



THE PHANTOM

by
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ABOUT



HISTORY



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The Phantom



The Phantom Rings



A signature of the character is his two rings. One has a pattern formed like four crossing sabres, "The Good Mark", that he leaves on visitors whom he befriends, placing the person under his protection. The other, "The Evil Mark" or "Skull Mark" has a skull shape, which leaves a scar of the corresponding shape on the enemies he punches with it. He wears the Good Mark on his left hand because it is closer to the heart, and the Evil Mark on his right hand. According to the Team Fantomen stories, the Skull Ring was given to the first Phantom by Paracelsus.^[44] The original owner of the Skull Ring was Emperor Nero of the Roman empire and it would later be revealed that the ring had been made from the nails that hung Jesus to the cross. The Good Mark ring was made after the sixth Phantom founded the Jungle Patrol.



In 1936, Lee Falk created **The Phantom**, a comic adventure series inspired in part by Falk's previous success, **Mandrake the Magician**. **The Phantom** was the first comic featuring a masked superhero, and with it, Falk was able to successfully combine themes from epic poetry, fairy tales, and stories of chivalry.

Following in **The Phantom's** footsteps, masked and caped demigods capable of larger-than-life heroics came flying and swinging onto the comic pages. **The Phantom** was the lodestone for what has become an industry built around supernatural men and women. It was also the forerunner of a school of comics which critics see as modern-day interpretations of romantic narratives such as the tales of Homer and Arthurian legends.





The Phantom is the most widely-read superhero comic in the world. King Features distributes it to more than 500 newspapers in approximately 40 countries. It is translated into about 15 languages.

Falk enjoyed collaborating with artists, and partnered with a number of great talents on **The Phantom**, beginning with Ray Moore, who was succeeded by Wilson McCoy, and then Seymour Barry.

Today, **The Phantom** is written by Tony DePaul with Sunday artwork by Terry Beatty. Following the death in March 2016 of Paul Ryan, who had drawn the daily comic strip since 2005, Mike Manley assumed that role.

Through the generations these eerily identical jungle lords have prowled an evil world in the cloaks of many identities, and none today, but the Bandar and a handful of other secret souls know that all are not one and the same.



