

• THE BEST IN SCIENTIFIC FICTION •

STARTLING STORIES

Vol. 2, No.1

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JULY, 1939

A Complete Book-Length Scientific Fiction Novel



GIANTS FROM ETERNITY

By **MANLY WADE WELLMAN**

Five Geniuses from the Past Are Summoned Back to Life to Face and Defy the Challenge of the Future, Applying Their Wizardry to Combat the Strangest Menace That Has Ever Gripped the Earth - - - 13

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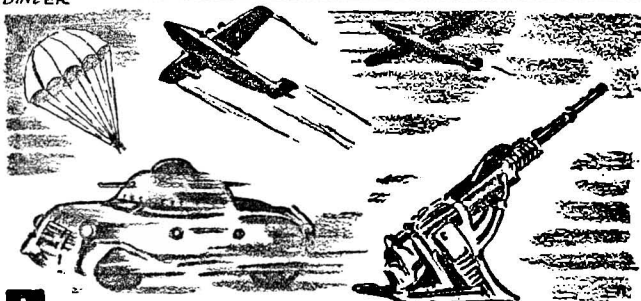
Cover Painting by H. V. Brown — Depicting Scene from ROBOT A-1

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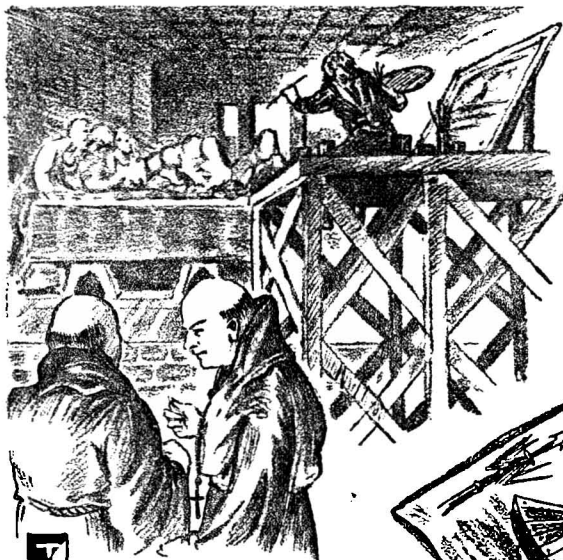
THE LIFE STORY OF LEONARDO DA VINCI THE UNIVERSAL GENIUS!

By
JACK
BINDER



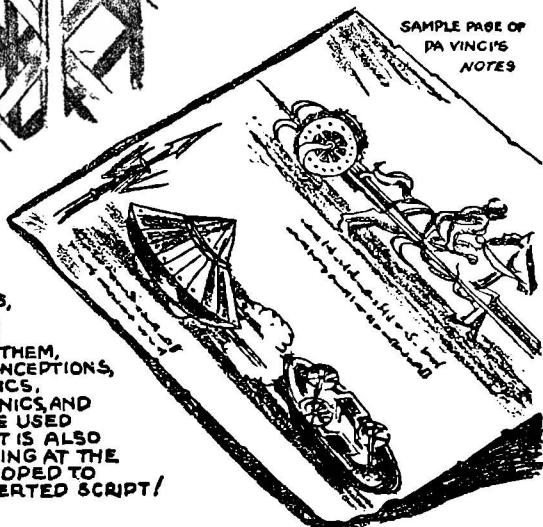
LEONARDO DA VINCI
BORN, 1452.
DIED, 1519

LEONARDO DA VINCI WAS BORN AN ARTIST AND DIED A SCIENTIST! IF THE ART OF PRINTING HAD BEEN AS WIDESPREAD IN HIS DAY AS NOW HIS FAMOUS NOTES WOULD HAVE PRECIPITATED THE AGE OF SCIENCE FOUR HUNDRED YEARS SOONER. HIS POWERFUL INTELLECT ANTICIPATED HUNDREDS OF MECHANICAL INVENTIONS, INCLUDING THE MACHINE-GUN, ARMORED CAR, LIFE-PRESERVER, WHEELBARROW, SUBMARINE, PARACHUTE AND AIRPLANE!



THE MONA LISA AND THE LAST SUPPER REPRESENT DA VINCI'S MASTERPIECES IN ART. HE PAINTED THE LATTER ON THE WALL OF A MONASTERY, WORKING AT IT FOR YEARS, INTERMITTENTLY—MAINLY BECAUSE HE SPENT MOST OF HIS TIME IN SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT AND WRITING. BEFORE COLUMBUS AND COPERNICUS HAD PROVED IT, DA VINCI'S PENETRATING INTELLECT RECORDED THAT THE EARTH WAS ROUND AND THAT IT REVOLVED ABOUT THE SUN!

SAMPLE PAGE OF
DA VINCI'S
NOTES



HIS MANY-SIDED GENIUS WROTE, OVER A PERIOD OF 40 YEARS, AT LEAST 5,300 PAGES OF HIS NOTES, WHICH LOOK LIKE EXCERPTS FROM JOURNALS OF MODERN SCIENCE! IN THEM, HE DEALT WITH SUCH SCIENTIFIC CONCEPTIONS, THEN UNKNOWN, AS OPTICS, BALLISTICS, ANATOMY, TIDES, LAWS OF MECHANICS, AND GRAVITY! BEING LEFT-HANDED, HE USED MIRROR-WRITING FOR SPEED. BUT IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE FEARED BURNING AT THE STAKE, FOR "WITCHCRAFT" AND HOPED TO CONFUSE READERS WITH HIS INVERTED SCRIPT!

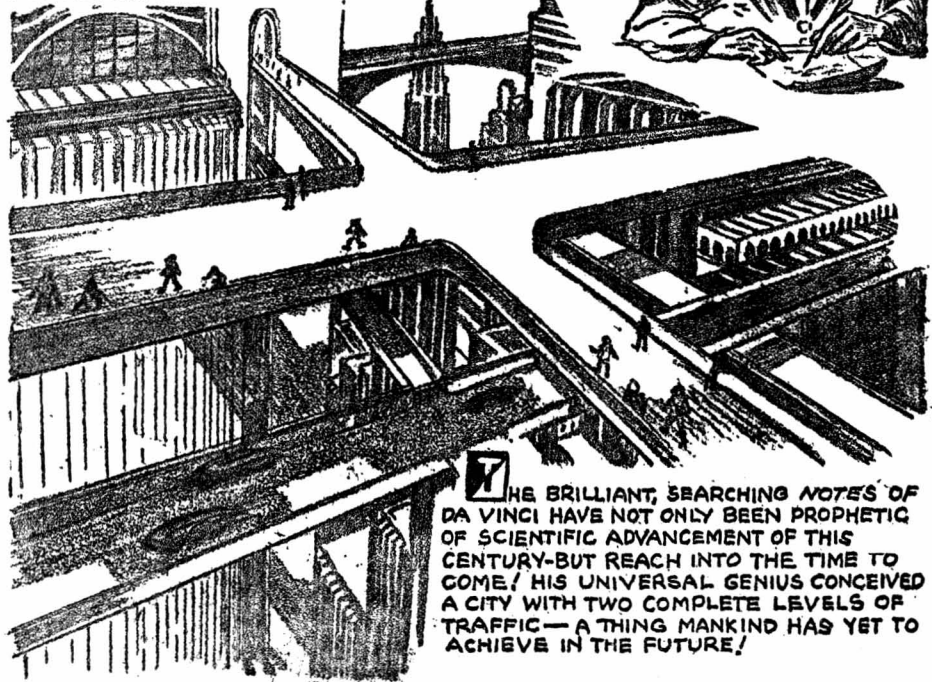
Next Issue: THE LIFE STORY OF ALFRED



LTHOUGH SHUNNING MARRIAGE, LEONARDO DA VINCI WAS NOT A RECLUSE. HIS FORCEFUL PERSONALITY WON THE FRIENDSHIP OF DUKES AND KINGS. TALL AND STRONG, HE WOULD OFTEN BEND HORSESHOES, TO AMUSE THEM!



IN A SENSE, DA VINCI WAS AN "ARMCHAIR" SCIENTIST, THEORIZING RATHER THAN EXPERIMENTING. MOST OF HIS IDEAS WERE CENTURIES AHEAD OF HIS TIME, AND REMAINED IN OBSCURITY. HE WAS AN EDISON BORN TOO SOON. HOWEVER, SOME OF HIS MILITARY INVENTIONS WERE RECREATED BY OTHERS. BUT HE WITHHELD HIS NOTES ON THE SUBMARINE BECAUSE HE FORESAW THAT IT COULD BE A DIABOLICAL INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION!



THE BRILLIANT, SEARCHING NOTES OF DA VINCI HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN PROPHECIC OF SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT OF THIS CENTURY—BUT REACH INTO THE TIME TO COME. HIS UNIVERSAL GENIUS CONCEIVED A CITY WITH TWO COMPLETE LEVELS OF TRAFFIC—A THING MANKIND HAS YET TO ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE!

BERNARD NOBEL, Creator of Dynamite