

MYSTERY TALES was the most successful of the "Red Circle" weird menace magazines. Published by Manvis Publications or Western Fiction Publishing Co., they were entitled "The Red Circle Magazines" because of the small red circle appearing on each cover. Although more successful than its brethren, UNCANNY TALES, MARVEL TALES and REAL MYSTERY MAGAZINE, MYSTERY TALES only lasted for nine issues, from March 1938 (labeled volume 2, number 3) through May 1940. Manvis Publications was owned by Martin Goodman, who got his start in the pulps in 1932. By 1938 he was a successful pulp publisher, with 14 titles in his chain. He should have moved into the weird menace field earlier, however, as by 1938 and 1939 they were losing steam. After the pulps died, Goodman was successful in publishing men's magazines, such as STAG and FOR MEN ONLY, but his real legacy is Marvel Comics.