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# BACK NUMBERS CAN BE EASILY PROCURED

Prepared for P.E.A.P.S. mailing #63  
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Issue 9

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## Corrections:

Corrections to Back Numbers, Issue Eight

Michelle Nolan's name was misspelled in a photo caption last issue. I apologize for the error.





### Our Second Anniversary Issue

It's hard for me to believe but with this issue we start our third year of publication. I never thought I'd last more than six months doing this before I ran out of things to write about.

Of course, the deadline is little more than a week away, and I have only one page finished so this might be a pretty thin issue.

### Pulp Quote

I'm joining a PEAPS tradition by choosing a pulp quote this issue. This seemed to be too appropriate

to recent political events not to run. This is going to be my only comment on the matter, however, I don't want to ruin my zine by turning it into a lengthy political rant.

*Americans are considered crazy anywhere in the world.*

*They will usually concede a basis for the accusation but point to California as the focus of the infection. Californians stoutly maintain that their bad reputation is derived solely from the acts of the inhabitants of Los Angeles County. Angelenos will, when pressed, admit the charge but explain hastily, "It's not our fault—we didn't ask for it; Hollywood just grew."*

Robert A. Heinlein

—And He Built A Crooked House—

Astounding Science-Fiction, February 1941

## Pulp Sources:

Mike Chomko is my source for many of the pulp-related books that are reviewed here. He offers free shipping on orders over \$25. (And it's not hard to spend more than that with him, let me tell you.) He will hold books until your order reaches \$25 if you want. He has been able to get me pretty much any pulp-related books I asked for. He also publishes an excellent pulp fanzine, Purple Prose. Drop him a line at [chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net). For those of you not on the web, he can be reached at 2217 West Fairview Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6542. He has a catalog available as a Microsoft Word document. He has recently added Blood 'n' Thunder to the zines he carries.

Larry Estep now has more than 250 pulp stories available in PDF format at [pulpgen.com/pulp/downloads](http://pulpgen.com/pulp/downloads). He's posting five stories each week in a wide range of pulp genres. If you don't know what pulp is, his site is a good place to stop and find some great, and not so great, authentic pulp. Larry's Blue Mushroom Books can be obtained through Mike Chomko or at the Adventure House website.

Bill Thom's Coming Attractions pulp-related news site is the place to find the latest pulp-related information. The address is: <http://members.cox.net/comingattractions/index.html>.

Howard Hopkin's latest issue of Golden Perils, number 30, is out as well. The web site is: [howardhopkins.com/page4.htm](http://howardhopkins.com/page4.htm). He is offering issues 21-30 on disk for \$15. For ordering address, contact [goldenperils@aol.com](mailto:goldenperils@aol.com).

Pulpdom, a great fanzine that covers early pulp fiction, can be ordered from the publisher at: P.O. Box 2340, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147-2340. A subscription for six issues runs \$24.00. I understand that he has a new issue out.

Back Numbers Can Be Easily Procured is published whenever Warren Harris gets around to it. Contents copyright 2003 by Warren Harris. All rights revert to creators upon publication. Back Number is prepared for the membership of the Pulp Era Amateur Press Society. Copies of all issues in Acrobat PDF format can be found on the web at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com).



## Secret Agent X-9

BBC 7 Radio Production

Reviewed by Warren Harris

BBC 7, part of the British Broadcasting Service, broadcasts some new OTR-style radio dramas and comedies. With a little work, and a lot of cussing when my computer kept crashing, I was able to listen to the last 10 minutes of the first episode and most of the other three of Secret Agent X-9 when it was broadcast September 9, 10, 13 and 14.

This is a full-cast radio adaptation by Mark Brisenden of the first Secret Agent X-9 adventure. X-9 is one of my favorite adventure strips. It was created by Dashiell Hammett, who wrote the first few episodes, and drawn at the start by the great Alex Raymond.

X-9 (he has no real name) is a government agent so secret he never reveals who it is he works for. He acts more like a private detective, although one who can order the cops around with his federal authority.

The radio dramatization was very accurate in places, with some of the dialog being lifted directly from the strip, and very inaccurate at other times, with strange detours from Hammett's plot. One of these detours is a total rewrite of the ending of the story. For example, in both, Secret Agent X-9, Aulden Powers and Evelyn Powers are trapped in a burning warehouse building.

In the strip, they escape to the roof where there is a lengthy battle with The Top's thugs who are disguised as police. Agent X-9 wipes them out but is hurt in the gun battle and the plot progresses from there.

In the radio play, the three escape into the sewers, which lead to the Liberty Diner, a front for the Top that doesn't exist in the strip, and later to the Top's secret HQ (within the Statue of Liberty) which also doesn't exist in the strip. I get the feeling that Brisenden forgot that the Statue of Liberty is on an island, and probably wouldn't be accessible from the New York City sewer system.

In the original, the Top's henchmen are mostly nameless, with the Deacon just a nondescript hood. Brisenden takes the cue from that one hood's name and makes the character into a gospel-spouting preacher type and names the other hoodlums after biblical characters. Everybody is Brother Mark or Sister Angela.

He also invents a back story for X-9 where he and a female agent, both new to the service, take up the Top's trail only to have the Top kill the girl. In the strip, X-9

didn't need any reason to do his job and take down the kingpin, here he's out for revenge. This comes out of nowhere at the climax and is related in a lengthy speech by X-9.

I can see that there are problems in the original strip that needed to be written around or avoided, but Brisenden seems to have put in as many problematic points as he took out. I think he felt he needed more distinctive starring roles and so elevated several minor characters that Hammett didn't pay much attention.

I think the story needed to be less juvenile to work as a radio show and Brisenden instead emphasized some of the melodrama and invented more of his own. An elevator death trap inside the secret lair hidden within the Statue of Liberty, for instance.

For a project that is drawing on the source material so thoroughly, I can't understand why they deviated in places that didn't have to do with the necessities of moving it to a different medium. I understand that you have to tell the story differently in order to communicate in a purely auditory medium, but the deviations from the plot were unnecessary, except for the very weak ending. While the ending of the radio show is stronger than the original strip, which came to an abrupt and unconvincing ending, the new ending is all secret lairs and melodramatic speeches.

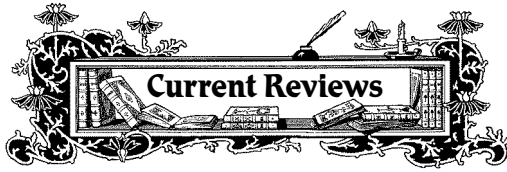
I enjoyed having the opportunity to listen to the adaptation, but I didn't like the juvenile elements, which I didn't mind in the strip. In fact, I didn't notice them in the strip, but they stuck out in the radio version.

Brisenden is perhaps better known for his comedy work, but the BBC 7 website is so poor that I couldn't find much information on him, or the show, or any plans to re-run it. I suspect that this isn't the first time the show has been broadcast, but I don't know for sure. There is a reference to it being broadcast weekly, which clearly isn't the case here with all four episodes appearing within six days.

I'm not happy at all with the website, which was difficult to get to work on my MacIntosh, crashed several times and only had a brief paragraph on X-9, little more than a program note that it would be broadcast. I really would like to see them do a better job of providing background information on the series they are broadcasting. The X-9 information does not include original broadcast date, or any information on the writer, director or cast. In fact it doesn't even list a writer, director or cast.

The station is adapting several other works of marginal pulp interest, including some of Wilkie Collins' work, a series of Raffles stories and Sherlock Holmes adventures. The website is [www.bbc7.co.uk/bbc7/](http://www.bbc7.co.uk/bbc7/). They seem to be regularly broadcasting mystery, drama, comedy and science fiction stories, but it's hard to figure out more than a week in advance what they are going to be playing.

## Back Numbers



Various Fanzines available at [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com)

Price: Free

By Warren Harris

### Prior Lifetime

#### A return to fanpubing

5 pages

70s and 80s era fan John Percell returns to active fanzine publishing after a more than decade absence.

He starts with an impressive resume of his fan activities and it's to be hoped that he will return to similar activity now that he's done Getting Away From It All.

He has a very funny story that took place at Iquanacon in 1978 about a writer friend of his who was being ignored by fans who were more impressed by the big name fans.

Percell seems to be dipping his toe back into fan publishing after an absence of several years and I hope he finds the water fine.

Prior Lifetime was well organized, straightforward and easy to read. I'm looking forward to seeing what he does with issue two.

### Watt's Out #25

4 pages

This is a supplement to The Mentor. Ron Clarke looks at recent releases.

This time he looks at 17 items ranging from newly released SF books to a Lord of the Rings Calendar. Clarke gives a short summary of each item that is more a description than a critical review. His comments are upbeat and aimed at letting his readers know which books may be of interest to them.

I haven't read any of the books he mentions, but I always like to read about what new books are out and might be interesting.

### Neither Rain, Noir Murder #3

4 pages

This is Bill Bowers APAzine for DAPA-em, the mystery APA. This is a shorter than usual issue but

is filled with interesting letters of comment and Bowers responses. Some of these touch on the oft-discussed topic of early reading experiences. Bowers description of being a book-lover in a family who didn't understand a love of books is poignant.

Bowers also reprints comments on Charles Willeford from Rara-Avis and other sources and briefly discusses Willeford's shock therapy experiences with Betsy Willeford.

This is exactly the sort of zine I wanted to read when I joined an APA —interesting discussion of books and writers with folks who shared my interests. It's nice to see some of these APAzines are getting a wider distribution through the internet.

I enjoyed the first two issues as well and I'll be sure to download the next one.

### Smooth Active Badgers

Eloise Mason

6 pages, legal sized

Mason attended Corflu, one of the two major fanzine conventions held each year, and had a great idea. She left her laptop (trusting fan isn't she?) in the convention room with an invitation for attendees to write short articles or con reports for a two-shot fanzine. The second issue is projected to be letters of comment on the first.

The layout is very nice with a strong black and white element that is quite striking. Her choice of fonts is excellent and she uses little clip art of dinosaurs as a graphic element at the bottom.

The short pieces by the attendees are quite good, although I couldn't really follow the softball game report. I doubt I could have followed it in person, it being a very fannish sort of game.

The way the zine was created led to a very free-wheeling exchange of comments. They ranged from convention reports, comments on the early convention reports, a joke, shopping trips to a nearby farmer's market and ponderings on this whole zine/fandom thing.

Reading this, I get the impression that Corflu is similar to Pulpcon, in that there is a great deal of socializing going on. I might even consider going to Corflu Blackjack next year after reading this. There were also some very funny pullout quotes.

While most of the zine was text, the last page has a number of photos from the convention.

I'm looking forward to reading the second part.



## Sleight of Hand

#2 Summer/Fall 2003

Edited by John Teehan

Available at:

Free online in PDF format

at [www.sff.net/people/jdteeahan/sleight.html](http://www.sff.net/people/jdteeahan/sleight.html)

For a paper copy, send \$2 (\$3 outside the U.S.) or "the usual" to 499 Douglas Ave., Providence, RI 02908.

Reviewed by Warren Harris

Teehan has put together a very solid and well-done fanzine and his second issue is even better than his first.

In the great tradition of fanzine editors, Teehan starts this issue with an explanation as to why this issue is so late. He seems to have some good reasons and it's nice to see the long awaited second issue.

The meat of the issue is mostly SF related and is sercon for the most part.

A reprint of a Terry Carr article from the pages of F&SF on fanzines in the early 1960's was a great way to start the issue. Carr was an excellent writer and does a great job here of explaining the fanzine world as it then existed. Ted White follows this with a retrospective response to the Carr article talking about his friend and how the article came to be.

Only peripherally related to SF, Chris Pierson writes an essay on meeting the mother he never knew. This is a well-written and heartfelt piece. I wouldn't have been comfortable relating such a personal story in a public forum, but its the sort of story that makes for gripping reading when it's done well, as it is here.

I noticed a switch from first to third person midway through. Pierson is obviously much too polished a writer for this to be a rookie mistake. But I wonder if it was a conscious or unconscious attempt to provide distance from the intense emotions inherent in the situation. Ah, and sometimes a rocketship is just a rocketship.

Edited by Teehan into an article, John Locke's thoughts on the debate over the term "Sci-Fi" from the pulpmags newsgroup are reprinted. As one of the

younger SF fans, I suppose that I agree with Locke that the time for this debate is past, even if my personal preference is not to use Sci-Fi (properly pronounced skiffy) except when referring to that "media" stuff. I think that there is a need for a term to denote that sort of stuff to differentiate it from the "real" stuff when discussing it with the informed.

Teehan has a series of short reviews. Woof, I thought I could be rough. Teehan is merciless and very, very funny. Not all of his reviews are pans, he gives a good couple of paragraph-long descriptions of books he likes as well as ones he doesn't. These are the kind of reviews I like, short, witty, and descriptive enough to tell if I would like or dislike item being reviewed.

The letters of comment are plentiful, interesting and well-written with little tidbits of pulp and SF interest scatters liberally throughout.

Then we get to the main event. Mike Resnik's article in the first issue, a round-up of historical items relating to pulps and digests and SF. was a major reason I didn't review the first issue of Sleight of Hand. As I read it, I kept thinking, "that doesn't sound right," and "this doesn't sound right." But I didn't think I was the right person to address the issues raised. I'm not really sure Ted White was the right person either, but he sure took on the task with a vengeance.

Teehan printed a lengthy letter from Ted White refuting Resnick's article point by point followed by a rebuttal by Resnick. It's like seeing a fight between a grizzly bear and a Bengal tiger. It's interesting to watch, but you wouldn't want to be involved personal-like.

The layout is very professional and attractive. I thought the first issue was very good, but the second

issue is better still.

My only complaint was that the cover was a bit naughty. I don't mind personally, but I download and print out the issue at work and I was a bit embarrassed when I downloaded the file and opened it the first time to be confronted with cavorting naked ladies. I have the some trouble sometimes with Spicy reprints from the pulpgen website.

Teehan is a professional typesetter and it shows in his easy to read, attractive layout.

Sleight of Hand shows early signs of becoming one of the top SF zines. If Teehan keeps up this level of quality, it will soon be one of the zines everyone is talking about and reading.





### Various pulp stories available at [pulpgen.com](http://pulpgen.com)

Reviewed by Warren Harris

Price: Free

I've been regularly downloading and printing out pulp stories from Larry Estep's Pulpgen website, but I rarely find the time to read them. I have several 3-ring binders full of pulp stories but I've only read a handful. I think Larry has been doing a great job with these, so I made a point of reading a few pulp stories here in mid September for review.

#### Heat

##### Beech Allen

Passable crime story filler. Nothing bad, but not memorable.

#### Mr. Clackworthy's Pipe Dream

##### Christopher B. Booth

Detective Story, March 11, 1922

This is part of a series featuring the adventures of a master confidence man and his associates. This is one of three Mr. Clackworthy stories that has been posted, and after enjoying this one, I'll be digging out the others to read.

This is a light, enjoyable story that reminded me of Erle Stanley Gardner's Lester Leith without some of the extra twists that Gardner always puts in. Clackworthy's associate, The Early Bird, is puzzled by Clackworthy's actions when he buys stock in a worthless gas company, then proceeds to a small mining town where he buys worthless coal shale. It's all part of a scam to convince a local coal baron that coal shale can be made into valuable coal bricks. Booth shows the con in action, but since we see it from The Early Bird's perspective, we don't know exactly what Clackworthy is up to until the end.

It was nice to see the con men get away with their scam as the coal baron deserved to be ripped off. It's a nice balance between having criminal protagonists and still feeling that the good guys are winning.

#### Mr. Clackworthy Within The Law

##### Christopher B. Booth

Detective Story, August 13, 1921

Reading this, I can see the formula Booth is using, but that doesn't make it any less enjoyable. In this one Clackworthy and associates decide to take revenge on a respectable, but despicable, small town banker who, many years before, cheated the father of a female member

of the gang.

The basic formula starts with Clackworthy's associate The Early Bird, grouching because the boss doesn't seem to be doing anything to set up a new scam. A victim is found who has money and deserves to be taken. Honest men are left alone. Clackworthy has members of his group perform various tasks that seem unrelated to the objective and The Early Bird wonders when the scam is about to commence. Then the mark is taken in such a way that he can't go to the law and complain and we see what Clackworthy was working towards for the entire story.

#### Mr. Clackworthy Tells the Truth

##### Christopher B. Booth

Oct. 19, 1920

Detective Story Magazine.

This time it's a banker who sold stock he knew would soon be worthless to a widow that gets his comeuppance. His mistake was to sell to the cousin of Mr. Clackworthy's wife.

As in the previous story, Clackworthy stays within the law and tells nothing but the truth, but does it in such a way that the banker is certain he's lying.

These stories are all clever and rely on the dictate that you can't cheat an honest man. Clackworthy lets the greed of men who think themselves the clever predators to do most of his work.

I've liked these stories enough that the next time I have my Detective Story Magazines out, I'll make a point of seeing if I have any more of Booth's work.

#### Escape from Alcatraz

##### By Edward Churchill

G-Man Detective, April 1946

I really enjoyed this Dan Fowler G-man novel even if most of the story didn't have much to do with the prison escape—one of the two escapees is dead by the first chapter, the second turns up dead soon after. But there is still a mystery to unravel in a small town near the Canadian border.

The story moved along swiftly and I liked the main character, Dan Fowler, and his sidekicks. There were sufficient characters, local color and red herrings to keep up my interest in this "novel" length story.

One thing I liked was how competent and resourceful agent Sally Vane was. While she is a bit love-crazy over Fowler and a bit too concerned about her pert straw hat and other haute couture, she is trusted to investigate on her own, does a good job of manhunting and when she gets caught, manages to free herself and rescue two kidnapped children without needing any help from the other heroes. I found this very refreshing.

I did think the identity of the villain was a bit of a cheat as I'd been led to believe he was a local boy.

**Whispering Death****Laurence Donovan**

Action Novels, August 1929

This is an OK WWI trench warfare story with a trick ending. It isn't realistic enough, nor unrealistic enough to be really interesting.

**I Married a Torso****Thorpe Feesh**

Real Spicy Horror Tales and Sweetheart Detective Tales (April 21, 1937 issue of the Yale Record)

In this parody of the weird menace genre, "Feesh" gets the adjectives right, but forgets you need a plot. Still, interesting from a historical point of view.

**Men of Honor****Will Garth**

Captain Future, Spring 1940

Mercifully, it was short.

If you say "that silly Buck Rogers Stuff" with the correct condescending sneer you'd pretty much nail what I thought of this.

**"Single Arrest" Dugan****Paul Hawk**

Ten Detective Aces, March 1933

Here's another trick ending story centering on the fact that the hero has a reputation of always arresting the right suspect on the first try. Just filler here, nothing great, but nothing terrible.

**Close to a Corpse****C .K. M. Scanlon**

Thrilling Mystery, June, 1943

"Scanlon" has his detective investigating a suicide that clearly isn't from the first. There's a slight red herring, and the story is competently told, but the plot is nothing new and there really isn't much of a mystery. We know it isn't a suicide, we know it can't be the first person the other cops suspect. The only other person in the building must be the guilty one.

**Half a Grand****C. K. M. Scanlon**

Probably not the same author hiding behind the house name. The handling of the story here is pretty heavy handed. It's a little morality play about the sins on one's hands coming home.

But it was even shorter than Men of Honor.

**Escape****Georges Surdez**

The Popular, March, 1937

A little overly sentimental for my taste. I just didn't buy the escaped con's reasons for going into a trap and

then abandoning his reasons and his life when he has a change of heart.

**Fiction is Strange Than Truth****Thomas Thursday**

Somebody at PulpGen sure likes Thursday, they've posted a bunch of stories by him. (I'm assuming Tom Thursday and Thomas Thursday are the same guy.)

This story however is one that would appeal mostly to long-suffering pulp editors and, vicariously, to pulp collectors and not to a more general audience.

It is a sardonic view of the pulp editor's world and the attempts to fill a magazine from the slush pile.

**Servant of the State****Thomas Thursday**

Smashing Detective Stories, May 1956

This looks like part of a series called "annals of crime". It's about a man who is the state's executioner. We only see him through the eyes of a young boy. After the boy's questions start him wondering if the men he kills suffer when he throws the switch, he himself is accidentally fried. Or is it suicide. Or fate. We don't know.

**What Ball Players Do After Dark****Christopher Tomkins**

All-America Sports Magazine, December, 1933.

No, I'm not branching out into sports stories. This may have been in a sports pulp, but it's really a story that could have been in "It's Raining Corpses in Chinatown."

The main character is third baseman for a team that seems under a curse at home. He figures it out that it's caused by the evil eye of a Chinese fan who attends the home games. When the man is banned from the ball park, the team wins. Vengeful fans wreck his laundry in revenge for the losing streak.

The Chinese vows revenge on the ballplayer and kidnaps his girlfriend. (She had previously told him she wouldn't marry him unless he could prove he was a hero, by saving her, for instance. Can we see what's coming next?)

So he and three teammates grab up their pine bats and go down to Chinatown for a bit of batting practice. So there's a pretty good fight with ballplayers and tong hatchetmen whacking the daylights out of each other in the secret passageways beneath Chinatown.

Unfortunately the ending has the ballplayers rescued by a police raid. If you and your buddies can't take on legions of highbinders with nothing but pine bats, why am I wasting my time reading a story about you? If you live in a world where they police can rescue kidnapped girls, why not call 911?

Ah, I shouldn't pan this, I enjoyed it, much more than I thought I'd ever enjoy a story from a sports pulp.

# The Men Who Make The Argosy



## DINGLE, CAPTAIN A. E.

*Author of "Sunken Dollars," "Old Men of the Sea," "The Age-Old Kingdom," etc.*

I was born in Oxford, England, of parents who not only thought poverty no crime, but actually seemed to be proud of it. I ate bread and lard for my school luncheon for a good many years, wore my father's old togs and my mother's old shoes. My father was a retired whaler turned itinerant preacher, and was a hard old man.

All the school I got was common day school to the age of fourteen. Then the sea. I sailed in British ships for twenty-two years from boy to master. Commanded two steamers in the Cape and Australian trade, and one bark. Was mate of a full-rigged ship, second mate of another, quartermaster in the only windjammer I ever knew to carry one, and able seaman in yet another famous old clipper.

After nearly a quarter of a century afloat, and five shipwrecks, I had a steamer blown up under me, and thereafter failed to connect with the sea as master, and my eyes were too poor to go through the grades again; so I had to seek new employment at the age of nearly forty, with a small family to take care of. A friend in New York wrote me in England that I could get work in America; so I sold my home, left the cash with the family, and worked my passage over on a steamer as a waiter.

I washed automobiles for Gimbel's for two dollars a night, and was fired because I fell asleep in a car after trying to sell dictionaries in Jersey all day. I packed groceries for one of New York's biggest stores, at ten dollars a week.

I got a job sweeping out offices; and the boss persuaded me to go to his country home and run a little motorboat. He bribed me by advancing the money to get my family out, and I fell. I was freight wrestler and milkman, had to keep in order a stinking motorboat for

which I had only hatred, and was expected to polish brass and varnish, carry express bundles and cases of milk, and look like a yachtsman. I wasn't fired; I was taken back to the office, which was part of the bargain I had insisted upon. I earned seventy-five dollars a month, running a calculating machine and a battery of files.

Two years that lasted. Then at a dinner to which I was invited, where every man had to tell a story about himself, an editor man told me I ought to write, and he'd like to see something.

I wrote something. He said it was fine, but he couldn't read it. I'd have to type it. I had never seen a typewriter near enough to touch it. I tried to get the thing typed. Cheapest offer was five dollars. I had no five dollars, and didn't believe the story would bring that much money. Saw an ad offering ten days' free trial on a reconstructed typewriter, and sent for it. Took all the ten days to pick out a card saying I had received it. Then I asked for more time, because I had not been able to try it out. They gave me ten days more. I wrote the story in that time and got sixty-five dollars for it! Typewriter cost thirty-five dollars. Paid for it and started as a pukka author. Sent my family home out of the first money I earned that would pay their second cabin fare. They could live on one third the cost over there.

Then I sat down to write in deadly earnest, and did not sell a line for thirteen months. I sold everything I owned, the collection of years of far wandering, to keep the family going. For myself, at one time I lived for a week on fifteen cents worth of beans, boiled without salt, and nothing else.

Nobody told me why every story I wrote failed, until another editor man said he'd like to see me. He gave me a hint which opened my eyes to the fact that fiction is made, not born, and I soon began to sell stories. I have two daughters who are both threatening matrimony. I have published five books.

—The Men Who Make The Argosy, November 12, 1932.



**Captain A. E. Dingle**



In last issue's listing of items bought on my trip to Ohio for Pulpcon, I forgot to list the bedsheet Argosy issues I found there.

**Argosy Weekly**

March 15, 1941	3.00
March 29, 1941	\$4.98
April 5, 1941	\$3.00
April 26, 1941	\$3.00
May 10, 1941	\$3.00
June 14, 1941	\$3.00
June 21, 1941	\$3.00
July 5, 1941	\$4.98
July 12, 1941	\$4.98
July 26, 1941	\$3.00

This is a listing of books bought and books read starting with the publication of the July 2003 of Back Numbers ending with the publication of the October 2003 issue of Back Numbers. Some books were paid for by trade credit. Books read includes all books finished, although I may have started reading them before the cutoff. This list does not include the list of items I bought at Pulpcon that I ran last issue. I usually don't keep track of my reading and buying this closely, but I wanted to have a counterpoint to my Pulpcon acquisitions list. Then I end up buying more books at home than I did at the convention. I think, I hope, that it is far more books and related items than I would usually buy in a three-month period. The ghost of Langley Collyer is knocking at my door. I'd also like to think I usually get more books read, but I'm probably deluding myself.

**Books Read**

Author Unknown	Don Foster
Reviewed this issue	
Etiquette for Outlaws	Rob Cohen & David Wollock
Interesting and fun, but incomplete	
Run Lethal	Richard Stark (Donald Westlake)
Good, but not the best in the series.	
Dames, Danger, Death	Edited by Leo Margulies
Reviewed last issue	
Academy Mystery Novellas 2: Police Procedurals	
Reviewed last issue	
Horses of the North	Robert Adams
(Horseclans #13) Poor	
The Clan of the Cats	Robert Adams
(Horseclans #18) Awful. Too much political diatribe. Too little action.	
Ambulance Ship	James White
Reviewed last issue	
The Case of the Murderer's Bride	Erle Stanley Gardner
OK, but I would have liked stories that hadn't been reprinted elsewhere. (Only 3 stories I hadn't read before.)	
The Great SF Stories:3	ed. Asimov and Greenberg
Very good.	
The Nightwitch Devil	Kenneth Robeson
Not bad for one not written by Ernst.	
Conan: The Road of Kings	Karl Edward Wagner
I would much rather have seen another of Wagner's Kane books than a Conan pastiche.	
The Astounding-Analog Reader	ed. by Brian Aldis
Very good.	

## Back Numbers

Once Upon a Crime Ed. by Hutchins

Very good. Only a couple of stories I didn't like.

Conan the Wanderer Howard, etc.

The pastiche story was OK for what it was.

The Starflight Handbook Mallove & Matloff

Very interesting, although the math was beyond me. A serious, but dated, look at the science of interstellar travel.

Quite a few SF references throughout.

The First World Fantasy Convention Interviews by Will Murray

Photos could have been reproduced better. The only other complaint I have is that it was too short. There were a lot of questions I'd like to have seen asked. Interviews here with De Camp, Brennan, Wellman and Long.

The Astounding Science Fiction Anthology ed. John W. Campbell

Classic Science Fiction The First Golden Age ed. Terry Carr

Settlers in Space

Who Done It? H.R.F. Keating

Brain Drain Richard Sapir and Warren Murphy

Destroyer # 21 These are always fun to read, one of my guilty pleasures.

Sweet Dreams Richard Sapir and Warren Murphy

Destroyer # 25

The Last Temple Richard Sapir and Warren Murphy

Destroyer # 27

## Books that went straight to the shelf:

Marchers of Valhalla (Sphere Edition) Robert E. Howard

The Sword Woman (Zebra) Robert E. Howard

The Other Human Race H. Beam Piper

Variant editions of books I already own.

Views From The Oldest House Richard Grant

Replacement copy for book I loaned and never got back.

## Print Zines Read:

Purple Prose #17

Windy City Pulp Stories

Both excellent, both items I intended to review this issue.

## Electronic Zines Read:

Smooth Active Badgers

Rain on Cherry Blossoms #3

Chunga #5

The Martin Chronicles

Argentus Summer 2003

Peregrin Nations V2, #2

Nice Distinctions 3

Flicker #1

Golden Perils #30

Neither Rain, Noir Murder #3

Slight of Hand #2

Taste Not the Pierian Spring #1

Watt's Out September 2003

Prior Lifetime #1

All very good, all very worthy of more attention, I just didn't have time to review more of them.

**Comics Read:**

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Vol. II No. 6

**Graphic Novels Read:**

Tintin: Shooting Star	Herge
Asterix In Spain	Goscinny & Uderzo
Asterix In Britain	Goscinny & Uderzo
Asterix and the Goths	Goscinny & Uderzo
Asterix In Switzerland	Goscinny & Uderzo
Asterix and the Big Fight	Goscinny & Uderzo
Asterix and the Roman Agent	Goscinny & Uderzo
Asterix: The Mansions of the Gods	Goscinny & Uderzo
Ruse: Enter The Detective	Waid, etc.
Ruse: The Silent Partner	Waid, etc.
The Way of the Rat v.1	Dixon, etc.
Lone Wolf and Cub, Volumes 20, 21, 22.	Koike & Kojima
The Golden Age of Marvel Comics V. 2	

**Comic Strip Collections Read:**

Dick Tracy The Thirties: Hard Knocks and Tommy Guns

Very enjoyable. First appearance of Junior. Too bad this project to chronologically reprint the series from the beginning didn't continue.

Two Pogo books	Walt Kelly
Addams and Evil	Charles Addams
Scorchy Smith: Partners in Adventure	

**Pulps Read:**

10-Story Book, February 1904  
Reviewed last issue.

**Books Obtained**

Author Unknown	Don Foster	\$14.00 Bought with trade credit.
The Starflight Handbook	by Mallove & Matloff	
Several J.T. Edsons		
Views From the Oldest House	Richard Grant	

A computer crash here wiped out some files in the middle of the project. I've recreated the data as best I could, but there are probably a few books that I bought that escaped my notice.

The Yellow Claw	Sax Rohmer	\$0.25 Thrift Store
The Three Imposters	Arthur Machen	\$0.25 Thrift Store
The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes	Edited by Hugh Greene	\$0.35 Thrift Store

I rarely find anything good at thrift stores so I don't regularly check them, these are probably the best I've seen in a couple of years.

The Hooded Riders	J.T. Edson	Free from Kayo Books
(This was part of the last three boxes of books from the big book score. Only one book out of three boxes of books was worth keeping.)		

Addams and Evil by Charles Addams	\$1.50	Trade Credit at Borderlands Books
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## Back Numbers

Flat 2	Edgar Wallace	3.00 Trade Credit at Acorn Books
The Square Emerald	Edgar Wallace	3.50 trade credit at Acorn Books
The Twister	Edgar Wallace	2.50 trade credit at Acorn Books
The Guv'nor	Edgar Wallace	4.00 Trade credit at Acorn books
The Yellow Snake	Edgar Wallace	\$4.00 Part Trade, part cash at Acorn

(I ran out of trade credit here, so I had to pay cash for part of the last book)

Revelations in Black Settlers In Space	Carl Jacobi	\$2.00 in trade at Bay Books
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Run Lethal	Richard Stark	\$6.00 (trade credit at Kayo Books)
The Godfather Killer	Dan Brennan	\$2.00 Trade Credit at Copperfield's

Riders of the Monte	L. J. Washburn (Livia Reasoner)	\$1.07 plus \$2.00 in trade
Reunion	Alan Dean Foster	\$4.00 (70% in trade, 30% cash)
The Hero of Varay	Rick Shelley	\$2.50 (70/30 Trade/Cash)
The Hero King	Rick Shelley	\$2.50 (70/30 Trade/Cash)

(This store requires you pay 30 percent of the price of the book and the sales tax with cash.)

The Year of the Quiet Sun	Wilson Tucker	.75 Borderlands Sale
Take Back Your Government	Robert A. Heinlein	.75 Borderlands Sale
Enemy Within The Skull	Gregory Kern	.75 Borderlands Sale
Spawn of Laban	Gregory Kern	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Ghosts of Epidoris	Gregory Kern	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Blue Star	Fletcher Pratt	.75 Borderlands Sale
Bring Me The Head of Price Charming	Zelazny and Sheckley	.75 Borderlands Sale
Conan the Wanderer (Sphere Edition)	Robert E. Howard	.75 Borderlands Sale
Conan: The Road of Kings	Karl Edward Wagner	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Swordbearer	Glen Cook	.75 Borderlands Sale
Gilpin's Space	Reginald Bretnor	.75 Borderlands Sale
Exploring Other Worlds	Ed. by Sam Moskowitz	.75 Borderlands Sale
What Mad Universe	Fredric Brown	.75 Borderlands Sale

(accidental duplicate)

Spacer: Window of the Mind	John Maddox Roberts	.75 Borderlands Sale
Star Quest	Robert E. Mills	.75 Borderlands Sale
Ambulance Ship	James White	.75 Borderlands Sale
Gladiator	Philip Wylie	.75 Borderlands Sale
Special Wonder Volume 1	ed. by J. Francis McComas	.75 Borderlands Sale
Horrors Unseen	ed. by Sam Moskowitz	.75 Borderlands Sale
Dr. Cyclops	Henry Kuttner	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Great SF Stories:1	ed. Asimov and Greenberg	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Great SF Stories:2	ed. Asimov and Greenberg	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Great SF Stories:3	ed. Asimov and Greenberg	.75 Borderlands Sale
Horrors Unknown	ed. by Sam Moskowitz	.75 Borderlands Sale
Sel. from the Pan Book of Horror Stories #5	Ed. by Herbert van Thal	.75 Borderlands Sale
The Encyclopedia of Fantasy	John Clute and John Grant	\$29.95 less 10 percent discount.

Borderlands books had too many books in their basement so they had an after hours sale open to people on their email mailing list. You had to know the password (tunafish) to get in to the sale. Well worth the trip.

Once Upon a Crime	Ed. by Hutchins	\$3.00 bag of books
Swords Against Wizardry	Fritz Leiber	\$3.00 bag of books
The Swords of Lankhmar	Fritz Leiber	\$3.00 bag of books
Changeling	Roger Zelazny	\$3.00 bag of books
The Cometeers	Jack Williamson	\$3.00 bag of books

'til Death	Ed McBain	\$3.00 bag of books
The Legacy of Herot	Niven, Pournelle, Barnes	\$3.00 bag of books
Trace: Too Old A Cat	Warren Murphy	\$3.00 bag of books
The Destroyer: Blood Lust	Murphy/Sapir	\$3.00 bag of books
Stories Not For The Nervous	Ed. Alfred Hitchcock	\$3.00 bag of books
The Dark Dimension/The Rim Gods	A. Bertram Chandler	\$3.00 bag of books
The Revenge of Moriarty	John Gardner	\$3.00 bag of books
No Deals Mr. Bond	John Gardner	\$3.00 bag of books
Rite of Passage	Alexei Panshin	\$3.00 bag of books
King David's Spaceship	Jerry Pournelle	\$3.00 bag of books
The Rookery	Hugh C. Rae	\$3.00 bag of books

In addition to the ones above that I may keep, I have two thirds of a bag full of SF books to be traded in to bookstores for credit. These all came from the same library booksale. I should easily be able to get more than \$3 in trade for the remaining books. Just to be clear, that was \$3 for all of the books listed, plus the trade stock.

The Wrath of Fu Manchu	Sax Rohmer	.50 Library Sale
The Shadow of Fu Manchu	Sax Rohmer	.50 Library Sale
The Dict. of Omens & Superstitions	Philippa Waring	\$1.00 Library sale
City Editor	Stanley Walker	\$.100 Library Sale
Encyclopedia of Superstition	E & M Radford	\$1.00 Library Sale
Sleeping with Extra-Terrestrials: The Rise of Irrationalism and Perils of Peity	Wendy Kaminer	\$1.00 Library sale
The House with a Clock in its Walls	John Bellairs	\$.25 Library Sale
Conan the Wanderer	Howard, etc.	\$.50 library booksale

The Last Ditch	Will Levington Comfort	Gift
Gun Fodder	A. Hamilton Gibbs	Gift
Murder on Shadow Island	Gannett Weston	Gift
The Darkling Tide	Frank Belknap Long	Gift
The First World Fantasy Convention	Will Murray	Gift

I got these when I bought the stack of pulps listed below.

Men Under the Sea (Dell Mapback)	Frank Meier	\$3 trade credit
Jungle Hunting Thrills (Dell Mapback)	Edison Marshall	\$2.50 trade credit
Captain Judas	F. Van Wyck Mason	\$2.50 trade credit
This Is It, Michael Shayne (Mapback)	Brett Halliday	\$3.00 trade credit
A Ticket To Hell	Harry Whittington	\$3.00 trade credit
Mister Glencannon	Guy Gilpatric	\$2.50 trade credit
More Death Than One	Bruno Fischer	\$2.00 trade credit
I Should Have Stayed Home	Horace McCoy	\$5.00 trade credit
"Q" As In Quicksand (Dell Mapback)	Lawrence Treat	\$3.50 trade credit
Murder in Room 13 (Gold Medal)	Albert Conroy	\$2.50 trade credit
Darling, It's Death (Gold Medal)	Richard S. Prather	\$2.50 trade credit
Agreement to Kill (Gold Medal)	Peter Rabe	\$3.50 trade credit
The Sword Woman (Zebra)	Robert E. Howard	\$3.50 trade credit

I wandered into the Petaluma branch of Copperfields and found they had several boxes of 50s era collectible paperbacks. Talking with the clerk, I found out that they had belonged to a local collector who had pretty much dumped them on the bookstore when he moved east. Copperfields was pricing them to move as they didn't have much invested. The clerk, observing me digging through a box he had behind the counter asked why I chose certain ones and passed on others. He couldn't figure out my system. I said "Well this is a Horace McCoy, a Black Mask writer, I really liked his *They Shoot Horses, Don't They?* And that's a Peter Rabe, his *The Box* was just terrific." His response: "You mean you're going to READ these?" "Yeah, why would you buy a book if you didn't want to read it?" We were both baffled. Clearly there was a divide there that we weren't going to be able to communicate across.

## Back Numbers

### Graphic Novels Bought

Tintin: Shooting Star	Herge	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix In Spain	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix In Britain	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix and the Goths	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix In Switzerland	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix and the Big Fight	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix and the Roman Agent	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Asterix: The Mansions of the Gods	Goscinny & Uderzo	\$7 in trade (Copperfields)
Ruse: Enter The Detective	Waid, etc.	\$8 in trade (Copperfields)
Ruse: The Silent Partner	Waid, etc.	\$8 in trade (Copperfields)
The Way of the Rat	Dixon, etc.	\$8 in trade (Copperfields)
Two Pogo books	Walt Kelly	

Way more graphic novel type stuff than I usually buy, but it was there and I had credit. I think I now have sufficient Asterix books for my humble needs.

### Comics Bought

League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, Vol. II No. 6

### Pulps Bought:

#### Adventure (most coverless)

Jan. 3, 1920	Mid April, 1920	Aug. 18, 1920	Oct. 1, 1920
Aug. 18, 1921	Oct. 30th, 1921	Nov. 30, 1921	June 20, 1922
July 20, 1922	May 20, 1923	May 30, 1923	Oct., 10, 1923
Nov. 30, 1923	Feb. 29, 1924	March 10, 1924	March 20, 1924
April 20, 1924	May 20, 1924	June 10, 1924	July 20, 1924 (Incomplete)
Sept. 20, 1924	Jan. 10, 1926	Jan. 20, 1926	March 10, 1926
May 23, 1926	Sept. 23, 1926	Oct. 23, 1926	Jan. 15, 1927
Aug. 1, 1927	May 15, 1928	July 15, 1928	Dec. 1, 1928
Nov. 15, 1929	May 15, 1930	Sept. 1, 1930	Aug. 15, 1932
January 1934	March 1939	July 1939	

#### Black Mask

September 1938

#### Detective Fiction Weekly

May 21, 1932      Feb. 13, 1932      Feb 1, 1936

Total for all pulps: \$90

I had a very nice visit with a fellow pulp collector a few weeks ago and at the end of the visit, he brought out a stack of duplicate pulps that he offered to me at a very nice rate.

Sure the Adventures are, mostly, coverless, but you just can't beat reading copies of 1920s era Adventures for seventy five cents each.

The Black Mask was the most expensive of course, but even it only set me back \$35. It has H. H. Stinson, Ted Tinsley, Donald Wandrei and Nels Leoy Jorgensen.

I'm broke but very happy.