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INTRO TO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Public Domain Encyclopedia (or PDE) is dedicated to the lost treasures of the comic book industry that are freely available to all.

No cost, no charge.

It is aimed at readers, writers and artists that are looking for something different, be it totally unknown or fully recognizable to all.

We want PDE to be like a magic box whose content will change every time you take it in your hands to pull out something you haven't thought about.

Something that will amaze and entertain everybody, bringing long nights of creativity.

We do not dare to think that we will disclose secrets you don't know about, rather than provide a tool to improve the mindscape we all share, thanks to the creations of people that came before us and left characters and concepts we now can use as we please.

It will be an ever-improving work to which everybody can contribute with suggestions, comments and criticism.

Most of all, it is something we would like to share.



THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS

PDE's issues dedicated to superheroes will cover a chronological period between June 1938 and October 1956.

Defining the beginning of the Golden Age of Comics is always a tricky business. Experts and scholars differ in their opinions. Overstreet Comic Book Price Guide's regular publication "The Golden Age Quarterly" lists comic books from 1933 onwards, as 1933 is the year of publication of the first book in a size that would later define the comics standard format. Several comic book historians, including Roger Sabin (Comics, Comix and Graphic Novels: a History of Comic Art - new ed. 2009), date the beginning of the Golden Age to the publication of the first comics featuring original stories rather than re-prints of newspaper strips (New Fun: The Big Comic Magazine #1 - Feb. 1935, New Comics #1 - Dec. 1935, with a slightly larger size than today's comic book format, both published by National Allied Publications).

Since in this issues we are dealing with superheroes, we will consider June 1938 (Action Comics #1 featuring Superman) the beginning of the Golden Age.

Defining the end of the Golden Age is also a difficult issue. While it is true that the definition of the superhero archetype is probably the most significant Golden Age contribution to pop culture, it is also true that many superpowered characters created in the WWII era did not survive the end of the war, forcing the publishers to die or diversify. Between 1949 and 1951, western, adventure, science fiction, romance and horror stories took the upper hand and ousted many superheroes. Only popular characters such as Superman and Batman went on, regardless of the crisis of the Golden Age.

This transitional period (often referred to as the Atomic Era) that would end in October 1956 (first new Flash story - Showcase #4, DC Comics, setting the beginning of the Silver Age), is also included in the current chronology, since it describes the struggle of the comics creative minds to cope with what the future was going to be. The characters created in this span of time blink back at their Golden Age ancestors while trying to keep up with the new world order (e.g. the Atomic Thunderbolt, Atomán).

THE CHARACTERS



AMERICAN CRUSADER

Archibald "Archie" Masters

CREATED BY:

Max Plaisted (1902-1956)

HISTORY & BIO



Archie Masters is a timid astronomy professor, teaching at the Grand University in the eastern United States.

Lost in his thoughts, he accidentally accesses a lab in which an experimental atom smasher is being tested. Bathed by atomic radiations, he is endowed with superpowers.

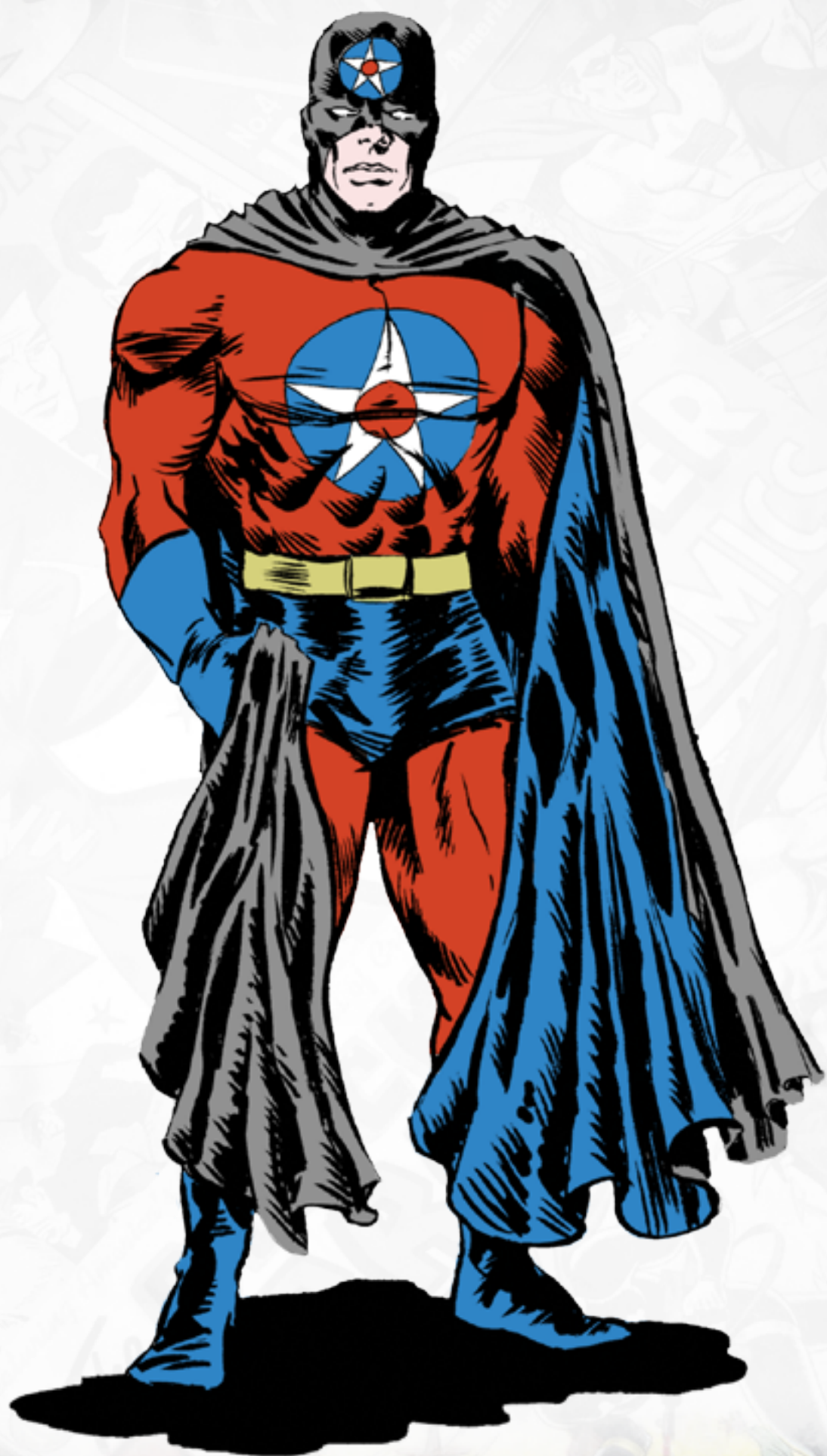
He uses his newly acquired abilities to fight crime as the patriotic American Crusader. In his civilian identity, he keeps pretending to be the geek he was before the accident to the frustration of his secretary, Jane Peters, who would have loved to be his girlfriend.

Later on, Archie resigns from the University to fight the Nazis on the European front (Thrilling comics #34 - Mar. 1943). Jane Peters joins the army as a war nurse (Thrilling Comics #35 - May 1943). In Europe, Archie meets Mickey Martin, an American teenager who was in France when the Nazi forces invaded it (Thrilling Comics #39 - Dec. 1943). Mickey becomes his sidekick.

POWERS & ABILITIES

American Crusader possesses super strength, invulnerability and the power of flight.





AMERICAN CRUSADER GOLDEN AGE APPEARANCES

America's Best Comics #6
Thrilling Comics #19-35, 37-39, 41

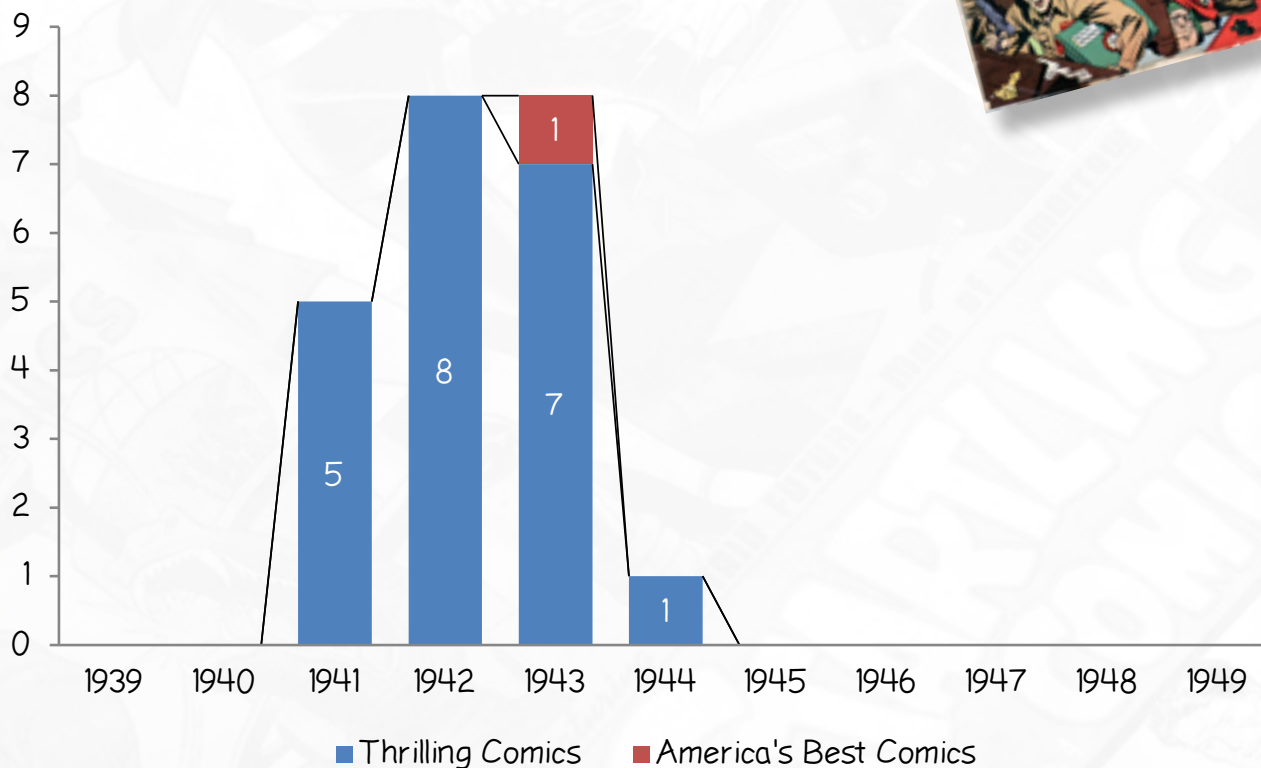


First Appearance:

Thrilling Comics #19
(Aug. 1941)

Last Appearance:

Thrilling Comics #41
(Apr. 1944)



AMERICAN CRUSADER

MODERN APPEARANCES

AC COMICS

FEMFORCE VI (1-163, 1985-2013) #29-31, 34-36, 59, 60, 67, 127, 156-158

FEMFORCE: OUT OF THE ASYLUM SPECIAL VI (ONESHOT, 1987)

FIGHTING YANK VI (1-5, 2001-2002) #5

FIGHTING YANK AND THE SENTINELS OF AMERICA VI (ONESHOT, 2003)

N.E.D.O.R. AGENT VI #0 (FLIPBOOK FF#158, FEB. 2012)

OFFICIAL GOLDEN-AGE HERO AND HEROINE DIRECTORY VI (ONESHOT, 1997)

American Crusader (Matt Masters) is one of the Vault Heroes, put in suspended animation and released decades later to fight the forces of evil.

He is a member of the Sentinels of America along with other Nedor heroes.

He fights alongside Fighting Yank in his own series.

He also appears in the N.E.D.O.R. Agents, an alternate reality in which classic heroes of the 40s band together alongside their inheritors and proteges such as Pyrogirl, Fighting Yank jr. and Candi Future.

AMERICA'S BEST COMICS

ABC A-Z: TERRA OBSCURA & SPLASH BRANNIGAN (ONESHOT, 2006)

TERRA OBSCURA VI (1-6, 2003-2004) #1, 3, 4

TERRA OBSCURA V2 (1-6, 2004-2005) #4, 6

TOM STRONG VI (1-36, 1999-2006) #12

TOM STRONG AND THE PLANET OF PERIL VI (ONGOING, 2013) #1, 4, 5

Captured by aliens in 1969 and left in suspended animation American Crusader is released in 2000. He has problems adapting to the changes around him and becomes an alcoholic. He is a member of S.M.A.S.H.

DYNAMITE ENTERTAINMENT

BLACK TERROR VI (1-14, 2008-2011) #1-3, 5-8

PROJECT SUPERPOWERS V2 (PREVIEW(P), 0-12, 2009-2010) #9-12

PROJECT SUPERPOWERS: MEET THE BAD GUYS... VI (1-4, 2009) #1

CODENAME ACTION VI (ONGOING, 2013) #1

After the heroes of Golden Age are trapped by the Fighting Yank in the Urn of Pandora, the original American Crusader, Archie Masters, accepts to be cloned by the Government to create an army of American superheroes. The strain of the cloning process put him in a coma. Black Terror investigates the disappearance of American Crusader and manages to free him from the clone factory. However, he is not able to save his life. Archies's powers are passed to Marcus Chamberlain who becomes the new American Crusader.

HEROES INC. WEB-COMICS (2009-2011)

American Crusader is the lead scientist of the project through which the heroes of WWII are created. Present day, he collects blood samples from the Golden Age super-humans to develop the next generation of heroes. He is married to Miss Masque.

METAHUMAN PRESS

LIVING LEGENDS WEB-TALES (1-25, 2008)

TALES OF THE LIVING LEGENDS WEB-COMICS (2009)

American Crusader appears as his original Golden Age self.



AMERICAN CRUSADER

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All renewed copyrights were still in force on Jan. 1, 1978. The actual copyright owner of the Popular Library materials may also own them.

No living "American Crusader" trademark can be related to the Better/Nedor/Standard character, to comic books or their likeness.

For inactive "American Crusader" trademark registrations check the Copyright & Trademark section - Trademark Table.

ABOUT BLUE MONKEY STUDIO



Blue Monkey Studio (BMS), established in 2010, is an Italian firm specializing in graphic design, illustration and publishing services.

BMS provides high-quality art and design to local, national and international clients at competitive rates, focusing on establishing a company's brand and corporate identity through a customized logo, mascot, letterhead, business cards and web design.

We also provide artwork for the education and edutainment sector, create book illustrations and comics, and develop character design, backgrounds and concept art for multimedia entertainment companies.

Publishing services include the complete management of a literary work from concept development and design to proofreading and editing.

BMS has the technical expertise and experience to create printed books and e-books to meet the formatting standards of international distributors such as CreateSpace, SmashWords, Lighting Source, Youcanprint, Kindle and IBook. We offer advisory services in all phases of the subscription and publishing process, as well as royalty management for non-US authors.

Proactive on an international level, BMS pursues European Commission financing opportunities and trains creative professionals to compete successfully in the international marketplace.

Our flexible, customized implementation process, based on the customer's specifications and feedback, gives us the ability to quickly manage multiple projects from different business sectors. We have satisfied clients around the world, and more than 85% of our clients do us the honor of returning for additional services.

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