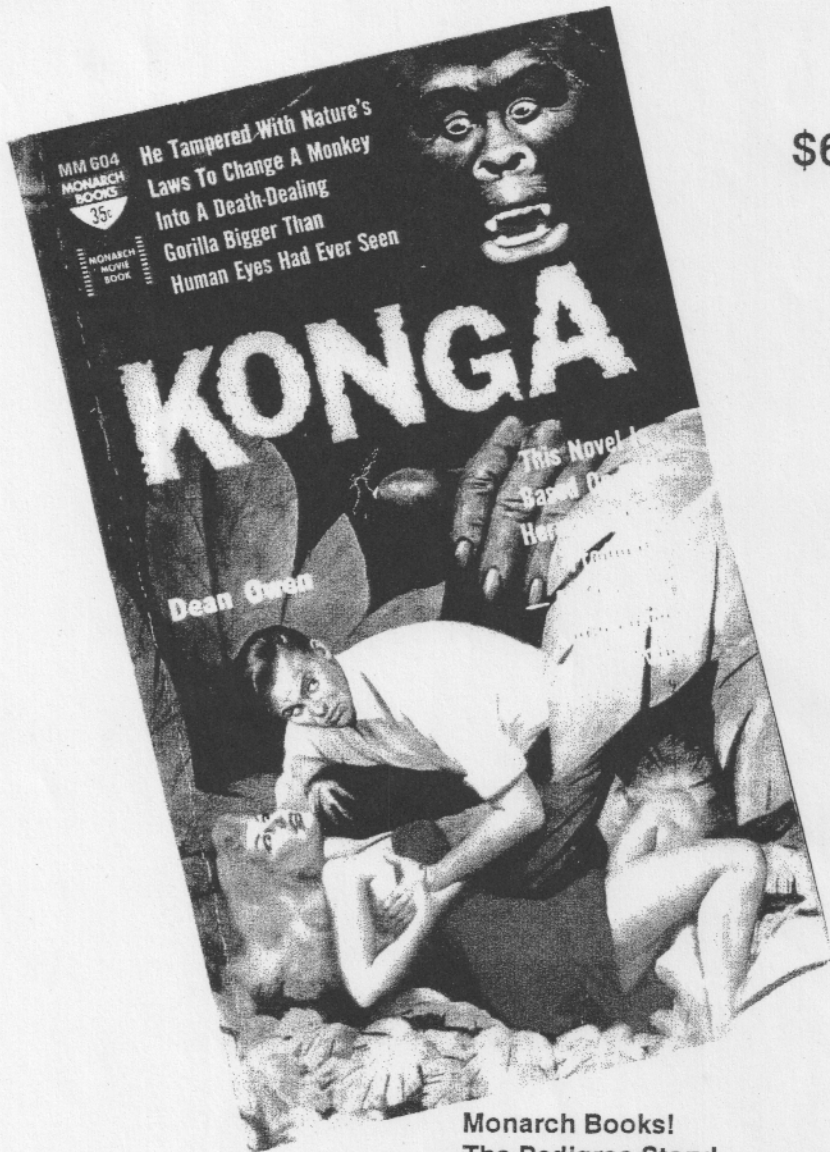


PAPERBACK PARADE



\$6

NUMBER 35

Monarch Books!
The Pedigree Story!
H. Beam Piper in PB!
Fuzzies and Lord Kalvan!
NYC, LA & NJ PB shows!
Monsters of the Paperbacks!
Letters, News, Ads, and More!

I recently re-read Piper's first Fuzzy book and here's a few comments collectorwise and otherwise about:

LITTLE FUZZY: THE 8TH PRINTING

by

Gary Lovisi

Recently I was re-reading the classic sf adventure novel *LITTLE FUZZY* by H. Beam Piper. It's a great, endearing novel, published in paperback by Ace Books with a gorgeous Michael Whelan cover.

Aside from a great piece of sf, being a paperback collector I couldn't help noticing a few things about the book itself (the physical book, that is) that I'd like to pass on for whatever they're worth.

First off, the edition I re-read was the 8th Ace printing from Sept. 1983 (#48496-\$2.75-174pp) so there is probably a more recent edition out now than this one. This printing in cover art and design is almost identical to the first Ace printing that came out in 1976. There may be a few minor back cover variations but I kind of doubt it.

One error I noticed on the copyright page was in the printing history. Paperback publishers are notorious (and Ace and Ballantine/text in particular) are known for their mistaken publishing dates in their printing history. On the copyright page it says "Ace edition 1962" which obviously refers to the first printing of *LITTLE FUZZY* in paperback—which was also a PBO—but alas, it was published by Avon Books in 1962 and NOT Ace Books. The 2nd paperback printing of this title, and the actual first Ace printing was from

1976.

Another interesting item I noticed on the page opposite the title page—where there is a list of other Ace Books by H. Beam Piper—there is the incorrect spelling on *FOUR-DAY PLANET/LOAN STAR PLANET*—which of course, should be, *FOUR DAY PLANET/LONE STAR PLANET* since the book deals with a Texas-style planet and not a loanshark planet.

Other minor gripes are the lack of cover art credit for the fine cover by Michael Whelan—after many previous Ace printings over the years with this same cover art you'd think Ace could have added in the cover art credit. Meanwhile there are border marks discernable where the new ISBN and price were added to the cover and spine of the book, marring the art with a surrounding blue-lined rectangle that is too easy to notice. This has been common paperback publisher practice on reprints where ISBN and prices change on each new edition.

Of course these gripes are only relatively minor things that only a paperback collector would ever notice about a book—but then we tend to notice the oddest things about the books we collect. Don't we?

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