



COMICCONNECT

EVENT  
AUCTION **57**

ENDS 3/17  
THROUGH 3/22

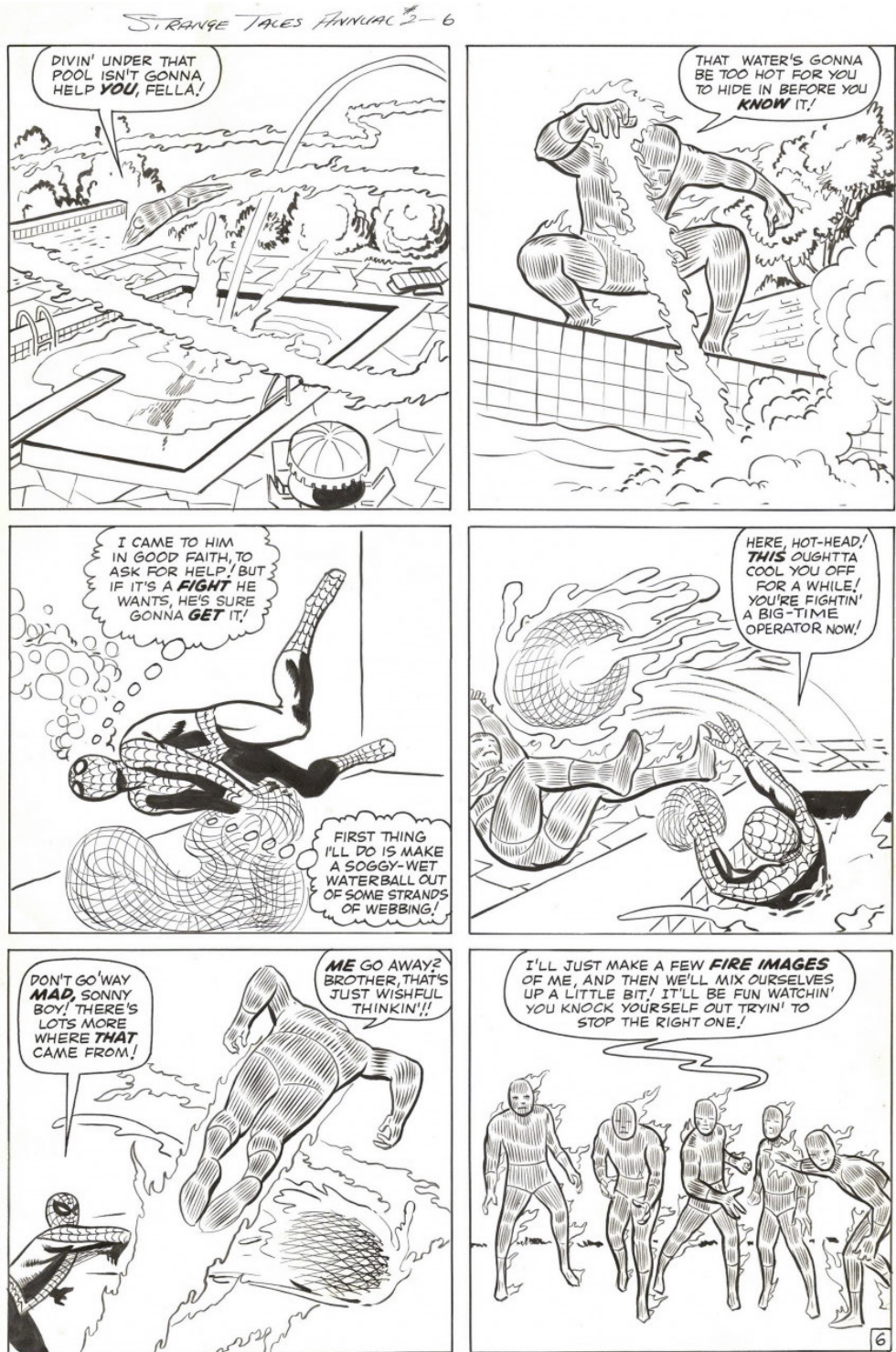


## Strange Tales Annual #2

(From the Jon Berk Collection)  
Strange Tales  
Annual #2 page 6

by Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko

This spectacular page from the dawn of the Marvel Age of Comics features the fourth appearance of Spider-Man, and his first ever team-up with the Human Torch. Boasting the artistic talents of no less than Marvel's two greatest creators, Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, with scripting by Stan Lee, the page features a bevy of action, concluding with the Torch creating several fire duplicates of himself in a striking final panel. This is a rare opportunity to own a piece of history created by two of the titans of the Silver Age.



12 mag & Poe 1/2 size

Jack Kirby

6.



Dear Collectors,

Thanks so much to everyone for consigning and bidding in our last Event Auction. We're very grateful to have collectors continue to trust us with outstanding collections of comics and original art—including a CGC-graded Detective Comics #27 6.5 that really brought us back to those amazing early thrills of being a collector.

Sadly, this auction marks the first time that we're offering items from the Jon Berk Collection after our friend passed away in August of 2023. It's always been an honor to represent this beloved comics historian who took such pride in sharing rare pieces with the community. This latest grouping from his collection includes rare original art such as Carl Burgos' earliest known drawing of the Human Torch from 1939. There are stunning Golden Age titles such as Jon's personal favorite Mystery Men #3, and an Amazing Spider-Man run of #1-11, all CGC 6.0 to 8.5.



We're excited to introduce the PACole Collection from one of the most respected collectors in the hobby, showcasing over 1,000 CGC-graded comics that have been admired by fellow collectors for decades. The new Puget Sound Collection is an extraordinary achievement as a collection of high-graded CGC books with exceptional centering and pages all registered as White or Off-White/White. These include a nearly complete run of Amazing Spider-Man #1-100 with a minimal grade of 9.0, and the rest of the run 9.4 and higher.

You'll find more offerings from the Bobby Blue Collection, which has already become legendary as exceptional examples of Pre-Code comics. Memorabilia collectors can look forward to more National Comics artifacts dating from the creation of Superman. This auction also offers CGC 9.8 Signature Series editions of The Addiction #1—proudly signed by me and co-writer/co-creator David Quinn, and our interior artist Claudia Balboni. This tale of a superheroine with a deadly touch was my debut as a creator, and it's a genuine thrill to see copies of The Addiction in this auction.

I'm showing a copy of The Addiction #1 here in one of the beautiful Nicolas Cage Comic Book Gallery Display Frames that were custom crafted for the actor's collection and are now available to the public as part of Event Auction 57. These beautifully crafted pieces are also artifacts of the sheer enthusiasm of comic collecting. We know this tour of Event Auction 57 will inspire more of that passion with an assortment of comics, original art, pulps, memorabilia, and even vintage VHS tapes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Zurzolo', written in a stylized, cursive script.

Vincent Zurzolo

# WEL- COME TO



# The Jon Berk Collection

Jon Berk was respected throughout the comic book community as an exceptionally knowledgeable collector and historian. His passing on August 10, 2023, also inspired tributes to Jon as one of the great gentlemen of the industry—starting with his dedication to bringing classic creators to the San Diego Comic Con, where many of them first discovered how much their work was cherished. There's a lot of comics history that would still be incomplete without Jon's willingness to share his books, his original art, and his own research for different preservations over the decades.

## Carl Burgos' earliest known drawing of the Human Torch

Those important artifacts include this 1939 drawing by Carl Burgos of The Human Torch, who debuted in Marvel Comics #1. This pen-and-ink drawing captures Burgos' earliest existing depiction of the Human Torch, created for publisher Lloyd Jacquet who was working with Martin Goodman—then searching for a second feature to complement the Sub-Mariner in the debut issue of Marvel Comics. The Torch, as seen in this drawing, appears more lighthearted and impish than his later incarnation.





## More Outstanding Art from the Jon Berk Collection

As previously shown, an outstanding page from 1963's *Strange Tales Annual* #2 features Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko's work on Spider-Man and the Human Torch. There's also the only known Hour Man drawing by Bernard Bailey, only seen before as a contest giveaway in 1940. Will Eisner is represented by a lost Wonder Man page that went unpublished because of a lawsuit filed by DC, as well as a classic Spirit page. The Ray is featured in a stunning *Smash Comics* splash by Lou Fine, alongside more of his work from *Wonderworld Comics* and *Crack Comics*—with several more pieces available in the auction.



### SMASH COMICS #31

by The Ray page 1 splash by  
Lou Fine



### WONDERWORLD COMICS #1

The Flame page 4 by Lou Fine



## More art highlights from the Jon Berk Collection



### DC COMICS 1940 HOUR MAN

CONTEST PRIZE ILLUSTRATION by Bernard Bailey



### THE SPIRIT 4/13/1947

Page 2 by Will Eisner



### CRACK COMICS #17 Black Condor Page 5

The Flame page 4 by Lou Fine



### WONDER COMICS #2

Unpublished Wonder Man Page by Will Eisner



# The Jon Berk Collection. Jon's Favorite Superhero

## Amazing Fantasy #15

Jon Berk created one of the greatest Golden Age collections ever seen, but remained devoted to the Silver Age glory of Spider-Man. This strikingly attractive Amazing Fantasy #15, graded 7.5, has undergone conservation to maintain an impressive appearance for generations to come. The book displays very bright colors with eye appeal far above its given grade. The sharp corners and solid spine make for an exceptionally handsome copy of one of the most important comic books ever printed.





## The Jon Berk Collection. Golden Age Greats

### Funny Pages V4 #1

Hailing from the respected Larson pedigree (and bearing the Jon Berk Collection seal of approval), this 8.5 Funny Pages V4 #1 is one of the two second-highest graded copies, with only one copy above it on the CGC census. This book boasts incredibly vibrant colors and has been kept in stellar condition, much like the other Golden Age anthology comics that made up the bulk of Jon Berk's one-of-a-kind collection.



### Silver Streak Comics #14

Jack Binder's cover for Silver Streak Comics #14 is a classic of wild wartime art. Captain Battle and his sidekick Hale are engaging in a slugfest with a horde of Nazi Skull Men, but there's the added impact of The Daredevil bursting through the cover with aplomb. Lev Gleeson's imprint was obviously looking to cash in on the success of Captain America here, but that doesn't distract from the awesome appeal of this extremely rare comic. With only 21 copies on the census, this 7.5 example (with a Rockford pedigree) is one of the two second-highest graded copies known.



### Amazing Spider-Man #1

This 6.0 copy of Amazing Spider-Man #1 was one of Jon Berk's most prized possessions—continuing a love for Spider-Man that would lure the comics historian into decades of collecting and preservation. This book remains one of the cornerstones of comic collecting, representing the second-ever appearance of Spidey. This copy offers eye appeal above grade, a strong and sturdy spine, bright colors, and beautiful white pages in the interior.



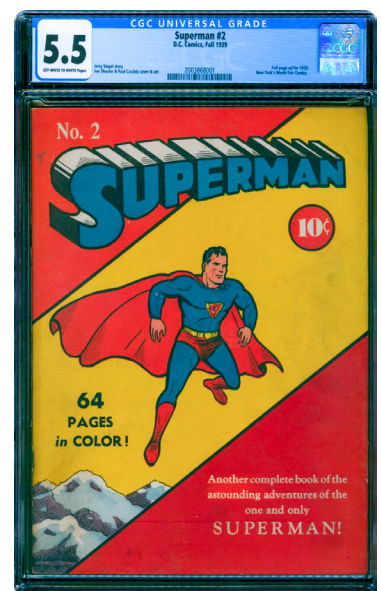
### Mystery Men Comics #3

"My favorite cover is Mystery Men Comics #3," Jon Berk once said, adding: "It triggered my interest in obtaining other Fox books, especially those by Lou Fine." That's instantly understandable with a look at Fine's amazing Green Mask cover, especially when seen as this Mystery Men #3 Larson Pedigree CGC-graded 8.5. Collectors have found it increasingly rare to find Fox books in high grades, and there are only two non-restored books in this title at a higher grade.



### Superman #2

Superman #2 has always been a rare book, with under 250 copies on the CGC Census. Now this 5.5 copy is made available as a rare upper-grade artifact from the surviving original condition copies. Boasting a solid construction and retaining the punch of its simplistic (yet memorable) color scheme, this copy provides the serious Man of Steel fans with the chance to become the proud owner of a true classic of superhero history.

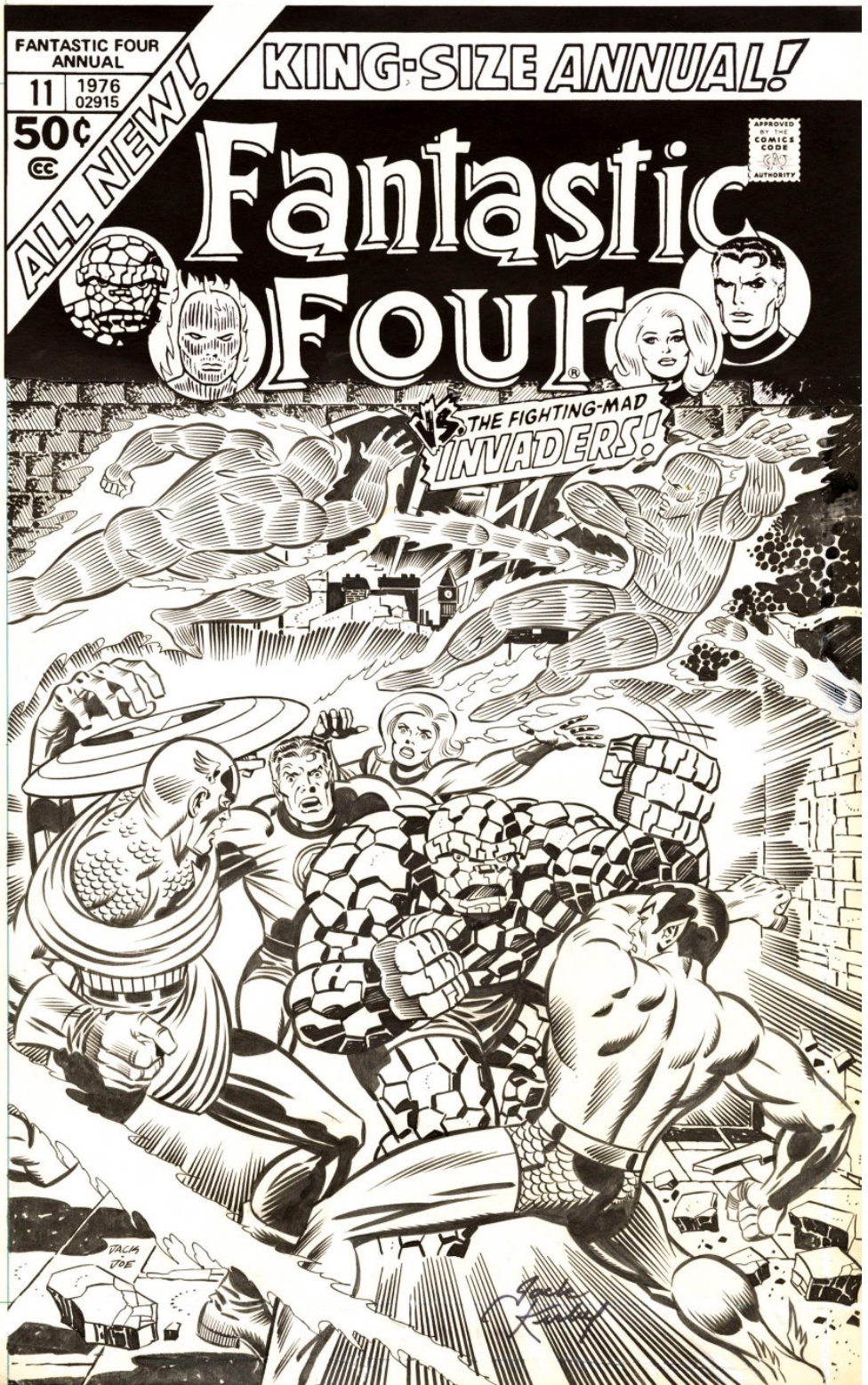




## Fantastic Four Annual #11 Cover Art

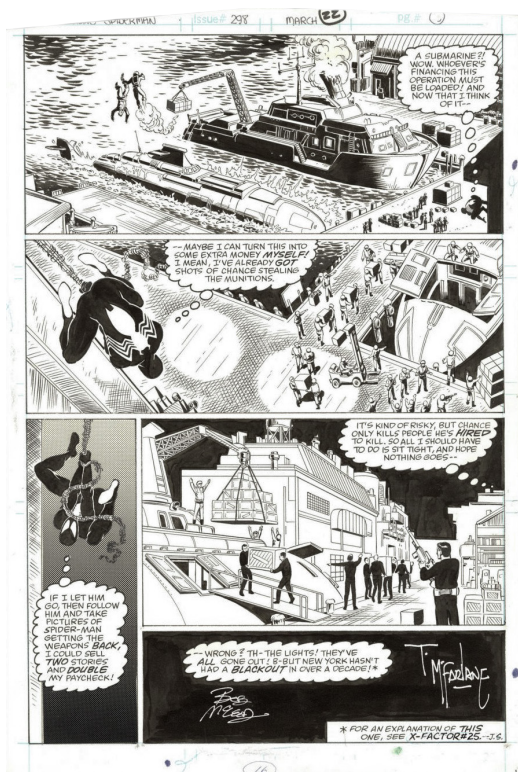
# Fantastic Four Annual #11 cover by Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott

Event Auction #57 features an incredible assortment of original comic art, from the incredible selections from the Jon Berk collection, through some of comics' finest creators. Not the least of which is this cover by the incomparable team of Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott, who together created some of the finest works of Marvel's Silver Age. This cover, from 1976's Fantastic Four Annual #11, features not only great images of Reed, Sue, Johnny, and Ben, but also of Marvel's Golden Age super team The Invaders. Made up of Captain America, the Sub-Mariner, and the original Human Torch, this cover represents the culmination of two artists who understood each other completely, creating a drawing that exudes confidence in every stroke.

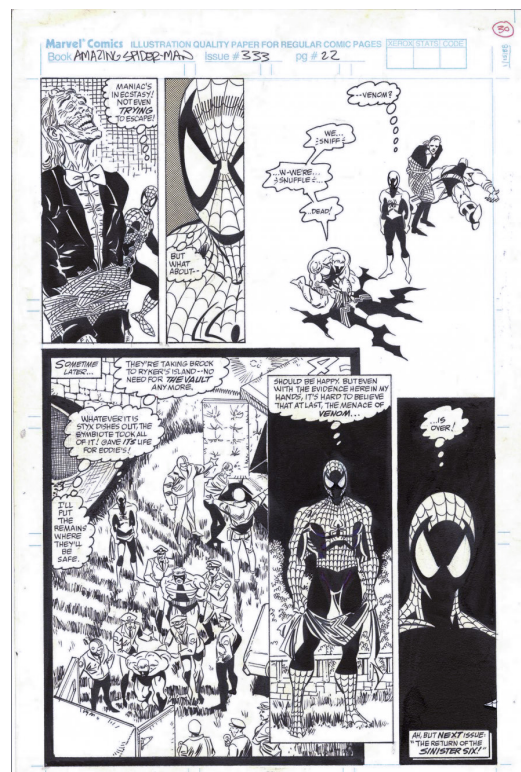




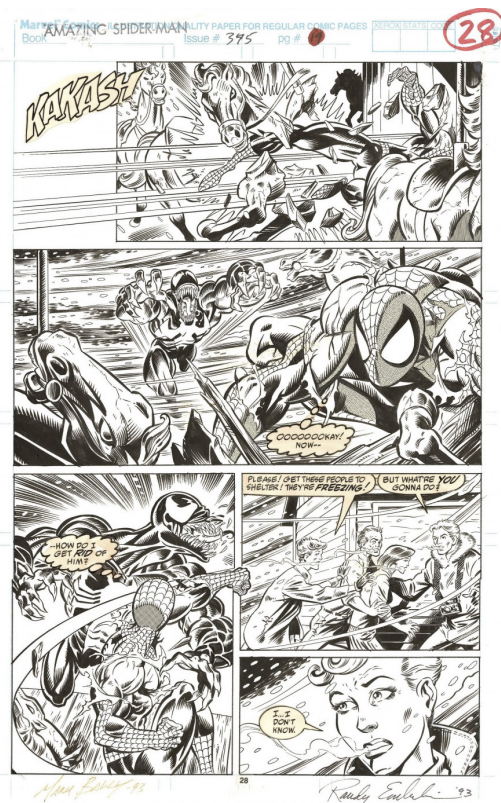
## Classic 1980s/'90s Spider-Man Art!



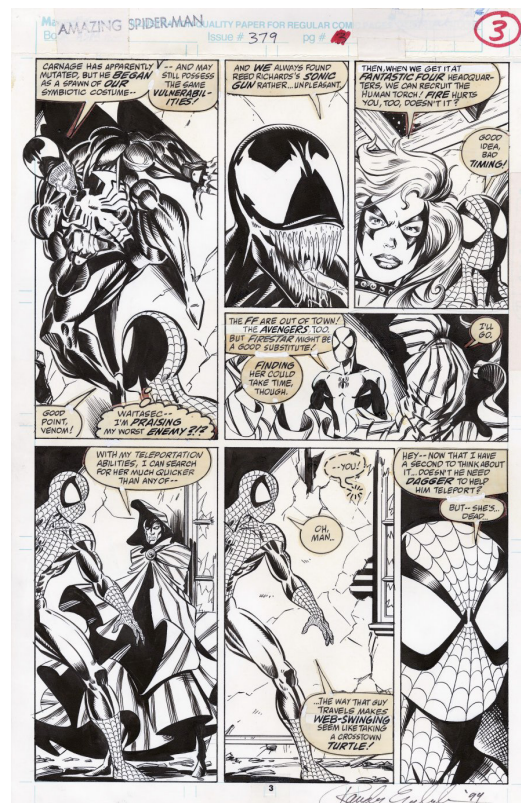
**Amazing Spider-Man #298 Page 16**  
by Todd McFarlane – McFarlane's 1st Spidey



**Amazing Spider-Man #333 Page 22**  
by Erik Larsen – Death of Venom



**Amazing Spider-Man #375 Page 19**  
by Mark Bagley – Spidey vs. Venom



**Amazing Spider-Man #379 Page 3**  
by Mark Bagley – Maximum Carnage



# Original Art Highlights

**Superman: Peace on Earth Pages 38-39**  
by Alex Ross



**Sandman #1**  
**Page 19**  
by Sam Kieth and Mike Dringenberg



**Journey Into Mystery #86**  
by Jack Kirby – 4th appearance of Thor!







# Original Art Highlights

**Gen 13 (1994) #5**

**Pages 23-24**

by J. Scott Campbell



**XX-Factor #69 Page 13**

by Whilce Portacio



**Wolverine #37 Page 28**

by Mark Silvestri - 1st appearance of the Wolverine android Albert

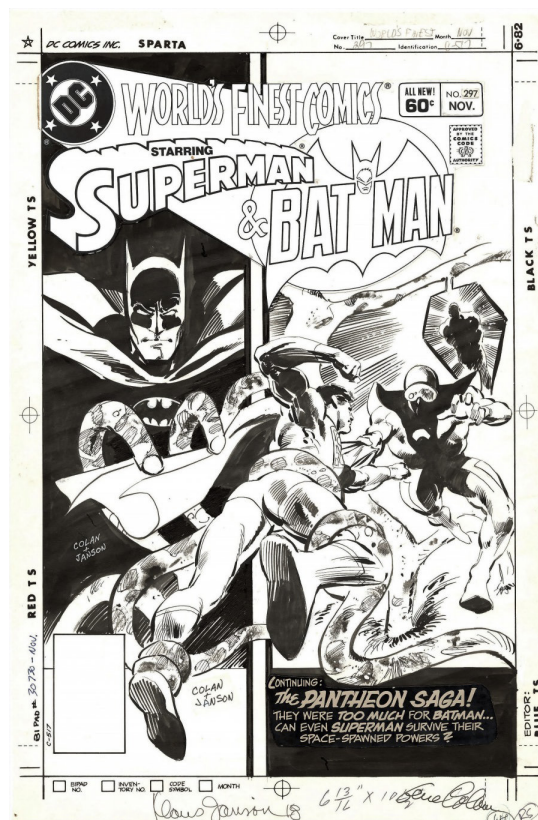


# Original Art Highlights

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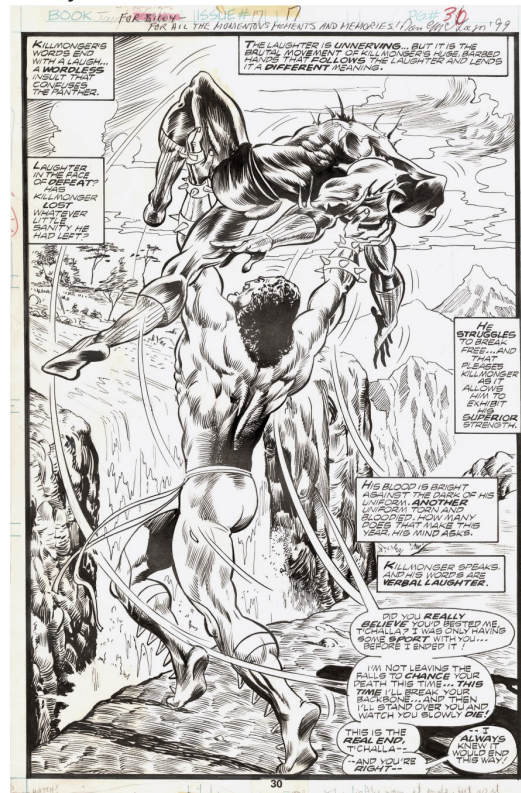
**Metal Men #55 Cover**  
by Jim Aparo



**World's Finest #297 Cover**  
by Gene Colan



**Captain America #118 Page 15 Splash**  
by Gene Colan



**Jungle Action #17 Page 30 Splash**  
by Billy Graham – Classic Black Panther/  
Killmonger Splash



# Original Art Highlights

EVENT AUCTION **57**



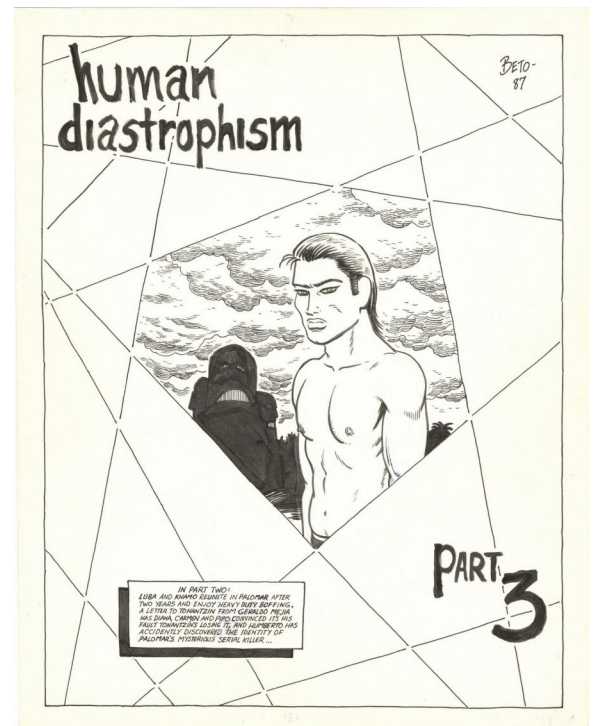
**Silver Surfer: Judgement Day Page 62**  
by John Buscema



**1993 Marvel Masterpieces War Machine**  
by Joe Jusko



**Hulk 1999 Annual Cover**  
by Lee Weeks



**Love and Rockets #23 Title Page**  
by Gilbert Hernandez



## Jerry Siegel Letters - The War for Superman

ComicConnect continues to reveal secrets of the "Battle for Superman" with more artifacts from the Golden Age of Comics. We've unearthed over 20 more rare documents once lost in the files of industry greats—such as this signed handwritten letter with Superman co-creator Jerry Siegel scrawling an angry Father's Day message to a National Comics executive, he'd blamed for leaving him "destitute," declaring: "I cannot support my son because of YOU."

Other documents reveal more controversy and confrontations in the wake of Action Comics #1. The new title introduced the world to Superman, but also sparked corporate maneuvering and embittered behavior from Siegel—who, along with artist Joe Shuster, had sold the rights to Superman for \$130 in 1938. Our auction includes disturbing documents such as...

- An internal memo from 1939 revealing how comic executives feared a potential "tough case" of plagiarism brought against Siegel and Shuster by sci-fi novelist Philip Wylie, along with the first confirmation that National Comics heard from the same attorney representing "Man and Superman" playwright George Bernard Shaw.

- More troubling letters from Jerry Siegel's poison-pen mail campaign against comics executives, including a lost poem entitled "Somebody Walks Alone" which warns, "A day will come these skunks will rue/They'll burn in hell as all rats do."

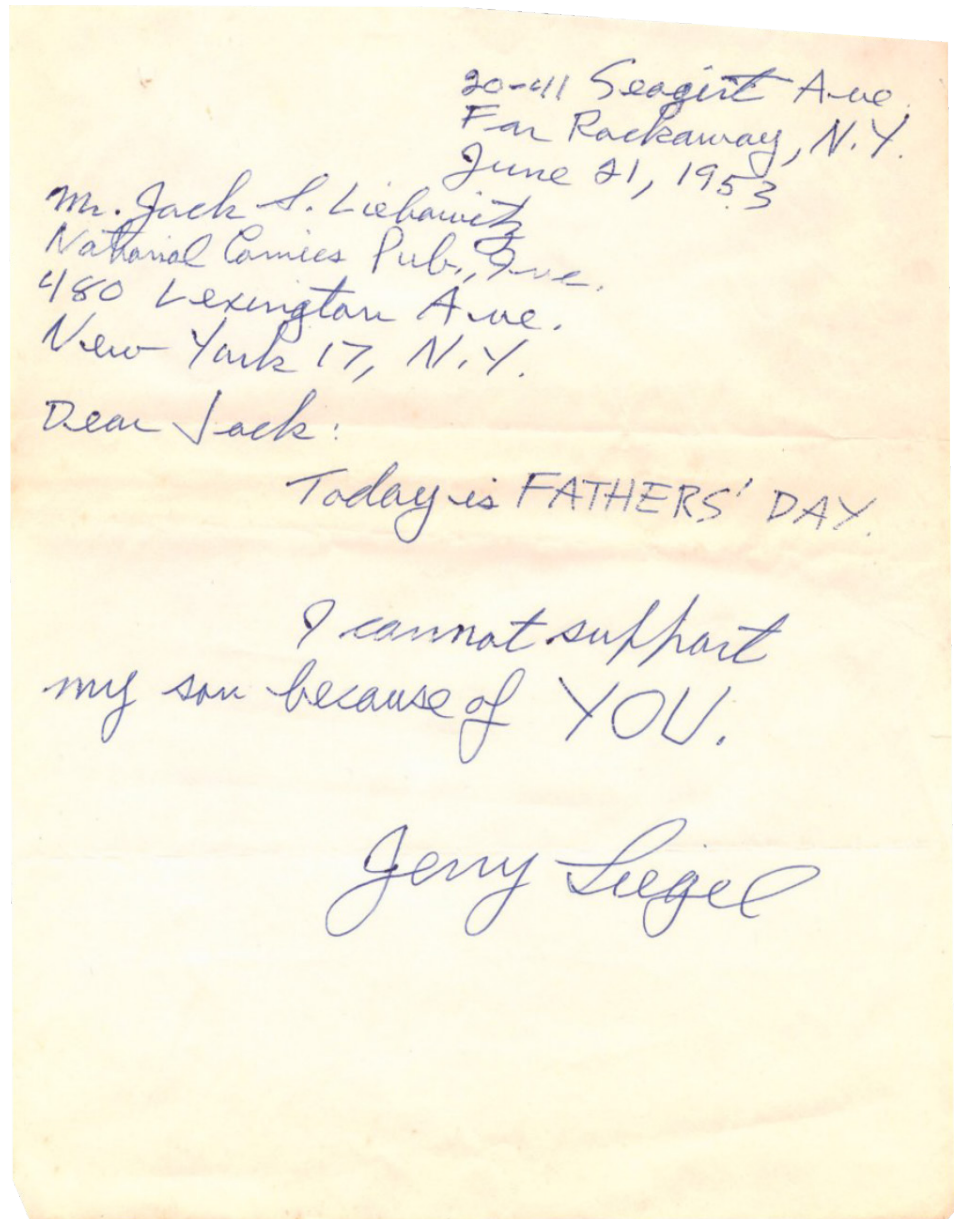
- An angry letter (with original envelope) addressed to the Head Waiter of Hutton's—a popular restaurant down the street from the National Comics offices—with Siegel asking, "Remember me?" before blasting his former (and future) employers as "selfish, greedy men."

- A handwritten note from Siegel's wife apologizing for her husband's threatening letters, with an added receipt to prove that she had been selling items from around the house to buy groceries.

- An internal document from 1938 (less than a year after Superman's debut) where a newspaper editor dismisses Siegel's idea "of developing an Achilles heel for Superman...which would deprive him of his strength."

- A lost contract for an unrealized Jerry Siegel "comic magazine strip" to be called "Super-Doopers!"

ComicConnect is proud to offer these museum-grade collectibles which put a new spin on pop-culture history, with appearances by some of the biggest legends in comics biz—all part of one of the most super stories ever told!





# VHS Fire Up Your VCR!

## Star Wars Vhs (Cbs/Fox) The Empire Strikes Back Vhs (Cbs/Fox)

The demand for vintage Star Wars VHS proves that physical media matters—with a rush to preserve tapes that are free of creator George Lucas' tampering over the decades. Star Wars fans have been bemoaning Lucas' controversial improvements since he began tampering with his original trilogy for a series of 1997 theatrical re-releases. These original VHS tapes are free of any dubbed audio, added shots, or enhanced CGI effects. Nobody's changed the sound mix on John Williams' original scores, either. This copy of Star Wars is among the earliest 1984 VHS releases, with the artwork missing the words "Digitally Mastered" in the red triangle on the front of the slipcover case. The words were added to copies released later that same year. These VHS artifacts are CGC-graded at 9.4, with CBS/Fox watermarks on the shrink wrap. Each of the tapes also features a "cream" color tone slipcase with oval vent hole. Star Wars is presented in Memorex's rare two-tone plastic casing; Empire is recorded on Black Guard Memorex tape.

## Signed Vhs: Back To The Future (Mca Home Video)

This sealed Back to the Future VHS is autographed by Michael J. Fox, Christopher Lloyd, Lea Thompson, and Thomas F. Wilson—for the making of a genuinely rare '80s artifact! The classic comedy launched the VHS collector's craze with a \$75,000 sale in 2022. Now, as part of the IGS Signature Line with a full Letter of Authenticity, this item will have investors racing to get back in time for a high bid!



## The Beatles At Shea Stadium Vhs (Media)

This documentary of the Beatles' 1965 concert at Shea Stadium has been a valuable VHS find since 1979, with Media Home Video forced to pull the tape from stores after a lawsuit was brought by music publishers Northern Songs. Another lawsuit was successfully filed to prevent the home-video release of the footage in 2016, making this VHS a true time capsule for fans of the Beatles and VHS history!



# Spidey Keys



## Amazing Fantasy #15

Our first Event Auction of 2024 features two copies of Amazing Fantasy #15: a 7.5 from the Jon Berk Collection, and this Amazing Fantasy #15 at 5.5, featuring a classic cover in striking colors for the grade. Of course, this legendary issue is a cornerstone of collecting as the first appearance and origin of Spider-Man, as well as the introduction of Aunt May and Uncle Ben. This copy stands out as an exceptionally well-preserved edition, with the cover also free of the Marvel chipping so often found in this issue.



## Amazing Spider-Man #3

While this auction's Puget Sound Collection features an impressive run of early Amazing Spider-Man issues at 9.0, we're also excited to offer this extraordinary copy of Amazing Spider-Man #3 graded at 9.6. There are only two issues of this prestigious comic graded higher in the CGC census—with the book even more valuable as Doctor Octopus' debut as one of Spider-Man's most beloved villains. This issue preserves the classic cover that introduced the world to Doc Ock as one of the wildest characters from co-creators Stan Lee and Steve Ditko.



# Behold The Batman

Detective Comics #27 hit the newsstands in March 1939 with the first appearance of Batman. That was just 11 months after the debut of Superman in Action Comics #1. The ensuing years have seen both comics become major works of pop culture. The two titles have also continually set new records in auction sales. ComicConnect now proudly brings this Detective Comics #27 to market, graded at an extremely rare 6.5 with white pages. (There are 77 copies of Detective #27 listed in the CGC census, with only 8 unrestored copies graded higher than 6.5.) A similarly graded Detective #27 (6.0, signed by Bob Kane) sold at auction for \$1.74 million in 2022.

"The Case of the Chemical Syndicate" introduced the world to both the Dark Knight and wealthy playboy Bruce Wayne—with co-creators Bob Kane and Bill Finger also establishing the crimefighter's relationship with Commissioner Jim Gordon. This copy is an outstanding edition with a cover that's maintained its colorful cover over the years. Batman, of course, continues to have an enduring impact on pop culture. There are at least ten Batman-related film and television projects currently in production, ensuring that Detective Comics #27 maintains its value as both a comic collectible and an important artifact of American history.

## **The Secret History of Batman and Bob Kane (As told to Stephen Fishler by Bob Kane)**

DC needed a follow-up to Superman, and young Bob Kane was handed the demanding task.

Bob Kane, working with Bill Finger, had his first Batman story published in Detective Comics #27. The rest is history.

But there is more.

The year is 1940. Batman, for lack of a better phrase, is rocking and rolling.

Young Bob laments to his uncle one night about how well Batman is doing and how little he was getting paid. The uncle, a seasoned veteran in the publishing business, is what we will call the fixer.

A plan is concocted. But will it work?

The next day, Bob Kane and his uncle head to the DC offices. What is set in place is a confrontation between Bob Kane & family and Jack Liebowitz—who basically owns DC.

Lots of niceties. Batman is doing great. Sales are through the roof. Everyone is happy. Or so it would appear.

Then Kane's uncle sends the shot heard round the world. Comic-wise.

The uncle says:

"Did you know my nephew Bob is a minor?"

As a matter of law, a signed contract with a minor is not enforceable. Jack Liebowitz knows what this means. The 1939 agreement between DC and Kane over his work on Batman is null and void.

Panic sets in.

On the spot, DC agrees to a brand-new set of demands including a higher pay rate and full creator credit.

Compare the deal that Superman co-creators Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster had with Liebowitz to Kane's agreement. The difference is night and day.

Now, do you want to know the hidden story behind the hidden story?

Kane was not underage. It was a con, and DC bought it.

...and now you know the rest of the story.



# Detective Comics #27





## Detective Comics #38 Brazil - O LOBINHO #13

## Foreign Finds

Collectors have been clamoring for fantastic foreign comics, and this Event Auction gathers awesome offerings from around the world—such as this striking May, 1941 edition of Brazil's O Lobinho ("The Wolf-Cub"). The popular title served as an anthology series for American superhero comics, including this rare reprint of Detective #38. This edition would remain the Golden Age's only overseas publication of this classic key that introduced Robin the Boy Wonder (or, as named here, the "Prodigious Boy"). This 3.5 edition with off-white pages has a cover date of just 13 months after the American publication and features vibrant colors on a new look at a timeless cover. This printing is considered to be one of the three rarest Brazilian comics ever published, with the CGC Census offering 146 U.S. editions and only three of these Brazilian variants. The book is unaltered, as well, unlike the two previous copies that came up for auction over the past decade.





# Super High Grade Frazetta Famous Funnies



## Famous Funnies #214

Before Frank Frazetta went on to become the undisputed master of fantasy art, he was a well-respected draftsman who worked his way up through the ranks of the nascent comic strip and comic book business. His early work on the Buck Rogers cover of Famous Funnies #214 is a classic of the form, with this 9.2 copy tied on the CGC census as highest graded. The blazing colors on this cover are extremely strong given the book's 70-year vintage; all the subtle nuances of this memorable illustration are on full display. The preservation of the book is quite impressive, with very few imperfections visible.



# Classic Golden Age Covers

## Great Comics #3



Reed Crandall's highly memorable "Hitler Goes to Hell" cover for Great Comics #3 also illustrates why Golden Age collectors are always drawn to the comics of the era. The halcyon days of the wartime comic book inspired artists of the period to consistently exceed and outdo expectations. There are less than 40 copies of this issue on the census, making this brightly solid 5.0 book a rarity that will see serious bidding in EA #57.

## Silver Streak Comics #6



This Jack Cole cover stands out as a "Yellow Peril" artifact, featuring "The Claw" as a popular "go-to" villain for Lev Gleeson's publishing house during the Golden Age. The character would go on to team up with Hitler and become a foil for the original Daredevil (making his own debut in this issue). This comic is exceptionally rare, with less than 50 copies on the census—seen here in a mid-grade copy that maintains a strong color palette and structural integrity after all these decades.

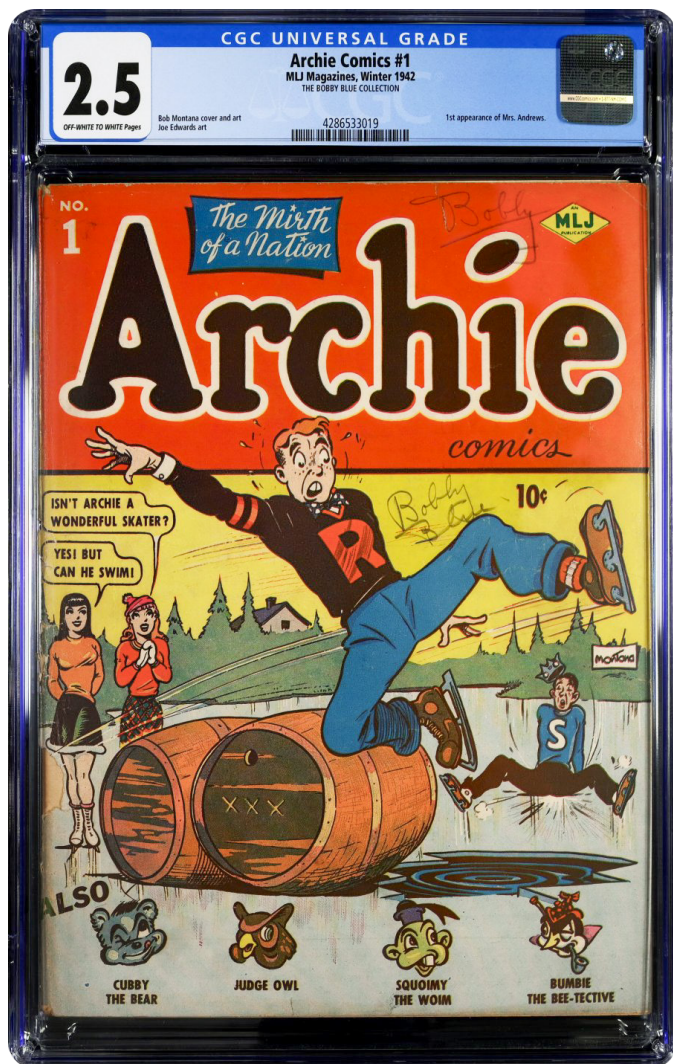
## Zip Comics #22

The cover of Zip Comics #22 captures the freedom and imagination that inspired comic artists trying to capture the American fighting spirit during the international conflict. Steel Sterling is seen here choking a Nazi Grim Reaper while flying through a giant "V" for Victory, while Black Jack runs toward the action from the background. This restored copy retains a colorful punch and stability and is one of a very scant 20 issues listed on the CGC census.





# Wholesome Americana

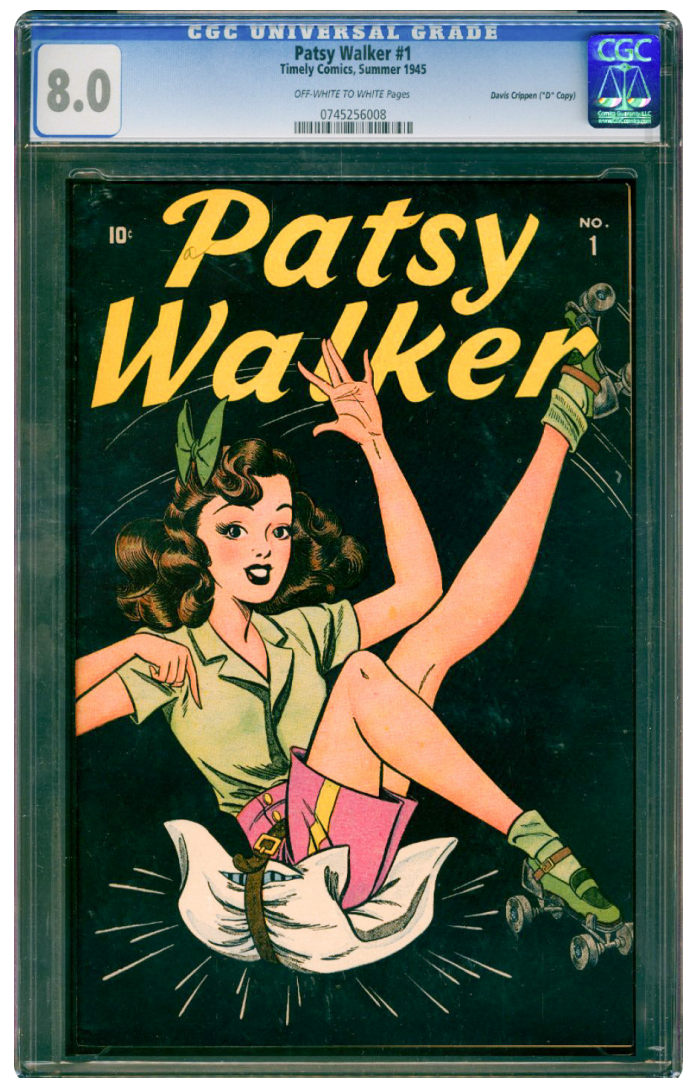


## Archie Comics #1

When young Bobby Blue signed his name on the cover of this copy of Archie #1 all those years ago, he could never imagined the prices this milestone comic would someday ask at auction. The beloved comic's 1942 debut would become one of the most sought-after titles produced during the Golden Age. With only 72 copies listed on the CGC census at present, this 2.5 example is sure to be a hotly contested lot. The book still presents bright colors, and the majority of the wear is relegated to the perimeter of the cover.

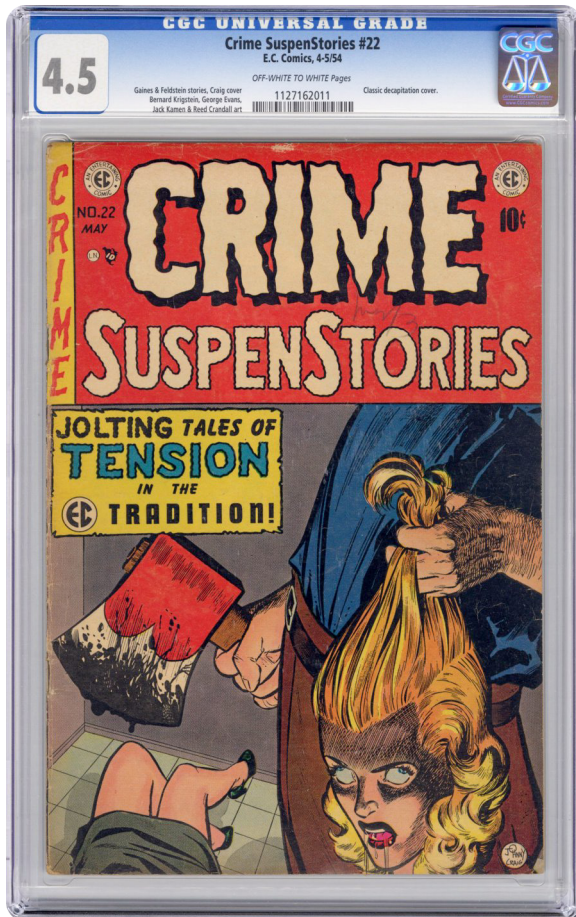
## Patsy Walker #1

Patsy Walker was a mainstay at Timely Comics for many years, with Patsy Walker #1 providing teen romance to balance the company's superheroes of the 1940s. Patsy would later join the superhero ranks herself in the Bronze Age, transitioning into the feline heroine Hellcat. This cover, credited to Mike Sekowsky, is in exceptional condition as one of three 8.0 examples. These are the third-highest graded copies, with only four copies higher up the census. This Davis Crippen "D" pedigree copy hasn't lost any of its radiance after nearly 80 years, and fans will be clamoring for their chance to land this influential comic in a rare high grade.





# The PACole Collection Horror Covers



## Crime Suspenstories #22

Crime SuspenStories #22 is notorious as the book that finally brought the hammer down on Pre-Code horror comics. This grisly Johnny Craig decapitation cover is often cited as the art that eventually led to the formation of the Comics Code Authority—the censorship board formed after the 1954 U.S. Senate hearing to clean up the comic book industry. Our auction offers a 4.5 copy that has defiantly retained its controversial colors. The book shows some wear around the edges of the cover, but that iconic central image remains in admirable condition.

It was inevitable that Philip Cole's beloved comics collection would come to market as the PACole Collection—named for the CGC Forum username that made Cole one of the most respected hobbyists in the comics community. While he's shared his bountiful knowledge and insight over the years, Cole estimates that he's never sold more than a dozen comics from his collection. That changes with Event Auction #57 and the debut of the PACole Collection featuring Golden Age titles, extraordinary runs of EC Comics (including MAD #1-10, and beyond), and nearly every early Marvel key issue. Collectors will also take note of a run of early issues of Detective Comics featuring some of Batman's earliest adventures, along with pre-Batman issues that rarely come up for sale. His longtime followers in the comics community will recognize beloved titles with personal connections to Cole, including an impressive Richie Rich collection and the Sugar and Spike books that won the CGC Comics 2022 Registry Award for best Golden Age Set.

## Mask Comics #1



## Mask Comics #2

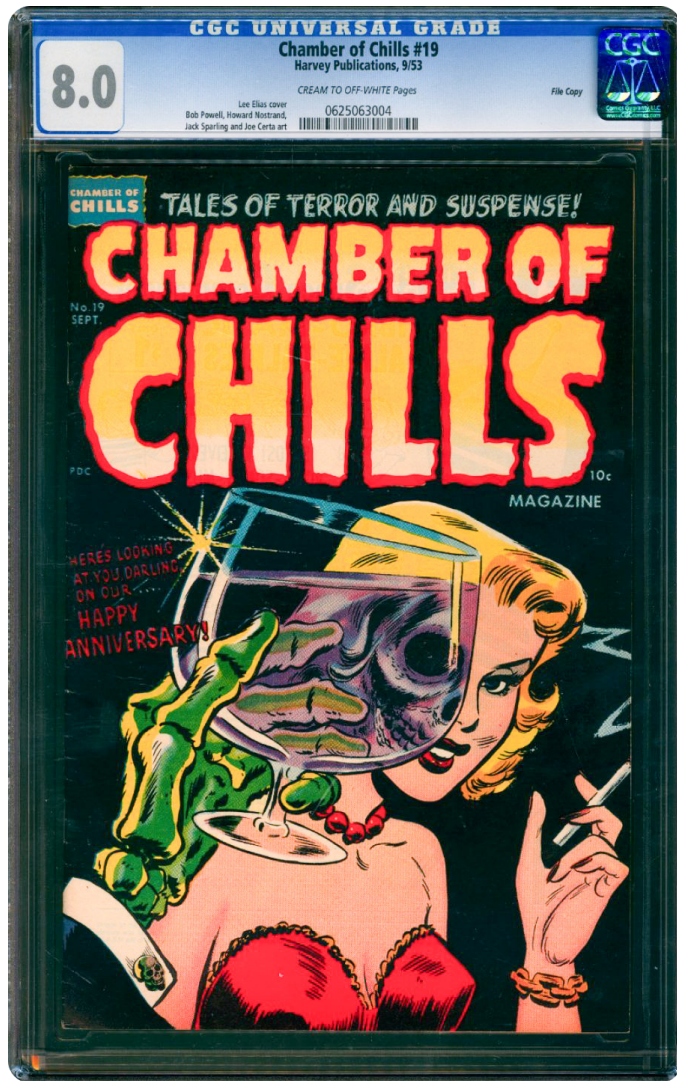


L.B. Cole is considered a master of the comic art form of the Golden Age by collectors of today. His books are consistently popular items in our auction, and none more so than this pair of iconic covers for Mask Comics. The copy of Mask #1, with its evil candle and faerie motif, has a very rare double cover. The outside cover has retained its color palette, with the memorable central image strikingly preserved. Mask #2's Devil cover is another classic of the Golden Age, and this sturdy 4.0 copy shows off Cole's "poster color" design offering a vibrant punch.



# The PACole Collection

## Good Girl & Horror



### Chamber Of Chills #19

Chamber of Chills #19 achieved iconic status over this disturbing Lee Elias illustration that became the stuff of legend to horror fans, Golden Age collectors, and plenty of punk rockers after the Misfits swiped the art for a self-released single in 1984. With only 124 copies listed, this hellishly-hot Harvey book is fairly difficult to find in any condition—let alone this gorgeous 8.0 graded copy. The colors are bright, the black wash of the background is both clean and relatively free of wear, and the overall presentation is solid and fresh.

### Phantom Lady #17

A 9.6 copy of Phantom Lady #17 sold for nearly half a million dollars in 2021, due in no small part to the reverence and respect for cover illustrator Matt Baker and his highly memorable depictions of the female form. One of the handful of Black comic book artists working through the Golden Age, Baker's reputation (and the value of his works) continues to grow amongst modern-day investment collectors. The paper covers of this book tend to be very unforgiving, which makes this bright and stable copy all the more desirable. As one of the most popular Good Girl covers in the genre, this copy could very well set a new record at grade.



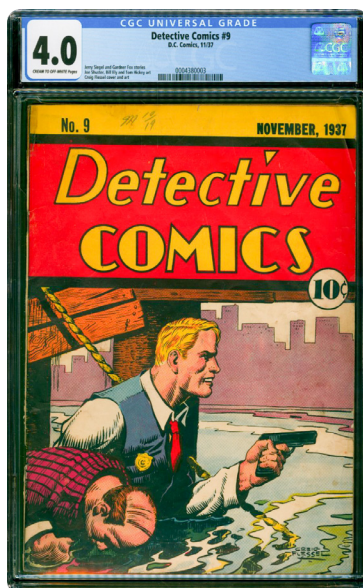


# The PACole Collection Detective Comics

Early issues of Detective Comics showcased the early influence of the pulp market on the comics industry. The covers in this selection of classic early Detective books are as hard-boiled as they come, with a swagger that would soon be translated into the superhero covers of the wartime era. Uniformed policemen, trenchcoated detectives, and even the masked Crimson Avenger take on challenging crimes to the delight of fans eager to support this new era of comics. Issues #32 and #34 feature the fearful visage of The Batman, who would soon become the book's featured hero. (Issue #34 is seen here as the last non-Batman cover that would exist for many decades.) These books are well known as very shrewd investments with plenty of upside potential. They're also extremely difficult to find and rarely come up at auction, particularly all in a single grouping. Most of these comics are in lower- to mid-grades, and one has been professionally restored. The books have all survived the ages while safely preserved, however, and are ready for determined bidders to slug it out over bragging rights to these treasures of yesteryear.



DETECTIVE COMICS #6



DETECTIVE COMICS #9



DETECTIVE COMICS #14



DETECTIVE COMICS #16



DETECTIVE COMICS #20



DETECTIVE COMICS #22



DETECTIVE COMICS #32



DETECTIVE COMICS #34



# The PACole Collection Marvel Silver Age Keys



## AMAZING FANTASY #15

This classic comic remains the Silver Age equivalent of Action Comics #1—with the historic first appearance of Spider-Man looking great for the grade at 4.5 cream/off-white pages. This issue offers a perfect purchase point as one of the hobby's most reliable investments in a truly legendary debut issue. This emotionally charged origin story reveals how young Peter Parker's arrogance would lead to the murder of his beloved Uncle Ben, setting our hero on a path that's kept Spider-Man swinging for over 60 years as one of the most collectable characters in comics.



## AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1

Spider-Man's first appearance in Amazing Fantasy #15 was an overnight sensation, leading to a hurriedly prepared solo title from co-creators Stan Lee and Steve Ditko. Spider-Man's own adventures were an instant success, launching a legacy that's made this 1st issue one of the Holy Grails of comic collecting. This gorgeous, graded copy is 5.5 ow/white pages, and now made even more collectable with the introduction of the Chameleon as Spidey's first real supervillain.



## FANTASTIC FOUR #1

The Fantastic Four is about to become one of the most talked about super teams of 2024, with excitement building over Marvel Studios recovering the film rights to the heroes that launched the company's visionary take on comics. As seen here, co-creator Jack Kirby's classic action-packed cover to Fantastic Four #1 continues to look great at any grade. This comic is also treasured for introducing the tragically evil character of the Mole Man while boasting one of the most thrilling origin stories of the era. Silver Age Marvel keys like this one are always in high demand, and the pop-culture passion for Fantastic Four will only get more heated.



## INCREDIBLE HULK #1

Stan Lee and Jack Kirby kept the Marvel Age going with this origin issue revealing how mild-mannered scientist Bruce Banner became the big and brutal Hulk. At 3.0 o/w pages, this issue is a fantastic opportunity for investors, with one of comics' most iconic covers showcasing the gray Hulk who only lasted for a single issue. (The second issue saw the Hulk going green after the primitive four-color printing process mangled his skin's color scheme throughout the first issue.) This historic first issue also introduces Betty Ross, General "Thunderbolt" Ross, and teenage sidekick Rick Jones.



## JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83

Stan Lee found an outlet for his more grandiose stylings with the introduction of Norse god Thor as a proper superhero—with this issue also introducing readers to Dr. Don Blake, a humble human whose walking stick turns him into the legendary figure who turns back an alien invasion with his mighty hammer Mjölnir. This rare issue had an unusually low print run and is a great investment at 6.0 o/w pages.



## X-MEN #1

Stan Lee originally envisioned The X-Men as The Mutants, but changed the title to appease publisher Martin Goodman—brilliantly naming the newly formed group after its founder, Professor Charles Xavier. In addition to becoming a hit film franchise, this brave band of teen outcasts would lead to a staggering number of comic spin-offs, plus a variety of cartoons and live-action TV shows. The investment value of this already perpetually hot issue, here at 4.0 ow/white pages, will likely only grow with the anticipation of the cinematic X-Men's recent return to being a Marvel Studios property.



# The Puget Sound Collection High Grade Amazing Spider-Man

The dedication to quality behind the Puget Sound Collection has made it a pleasure for ComicConnect to work though rare high grades of classic books—as seen by this collection of early Amazing Spider-Man titles.

We're also proud to present the Puget Sound Amazing Spider-Man #129 at 9.8, with this issue launching an era of Bronze Age collecting with the introduction of The Punisher in 1974.



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #2



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #3



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #4



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #5



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #6



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #11



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #14



AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129



## The Puget Sound Collection High Grade Bronze & Silver Age



### AVENGERS #4

Even back in 1964, comic collectors knew it was a major event when Stan Lee and Jack Kirby brought Captain America into the 1960s with this classic issue of Avengers #4. Kirby's amazingly iconic artwork (and a guest turn by the Sub-Mariner) only made it more obvious to early investors that this was a book for the ages. It's still rare for a copy of Avengers #4 to hit the market in 9.0 grade, here with the off-white/white pages that mark the high standards of the Puget Sound Collection.



### INCREDIBLE HULK #2

This gorgeous copy of Incredible Hulk #2 also marks the first appearance of the green giant that became a pop-culture hero. (Stan Lee demanded a change after the printing process for Incredible Hulk #1 left the gray-skinned hero looking incredibly inconsistent.) This 9.0 graded copy continues to capture how Incredible Hulk stood out in the comic-book stands with the hero's unique green skin for the second issue.



### INCREDIBLE HULK #4

This rare early issue of The Incredible Hulk features Marvel's emerging hero in two stories written by Stan Lee, with cover and interior art by Jack Kirby and Dick Ayers. Collectors will also notice enhanced details that make this early issue an exceptional artifact from 1962, including sharp corners and deep colors. Incredible Hulk #4 also has historical importance, with the Hulk's origin revisited so that scientist Bruce Banner gets transformed into a green-skinned gargantuan (as opposed to the gray-skinned incarnation of Incredible Hulk #1).



### INCREDIBLE HULK #181

This issue marks Wolverine's first full appearance as the breakout character of Marvel's Bronze Age—as seen when a copy of Incredible Hulk #181 became the first Bronze Age book to break the \$100,000 sales mark. This exceptional copy is already graded 9.6 white pages, but with a prime focal area, deep colors, striking staple placement, and an exceptional job of centering. This perpetually strong investment also marks the emergence of one of the biggest pop-culture icons of the past fifty years.



### X-MEN #94

The plot may seem like familiar fare, but X-Men #94 would be the first regular issue of Marvel's long-running title to feature the new team of Storm, Banshee, Wolverine, Thunderbird, Colossus, Nightcrawler, and founding member Cyclops. This copy is already outstanding at 9.6 white pages, but also offers additional QES-certified features including rich colors, preferred centering, and exceptional eye appeal and presentation.



### GIANT-SIZE X-MEN #1

Few comics have had the impact of 1975's Giant-Size X-Men #1, as Len Wein and Dave Cockrum introduced a whole new team of mutant heroes to take over Marvel's long-running titles. There may not be another comic with more important first appearances in its pages. With an impressive grading at 9.8 white pages, this uniquely preserved copy also offers a QES-certified strong spine, deep colors, and impressive prime focal area for best presentation.



# AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1

The story of the Puget Sound Collection begins with a child in a hospital room. “I was diagnosed with cancer. The saga of the Puget Sound Collection begins with our anonymous collector battling cancer at the age of 13: “To pass the time, I bought some comics from the hospital gift shop—mostly a bunch of Marvel titles. Meanwhile, my mother was desperately seeking miracle cures, and would buy carrots in bulk for vegetable juicing. That took her to the Pike Place Market in Seattle, right next to the famous Golden Age Collectibles shop. They had all the key Silver and Bronze Age comics beautifully displayed in the numerous glass display cases, and I quickly caught the bug!”

“My parents spoiled me,” added the collector, “and I was able to amass an impressive collection for a kid without a regular income. I’ve been cancer-free since an operation in 1984. The collecting continued. I collected all through high school and college, and always concentrated on high-grade early issues.”

Those books were sold to a dealer as the collector entered his mid-20s. Then, after years living abroad, the former fan was excited to find that the comics industry had embraced his own high standards for classic books. That commenced years of occasional returns to the hobby. Then the proper Puget Sound Collection began in 2015 with the discovery of several Steve Ditko Spider-Man titles in 9.0 OW/W.

This sparked a commitment to building a complete run of similar Ditko Spider-Man books. From there, a chase began for high-grade John Byrne X-Men titles and Frank Miller’s Daredevil run: “I added Neal Adams issues, almost all the pre-1983 John Byrne issues, and all the early new X-Men and related issues to my want list—then turned my attention to early Silver Age Marvel superhero titles, along with various key issues that had meaning to me.”

The Puget Sound Collection would receive yet another revamping with a new emphasis on presentation within graded books. (“A friend of mine commented on some of my comics being horribly centered.”) This new dedication added another dimension to what’s now rightfully described as excellent examples of books within their condition range. “I’ve had a lot of fun along the way,” said the collector, “but I’ve found that most of the fun has been the pursuit of the prize. Now it’s time to let others enjoy these titles.”

## (From the Puget Sound Collection)

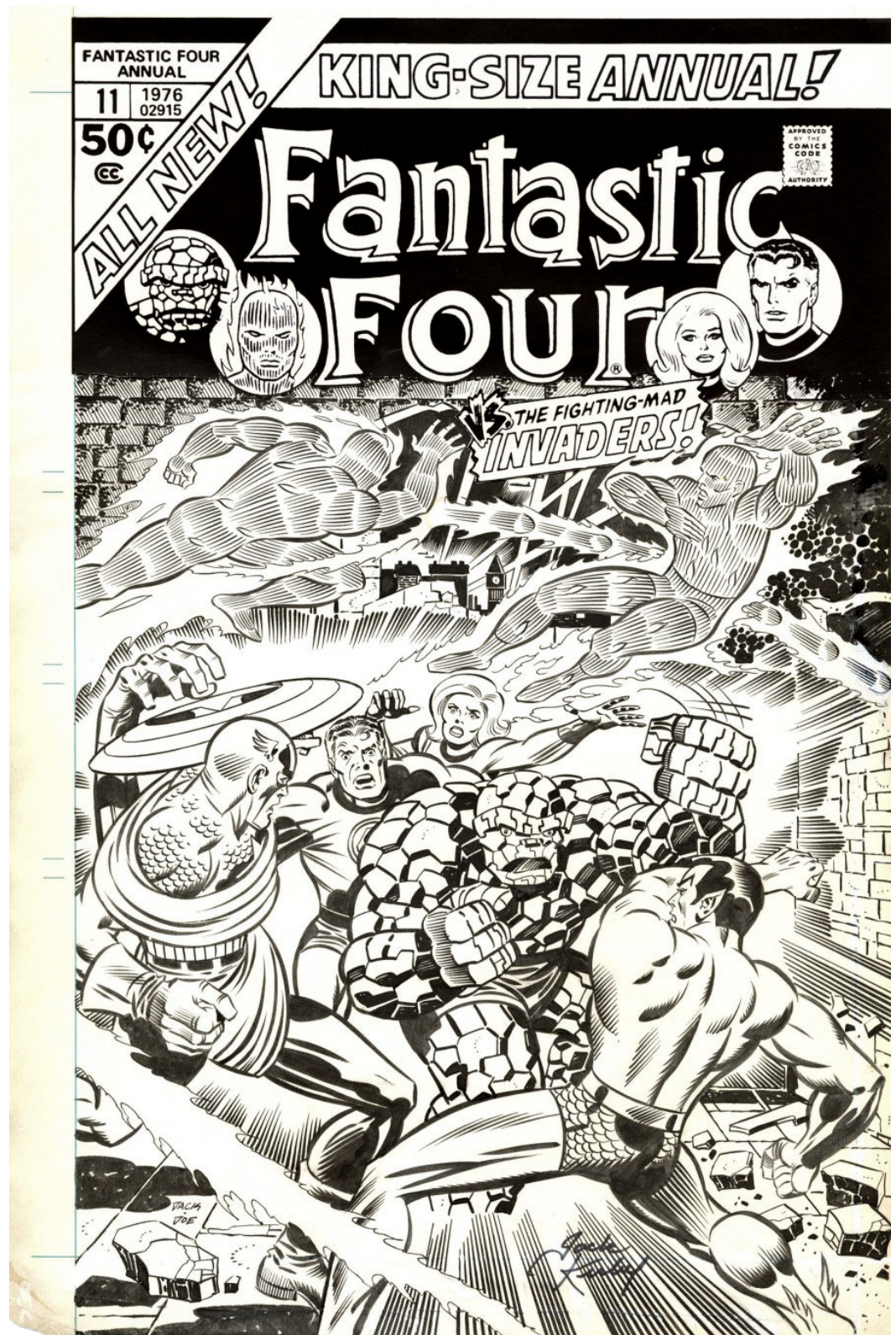






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