in the years before 1931 , when Strange Tales of Mystery and Terror appeared .

After the fifth issue , it became apparent that the reason the cost estimates had appeared so strong was that Haddon Press had forgotten to include the cost of the paper . This made it apparent that the magazine was losing money rapidly , and Tales of Magic and Mystery was immediately shut down . Some of the manuscripts in inventory at the time the magazine was closed down may have been printed in True Strange Stories , another short @-@ lived magazine which Gibson edited the following year .

= = Bibliographic details = =

Walter B. Gibson was the editor of all five issues of Tales of Magic and Mystery , which remained in saddle @-@ stapled pulp format throughout its run . It was priced at 25 cents , and each issue was 64 pages long .

In 2004 , Wildside Press released a facsimile edition of the February 1928 issue , and in 2013 , Adventure House released a facsimile of the March 1928 issue .