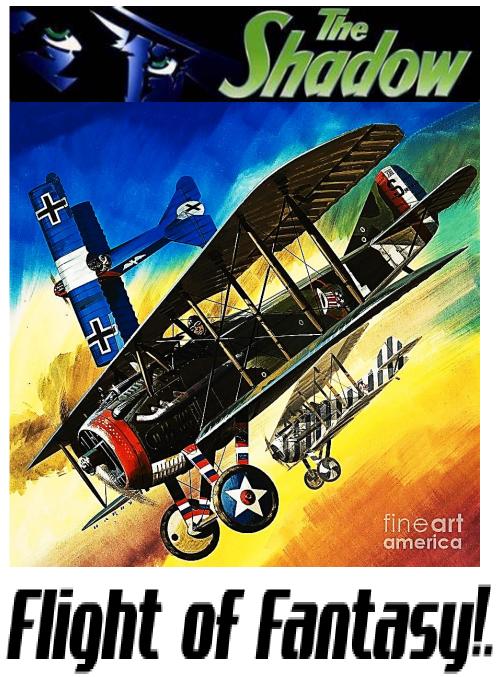


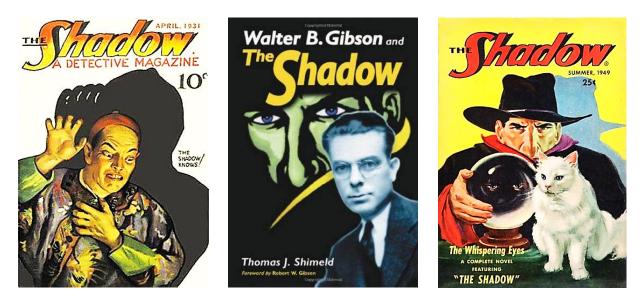
The Rondout Reader



By Kevin Ahearn



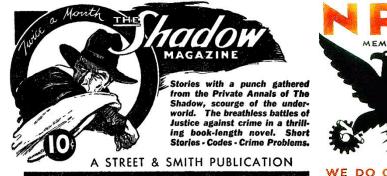
THE MAGIC OF WALTER B. GIBSON



THANK YOU, WALTER, FROM ALL OF US!





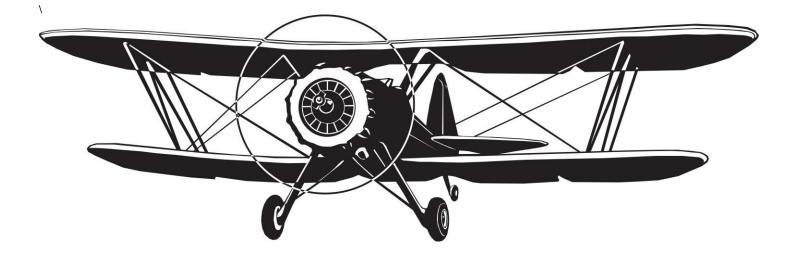




WE DO OUR PART



BLACK EAGLE





"It's always best to start at the beginning."



"I'll fight like a wildcat until they nail the lid of my pine box down on me."



"I chose this life. I know what I'm doing."

1914





"If you've ever wondered about life after death and the immortality of the human spirit...that debate ends with me!"

"In real life, things were coming together!"





"Walter Gibson, superb storyteller and master magician created the SHADOW in stages..."



"I, **Kent Allard**, was the first stage. I quickly became an ace, then crashed on puprose to become a prisoner of war to help organize escapes!"



"The Black Eagle' later escaped flying an enemy plane to safety!"



"Stage two: I became a spy, learned many languages and codebreaking. Saved lives without firing a shot!"

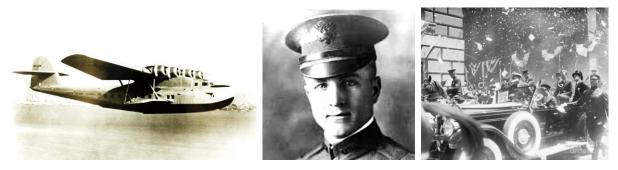


"In Guatemala, the Xinca Indians saw me as a 'white god'! They soon trusted me and led me to...



"I got to the gold and got rich before anybody ever heard of that later raider!"

1930



"I finally flew home and was greeted like a longlost hero complete with a ticker tape parade!

"Then I disappeared!"



"Because before I could become the SHADOW, I had to become...LAMONT CRANSTON



"Rich, worldly schizophrenic obsessed with fighting crime and evil everywhere against all comers!

"No idea I'd be blazing a fresh American quest!"



The SHADOW Strikes!

Three Mobsters dead, two critically wounded Has a new vigilante just been chrisened?



"But there was a Lamont Cranston problem: another Lamont Cranston was already in New York City!"



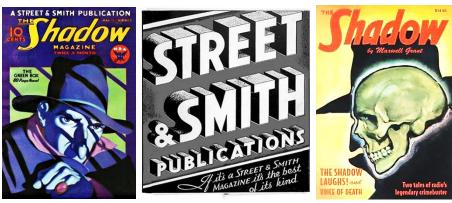
"Merely a bump in the road for the genius of Walter B. Gibson. He had me meet my namesake and come to an agreement. The 'other' Cranston is a wealthy world-traveler and I would impersonate Cranston when he was out of town.

"To add to the SHADOW's mystery, Kent Allard resembled Cranston so well that even Cranstons' servants never got wise!

"Thoroughly confused? The master magician's intent from Word One!"



1930-1949



"For all of a generation I dominated the magazine market until my publisher died.

"But not me!"

1930-1954



"From the very first moment my voice, the very sounds out of my mouth, gave rise to the SHADOW, I conquered radio until television took over the world!"

1940-1994





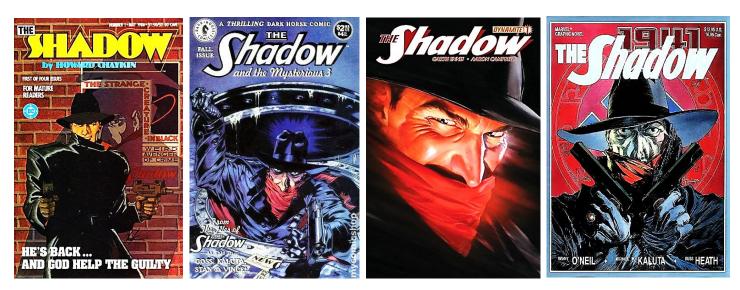
"My string of misguided movies! Nobody's and evrybody's fault! None of them ever figured out what I really was...They couldn't believe in Walter's magic!"

1940-2016





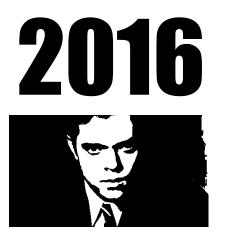
"Comic books, comic books, and more comic books!"



"Desperate publishers looking everywhere for The SHADOW!



"But try as they might, they couldn't find me anywhere!"



"And now I have the means, and the nerve to go out magically!"

1 Police Plaza...





"I'm sorry, commissioner. I tried to stop him, but..."

"Nobody stops me! You didn't know that? Frank, did you really hire her?"



"Donald, what is it this time?"



"Help me! I've got a SHADOW problem!"



"Yes, you do, Donald! Seems a 'shadowy ghost' has been talking to some of your victims who have contacted a number of city agencies!"



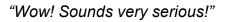


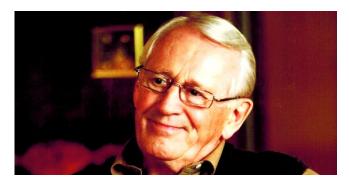


"'Fake news', Frank! All of it! The SHADOW is the chief agent of the Deep State!"









"What do you suggest we do?"



"I want an 'all-in' all-out effort by the **NYPD!** A 'Master of Darkness' Task Force to liquidate this supernatural menace!"











"The SHADOW could be working for all those contractors you stiffed!"

"You ruined a lot of lives, hurt good families!"



"Frank, Frank, FRANK! Look at this family you've fostered!" "Do you always have to be a cop?"



"No, Donald! I could have been a wily adventurer or even a President, but being an officer of the law has real meaning to it! You know what I mean, don't you?"



"I'm going to be President, Frank! And I will have your respect!"



"Maybe, Donald! But I'm not voting for you and I don't think **the SHADOW** will either!"

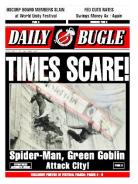




"Well, Doctor Strange, you are making progress versus **the SHADOW**?"



"Mr. Editor, we're in the middle of sensitive negotiations!"









"Negoiate what? He goes. End sf story!"



"Not **His** story!" "Do not mistake "The Master of Darkness" for one of your monthly menaces!"



"The Master of Darkness" is the man who never was, the magnificent avatar created by a magician who we made vanish into history. And now a vision and a voice, all that's left of the Shadow wants to be what he has never been...human!"





"Cut to the tophat and the rabbit, Dr. Strange! "Is **The SHADOW** closing out of town or not?"



"Patience, Editor-in-Chief! The SHADOW is in the middle of yet another incredible adventure!"



"The 'tume and the 'tude...SHADOW's got'em both!"





"Best threads ever ... "





"What used-to-be is the latest future!"







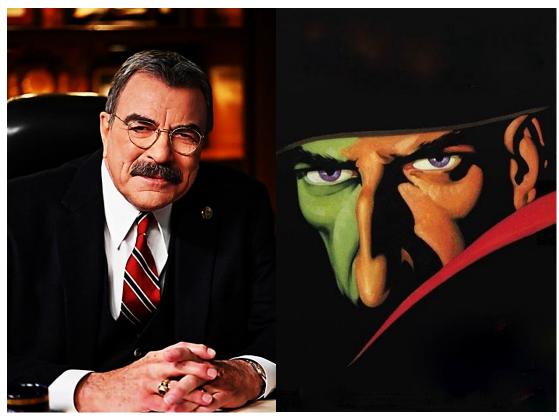
"Holy New Era! There's Zinda Blake!"



"Yes/No Question of the Day...







SHADOW@Large! Commissioner@Wits' End

"We're dealing with an untouchable spirit or whatever you want to call this "Master of Darkness" who has assisted the **NYPD** in hundreds of bonafide arrests!

"Gotham's got Batman and Metropolis Superman, New York City's got the Shadow all the way from Eddyville.

"You know, on the Rondout."



EDDYVILLE, NEW YORK



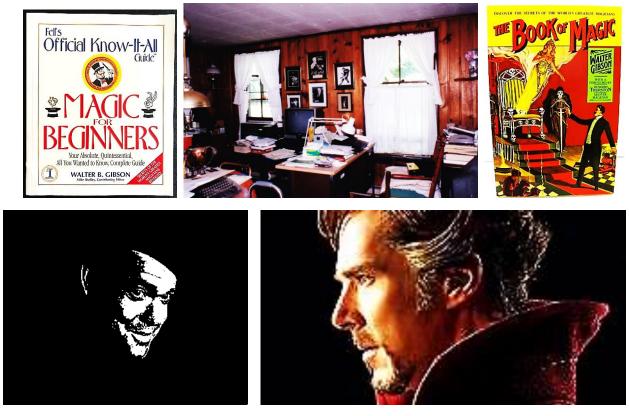




"My Mecca! The final home of my creator, the magical Walter Gibson!"







*"Ah, Dr. Strange! Have you found Margot Lane, the love of my life***?**"

"Yes, J have found Ms. Lane. But do you want to meet her as you are?"



"No, magician! I want to be the Kent Allard/Lamont Cranston Walter Gibson created me to be!"



"What? You would give up your immortality to be a very old man with little time left?"



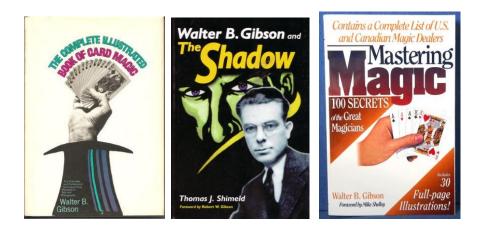
"Oh, naïve Magician, '!he Master of Darkness' has been timeless for nearly a century!

"Go gather your extra magic from wherever and whenever you may.

"This is about how I want to be remembered if only by one man!"



'The SHADOW has one last card to play!"





"Old Era or New Age? What does **The SHADOW** Want? (The Vice Presidency, maybe!)"



PLAYING FOR ABOUT POWER



