

With the second, and final, issue of REAL MYSTERY, dated July 1940, the saga of the Manvis group of weird menace pulps drew to a close. The demise of the entire genre was not far off--TERROR TALES would come to a close with its March 1941 issue, while HORROR STORIES would see its last issue in April 1941. Although it had once been claimed in AMERICAN MERCURY (April 1938) that the weird menace pulps sold over 1.5 million copies monthly (a figure which seems high, but which illustrates the popularity of such titles at one time), factors unrelated to circulation figures helped to phase them out. Outcry over the sex and sadism portrayed in their pages, led by New York City Mayor LaGuardia, caused publishers to put an end in the early 1940s to what once had apparently been a profitable pulp genre.