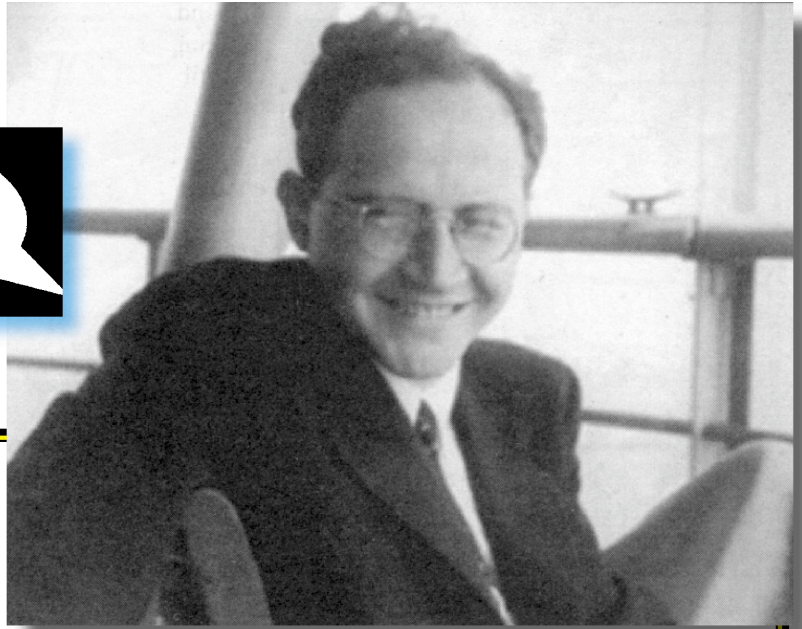


LOU FINE (1914-1971)

Artist,
Associate of
Oklahoma
Artist/Writer/
Innovator Jerry Iger



Born in New York City, he major art training was at the Grand Central Art School, the Art Students League and Pratt Institute. He joined the Eisner-Iger comic book shop in 1938 and quickly became, with Eisner, one of the shop's best artists.

His early comic book covers promised a level of quality not often found on the pages inside. These included Fiction House publications such as Jumbo and Sheena and several Fox magazines such as Wonderworld and Blue Beetle. He also beautifully drew several episodes of The Flame, the lead feature of Wonderworld.

Fine's most prolific and creative comic book period was from 1939 through 1943, when he was the major artist for "Busy" Arnold's Quality Comics group. He produced features like Black Condor, Uncle Sam and The Ray. He also drew an outstanding array of covers for Quality comics like Hit, Smash, National and Uncle Sam.

When Will Eisner was in the armed forces, Fine drew nearly all of the daily and Sunday newspaper episodes of The Spirit (ghosting in the Eisner style).

Fine left the comic book industry in 1945 and concentrated the rest of his career on commercial art and magazine illustrating, most notably for Liberty magazine. He made several minor attempts at comic strips, the best of which, Peter Scratch (1965), was highly acclaimed but short-lived.

When he died of a heart attack in 1971, Eisner eulogized him as "One of the greatest draftmen I have ever known. His consummate skill may never be equaled."

Lou
FINE