

# THE SUPERMAN CONNECTION

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were the creative team that invented Superman. Mr. Siegel wrote the stories and dialog. Mr. Shuster drew the pictures.

In 1938, National Comics launched the Superman character in their *Action Comics* magazine. They made a contract with the creators of the Man of Steel that bought the rights and afforded the two men a comfortable lifestyle for the next 10 years. But the publishing company experienced enormous income from licensing, a movie serial, a daily newspaper comic strip, animated cartoons, product associations and unprecedented magazine sales.

A lawyer convinced Mr. Siegel and Mr. Shuster to sue their employer in 1947 to obtain compensation that more fairly matched the value of the asset they signed away rights to in 1938. Their lawsuit failed.

Mr. Siegel found employment with another comic book publisher. A quieter man, Mr. Shuster was less adroit in selling his skill as an illustrator.

In his 2004 book, *Men of Tomorrow, Geeks, Gangsters and the Birth of the Comic Book*, Gerard Jones wrote this about Mr. Shuster in his post-Superman years:

When one follows the story of Joe Shuster through the 1950s, he seems to contract

like the white dot of a television screen. For a year or two he apparently drew no comics at all. Sometime around 1951 or 1952 he seems to have found work with Charlton—not in its comics line but in its girlie magazines. There are some comic strips in low-rent titillation rags from Charlton and other publishers in the early Fifties, excuses for boob jokes mostly, that do look like a sloppy version of Joe Shuster's art. A trace of the buoyant anatomy is still there. But Joe never admitted to the work, and no one really knows if it's his. In 1954 he did his last real comic book work, a few issues of a Charlton crime comic. Then his confirmable credits disappear forever. There are more rumors, of girlie strips for Martin Goodman's sleazy men's magazines, of some sort of bottom-drawer gore rag called *Night of Horrors* (sic). Then even the rumors stop.

That Mr. Jones writes the wrong name demonstrates that he has never seen a copy of *Nights of Horror*. To confirm the rumor Mr. Jones repeats, I received collateral verification from good authority. Also, when you compare the drawing styles of the artist who drew *Superman* in the 1930s and 1940s with the shapes and lines found in *Nights of Horror*, the similarity, though 15 years later, is clear. See the comparison on the next page.

**faces in *Nights of Horror***



**faces in *Superman* comics**

NOTHING SOLD  
TO MINORS UNDER  
21 YEARS OF  
AGE

WE TAKE  
TRADES ON  
SETS & BUY  
BOOKS

PLEASE  
PAY  
HERE!!!

ALL BOOKS PRICED AS MARKED

**the shelves of a Manhattan bookstore, September 1958**