

STAR TREK

A LONG AND PROSPEROUS LIFE

BY AMANDA SHERIFF

Star Trek has gained hordes of loyal fans as one of the top-tier science fiction franchises over the last 50 years. The series was created by TV producer and writer, Gene Roddenberry, who served in the Air Force during World War II, then worked as a commercial pilot. While working in Miami and New York City, he took writing courses at the University of Miami and Columbia.

In '51 he became a police officer in Los Angeles and began working as a freelance writer for several shows. He resigned from the LAPD in June 1956 and started producing his own TV programs, including creating *The Lieutenant* in 1963. Lasting one season, it was set in the U.S. Marine Corps, starring Nichelle Nichols, *Star Trek*'s Uhura, in the first episode.

In 1964 Roddenberry created *Star Trek*, though it didn't air until '66. He presented the show as *Wagon Train* in the stars, combined with *Buck Rogers* and *Flash Gordon*. He also drew inspiration from C.S. Forester's *Horatio Hornblower* novels and Jonathan Swift, Jr.'s *Gulliver's Travels*. *Star Trek* was picked up by Desilu Studios, headed by Herb Solow. Roddenberry signed a three-year program and development contract, and Solow sold the show to NBC.

The first pilot met modest popularity, though it went over budget. NBC commissioned a second pilot, critiquing the first one as too cerebral but with a good concept. They wanted Roddenberry to remove Mr. Spock (Leonard Nimoy) but he fought for the character and won. They also did not want a woman playing the "Number One" officer.

NBC issued an order of the first 16 episodes. Premiering on September 8, 1966, the pilot featured Captain Kirk (William Shatner), Chief Engineer Lt. Commander Scott (James Doohan), and Lt. Sulu (George Takei). The

ship's doctor Leonard McCoy (DeForest Kelley) joined after first season filming began. Then, communications officer Lt. Nyota Uhura (Nichols) debuted, as the first African-American woman featured in such an important role on American TV. She and Shatner hold the distinction for the first interracial kiss on television.

Set in the 23rd century, it followed the crew of the starship *Enterprise*, exploring space for the United Federation of Planets. Roddenberry wanted the show to serve two purposes: offer an exciting story, and a morality tale. Stories featured humans and aliens working together serving Starfleet, a peacekeeping armada. The primary characters have an altruistic value system applied to complicated social, and sometimes dangerous, situations. Roddenberry used the stories to allegorize contemporary realities, politics, racism, war, class separation, religion, economics, human rights, technology, sexism, and feminism.

It was politically progressive and reflected the counterculture of the era. Hoping that it would be a model for what humanity could become, Roddenberry presented an anti-war message, with the United Federation of Planets as the ideal



MURPHY ANDERSON: A LOOK BACK

Widely regarded as a gentleman of the old school, Murphy Anderson was an artist and inker extraordinaire who helped to propel the Silver Age of DC Comics.

He passed away in October 2015 at age 89. Here are some fine examples of his craftsmanship. 🗺️



Hawkman #4
October-November 1964



Strange Adventures #21
June 1952



Brave and the Bold #28
Inks over Mike Sekowsky pencils
February-March 1960



Brave and the Bold #61
August-September 1965



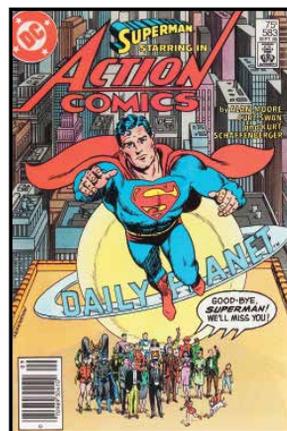
The Flash #137 Original art
Inks over Carmine Infantino pencils
Sold for \$167,300 in 2012



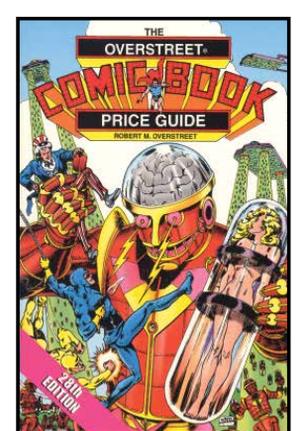
Showcase #61
March-April 1966



Detective Comics #359
Inks over Carmine Infantino pencils
January 1967



Action Comics #583
Inks over Curt Swan pencils
September 1986



Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide #28
1998

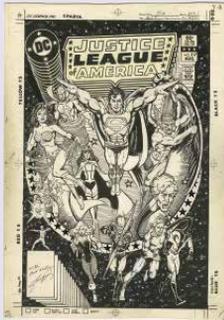
Scoop

Where The Magic Of Collectibles Comes Alive!

PÉREZ JUSTICE LEAGUE COVER TOPS \$80 K

Whether on *The Avengers*, *New Teen Titans*, *Justice League*, or other titles, one of artist George Pérez's trademarks has been scenes with a multitude of characters. This is made clear on his original 10" x 15" cover art for *Justice League of America* #217, originally published in 1983, which sold for \$80,001 at ComicLink on December 3, 2015.

Featuring Superman, Wonder Woman, Red Tornado, Hawkman, Elongated Man, Zatanna, Firestorm, Atom, Black Canary, Green Arrow and Aquaman, the cover is widely regarded as superb representation of the team, the individual characters depicted, and the artist in his early prime. 🐞



COSPLAY CORNER

The Overstreet Guide to Cosplay launched at the 2015 Virginia Comicon to wildly positive feedback from cosplayers and non-costumed attendees alike. *Guide to Cosplay* authors Carrie Wood and Eddie Newsome were in attendance, as well as other featured cosplayers Katie Fleming and Hex Nottingham. The book contains articles on various approaches to the hobby as well as a number of tutorials, plus cosplayer spotlights on costumers from around the country. 🐞



MOVIE POSTERS FOUND UNDER FLOOR NET \$219K AT HERITAGE

A cache of rare movie posters that were found under a linoleum floor in York County, Pennsylvania sold for an impressive \$219,000 in Heritage's Vintage Poster Auction. The November 21-22, 2015 sale closed at a total of over \$2 million, featuring Golden Age rarities from the Golden Age of film, and some never before seen pieces. Robert Basta, the owner of the posters, said that the sale would be put into his retirement fund.

"You always hear about these stories and I never believed it would happen to our family," Basta said following the auction. "We are beyond thrilled with the results – we feel truly blessed."

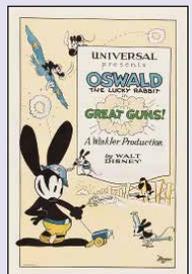
The stash of posters was found by Basta's sons, Bob and Dylan, while they were removing linoleum during a renovation project. The discovery included the only known copies of five posters, which are true pieces of Hollywood history, according to Grey Smith, Director of Vintage Posters at Heritage.

The *Tarzan The Ape Man* style D one-sheet saw feverish bidding, selling for \$83,650. The only known *Any Old Port* for the 1932 short starring Laurel and Hardy ended at \$8,962, an only known *Sporting Blood* one-sheet featuring Clark Gable's first starring role brought \$2,987, the 1932 bad girl classic *Red Headed Woman* poster realized \$77,675, and a *Doctor X* one-sheet reached \$23,900.

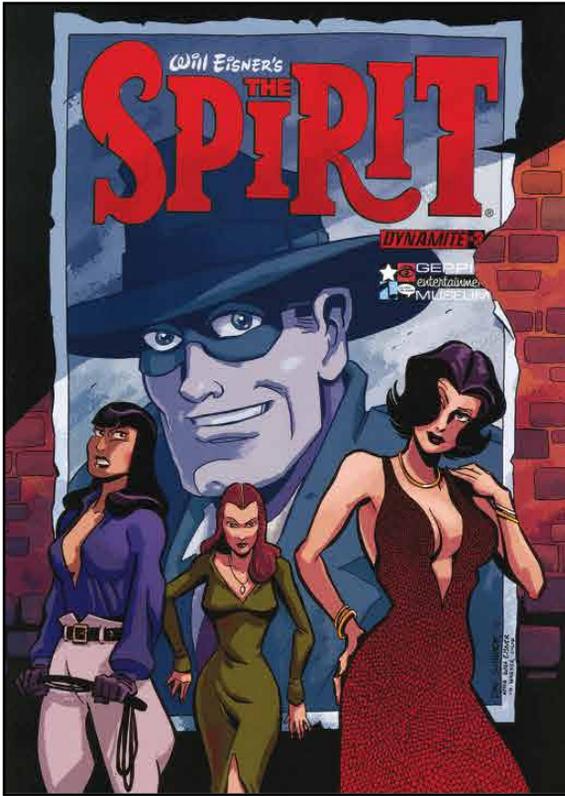
"Collectors and historians didn't even know some of these posters existed before this discovery," Smith said. "Rare finds are still out there and you never know when a missing piece of history will be filed in."

Outside of the Basta find, prewar releases did well, including an Italian *Casablanca* two-foglio which sold for \$95,600, a *Frankenstein* window card closed at \$89,625, and a Swedish oversized *King Kong* poster brought \$31,070.

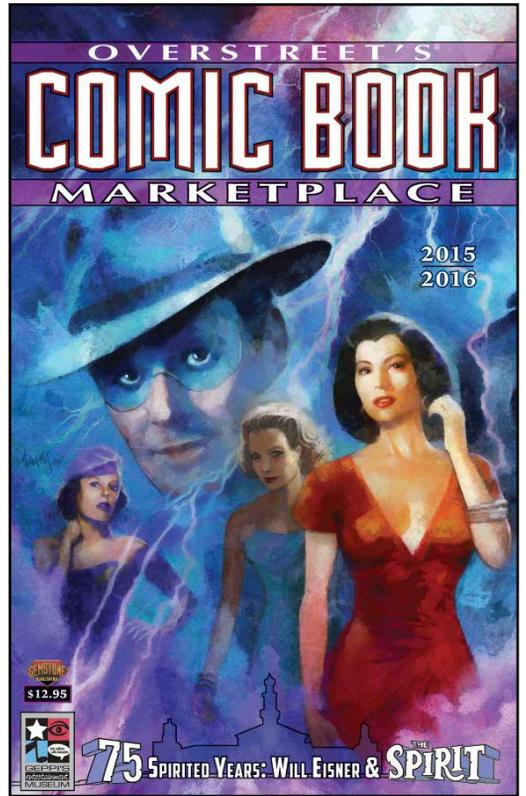
Additional highlights included an Oswald the Lucky Rabbit in *Great Guns!* one-sheet for the rare cartoon that ended at \$37,045, The *Batman* studio-issued cloth banner realized \$26,290, and a *Little Rural Riding Hood* one-sheet sold for \$16,730. 🐞



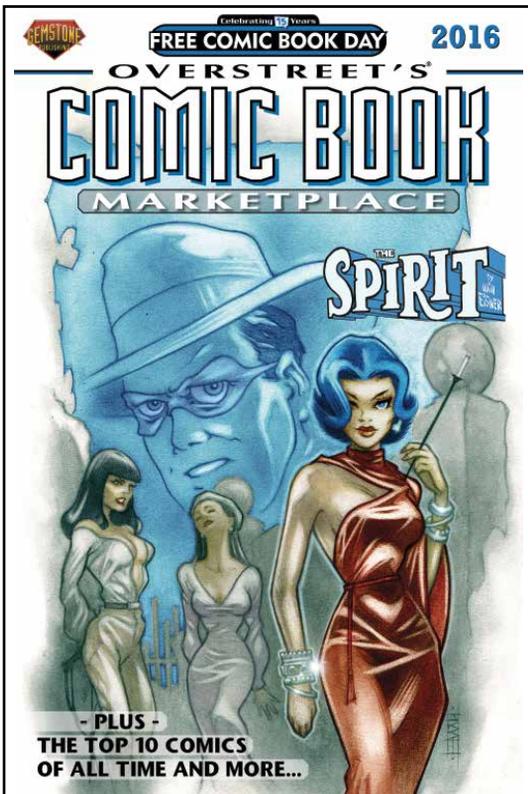
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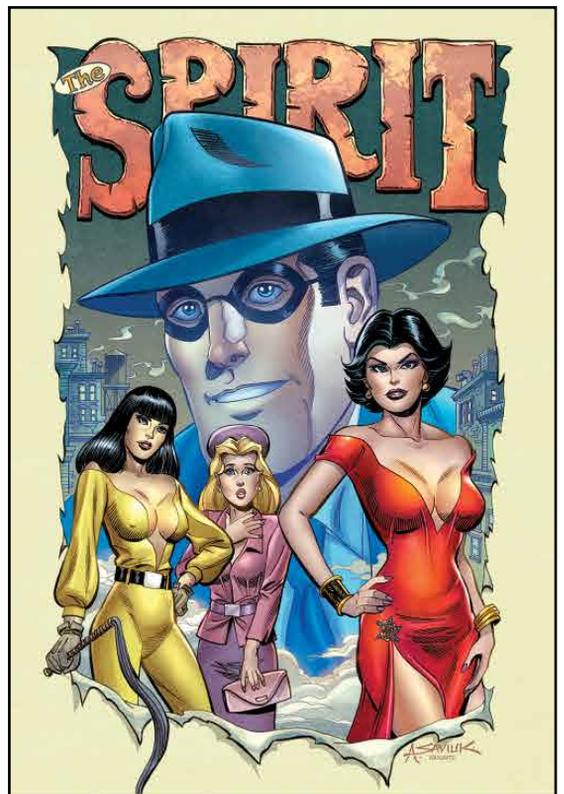
Dan Schkade



Mark Wheatley



John K. Snyder III



Alex Saviuk