



Ray Walsh

*Astounding Science Fiction* was the most important pulp magazine from a literary perspective from 1937 up through the early 1950s. Under the editorship of the famous John W. Campbell starting in 1937 all the big name science fiction writers had stories published in newly named *Astounding Science Fiction*. In the early 1950s competitors like *Galaxy* and *The Magazine Of Fantasy And Science Fiction* diminished *Astounding's* near lock on the best writers but *Astounding* remained a major player even still with plenty of good writers. Leave it to Ray to have enough issues of *Astounding* available to put together for us here a nearly complete history of the magazine's many size format and name changes through the years. The early 1930s pre-Cambellian *Astounding Stories* issue with the gorilla holding the man is a sample of a regular size pulp like any other pulp in the 1920s and 1930s; it just looks large here because of the wide angle lens I'm using. Moving from right to left we see that *Astounding* switched to a larger "bedsheet" size in 1942 an example of which is shown here with the issue with the "Lunar Landing" cover blurb. In 1943 the magazine switched back to regular pulp size for only six issues which Ray didn't have a sample of. In late 1943 *Astounding* switched to the smaller digest size as shown with the issue with the "Giant Killer" cover blurb. *Astounding* remained digest size through the rest of the 1940s up to today with one exception. The exception was *Analog* went to an oversize magazine format for about two years in the mid 1960s until changing back to digest size. Where did *Analog* come from? In 1960 *Astounding Science Fiction* began fiddling with different confusing name changes and ended up in late 1960 with *Analog Science Fiction & Fact* and later just *Analog*. That's still the name of the digest magazine today. Ray is holding a sample issue of the mid 1960s *Analog* oversize magazine format. This two year run of oversize *Analog* issues still had the mostly mundane covers *Astounding* was always noted for but it still had some of the the top writers. For instance, a few of these oversize *Analog* issues contained the original magazine serialization of Frank Herbert's novel *Dune*. Whew! Aren't you glad we're not having a quiz on this?