

= Fantastic Story Quarterly =

Fantastic Story Quarterly was a pulp science fiction magazine , published from 1950 to 1955 by Best Books , a subsidiary imprint of Standard Magazines . The name was changed with the Summer 1951 issue to Fantastic Story Magazine . It was launched to reprint stories from the early years of the science fiction pulp magazines , and was initially intended to carry no new fiction , though in the end every issue contained at least one new story . It was sufficiently successful for Standard to launch Wonder Story Annual as a vehicle for more science fiction reprints , but the success did not last . In 1955 it was merged with Standard 's Startling Stories . Original fiction in Fantastic Story included Gordon R. Dickson 's first sale , " Trespass " , and stories by Walter M. Miller and Richard Matheson .

= = Publication history and contents = =

The first science fiction (sf) magazine , Amazing Stories , was launched in 1926 by Hugo Gernsback at the height of the pulp magazine era . It helped to form science fiction as a separately marketed genre , and by the mid @-@ 1930s several more sf magazines had appeared , including Wonder Stories , also published by Gernsback . In 1936 , Ned Pines of Beacon Publications bought Wonder Stories from Gernsback . Pines changed the title to Thrilling Wonder Stories , and in 1939 and 1940 added two more sf titles : Startling Stories and Captain Future . Pines had acquired reprint rights to the fiction published in Wonder Stories as part of the transaction , and he instituted a " Hall of Fame " department in Startling Stories to carry some of this material . Captain Future also carried reprint material , but neither Startling nor Captain Future had room for some of the longer stories in the backfile . At the end of the 1940s a boom in science fiction magazines encouraged Pines to issue a new magazine , titled Fantastic Story Quarterly , as a vehicle for reprinting this older material . The original plan was for the magazine to carry no new fiction , but this policy was changed shortly before publication , and at least one new story was included in every issue .

The initial schedule was quarterly . The magazine became popular with fans because of the access it gave them to old favorite stories , and it was immediately successful , soon becoming more popular than the other Standard Magazine science fiction pulps . The success led Standard to issue Wonder Story Annual in 1950 to provide an outlet for reprinting longer material . In late 1952 it switched to a bimonthly schedule , having changed its title to Fantastic Story Magazine the previous year , but this only lasted until the following year , by which time it was no longer doing well financially . It was back on a quarterly schedule starting with the Winter 1954 issue . The pulps were in rapid decline by the mid @-@ 1950s , and both Fantastic Story Magazine and Thrilling Wonder Stories were merged with Startling Stories in mid @-@ 1955 , though Startling itself ceased publication at the end of that year .

The pulp format was intended to appeal to readers who were nostalgic for the early years of the science fiction pulp market . Sf historian Mike Ashley suggested that Pines was right to launch Fantastic Story Quarterly as a pulp ; in Ashley 's words , " Early pulp fiction somehow never reads right in book form . You need the crumbling paper , the smell of woodpulp , and the mixture of advertisements , illustrations and old pulp @-@ style text to create the right atmosphere " . Most of the contents were reprinted from Wonder Stories , but occasionally material from other publishers appeared , such as A.E. van Vogt 's novel , Slan , which had originally appeared in Street and Smith 's Astounding Science Fiction in 1940 , and which was reprinted in Fantastic Story 's Summer 1952 issue . New fiction included Richard Matheson 's " Lazarus II " , and Walter M. Miller 's " A Family Matter " . Fantastic Story also printed Gordon R. Dickson 's first sale , " Trespass " , a collaboration with Poul Anderson which appeared in the very first issue . In addition to fiction , there was an editorial page and a letter column . Illustrators whose work appeared in its pages included Virgil Finlay , Ed Emsh , and Earle Bergey .

= = Bibliographic details = =

The magazine was a quarterly for all but six issues , from November 1952 to September 1953 . The title changed from Fantastic Story Quarterly to Fantastic Story Magazine with the fifth issue , and remained under that title through the end of its run , though the magazine was still a quarterly at the time the title changed . The Fall 1952 issue was also dated September 1952 . There were seven volumes of three issues , and a final volume of two issues . The magazine was in pulp format and priced at 25 cents throughout its life ; it began at 160 pages and dropped to 144 pages with the Spring 1951 issue , then to 128 pages with the September 1953 issue , and finally to 112 pages for the last two issues . The publisher was Best Books , of Kokomo , Indiana , which was owned by Standard Magazines of New York . The editor was initially Sam Merwin ; Samuel Mines took over with the Winter 1952 issue , and the last two issues were edited by Alexander Samalman .

A Canadian edition of the first four editions appeared from Better Publications in Toronto with the same contents as the U.S. editions .