Icelandic Medieval Literature and American Popular Culture 1928-1962

Third Beck-lecture

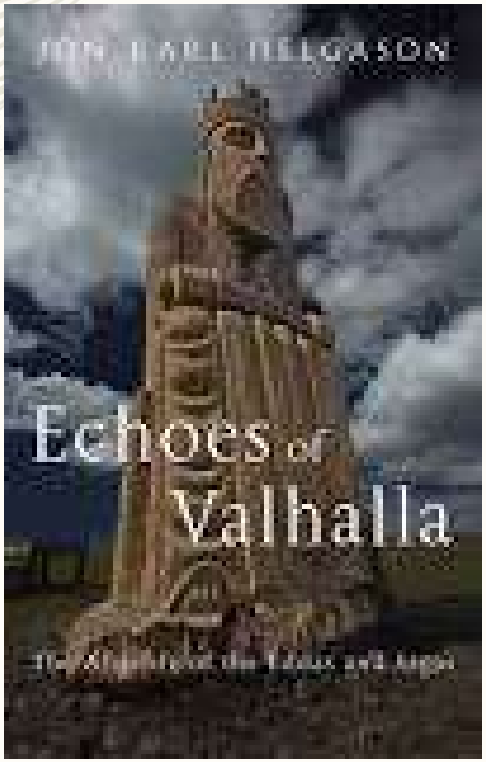
University of Victoria

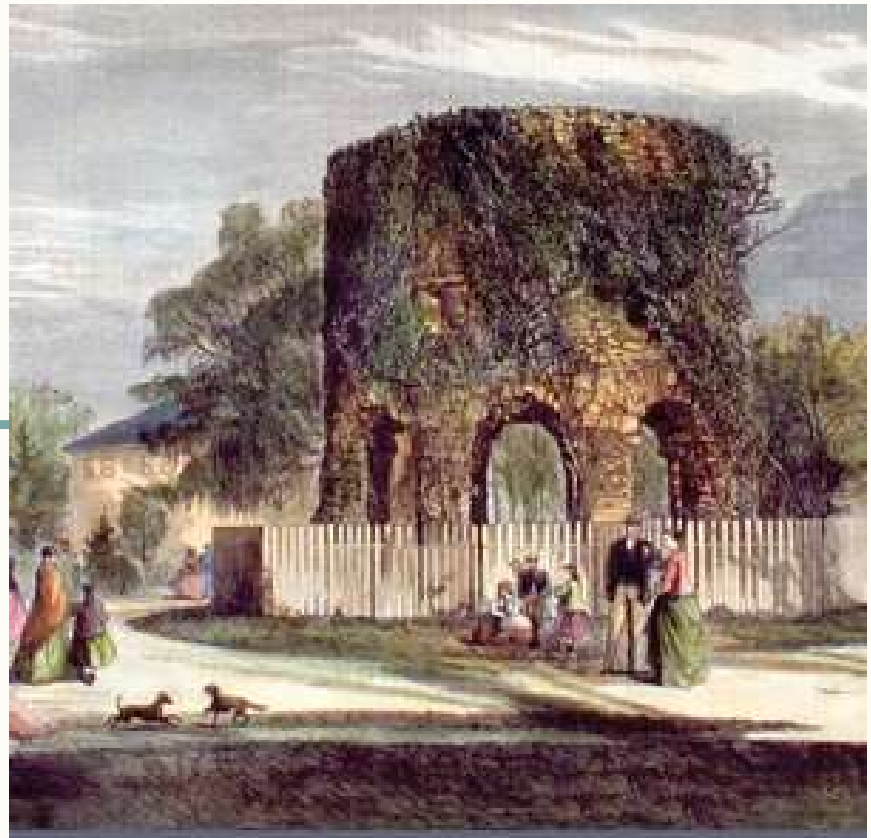
Dec. 1, 2019

Jón Karl Helgason

University of Iceland

jkh@hi.is





From Iceland to the Americas

Vinland and historical imagination

EDITED BY
TIM WILLIAM MACHAN AND
JÓN KARL HELGASON



2011



2013

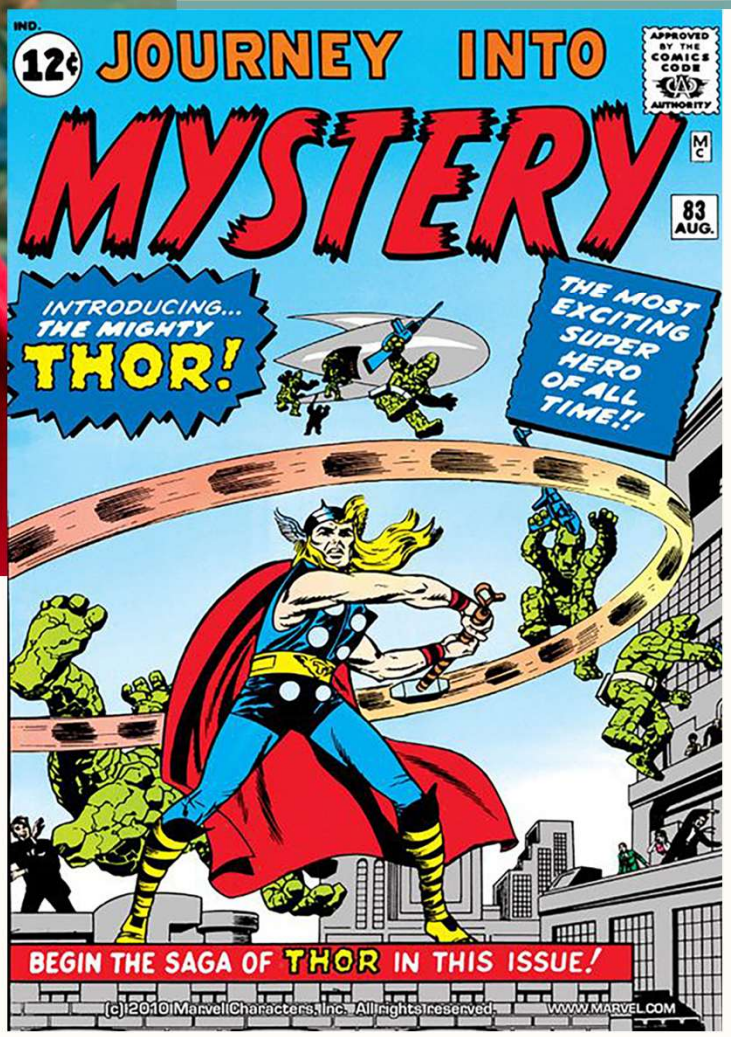


2017



2021




IND.
12¢
JOURNEY INTO
MYSTERY
83 AUG.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
INTRODUCING... THE MIGHTY THOR!
THE MOST EXCITING SUPER HERO OF ALL TIME!!
BEGIN THE SAGA OF THOR IN THIS ISSUE!
(c) 2010 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.
WWW.MARVEL.COM



1962



1944



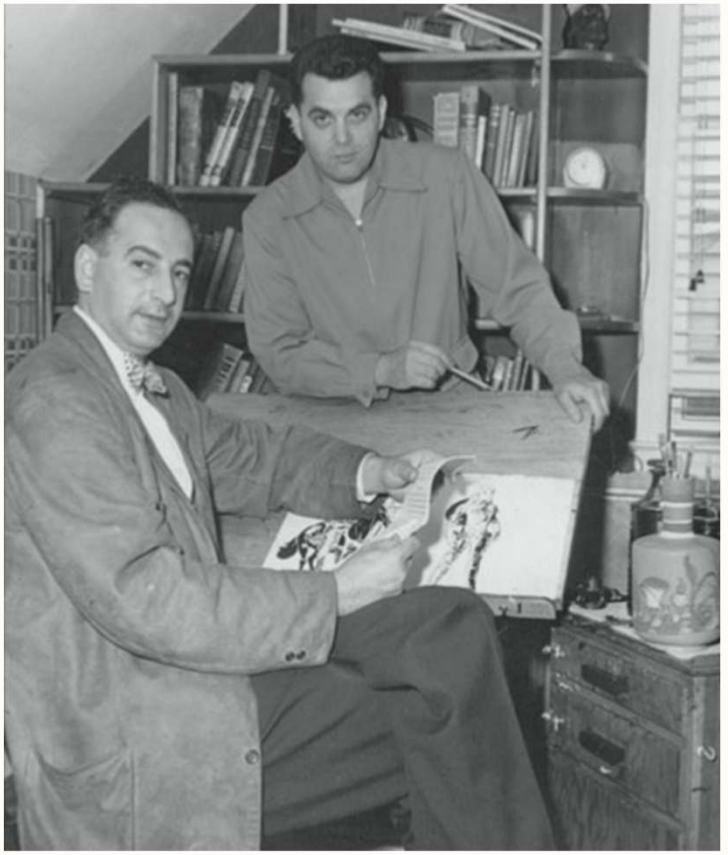
1942



1940

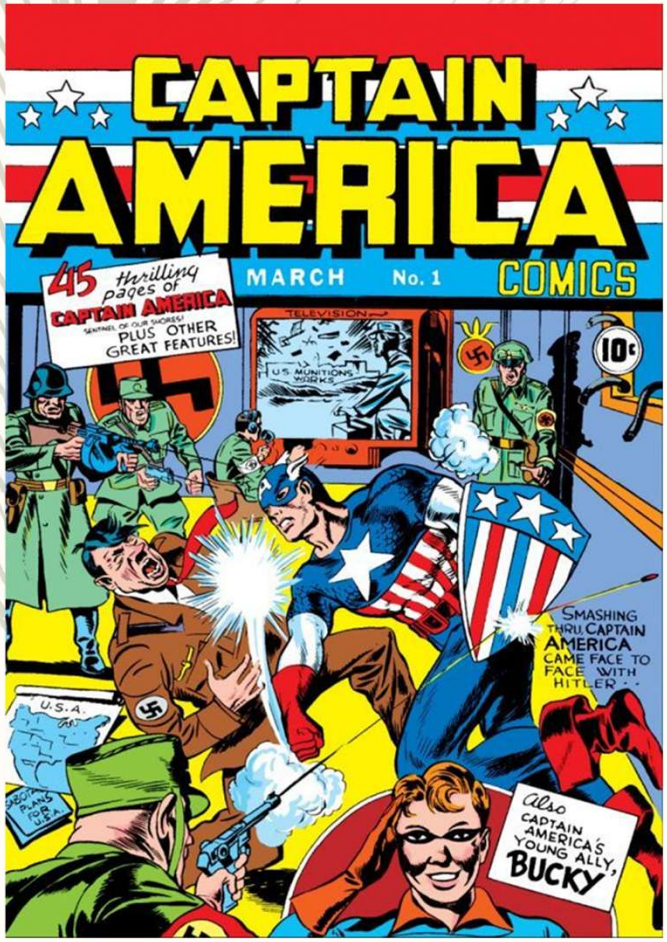


Larry Lieber and Stan Lee



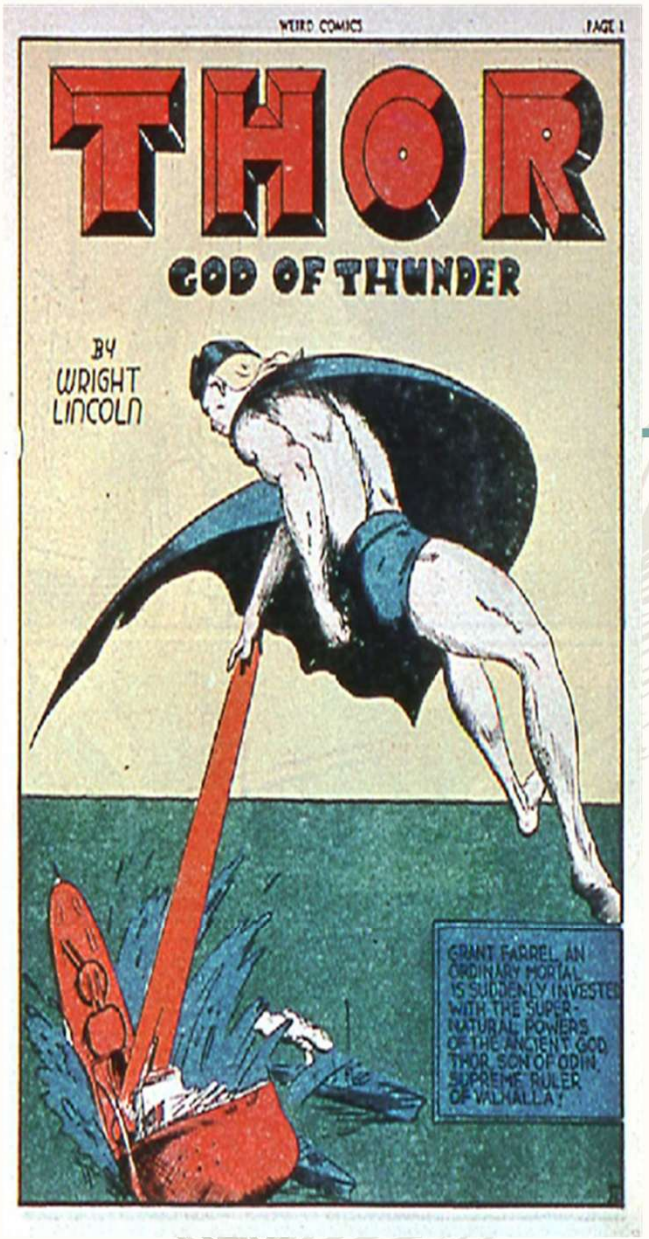
Joe Simon and Jack Kirby

The comic book/10 cent war



the comic book industry almost universally supported the government's perspective on everything from war strategy to rationing to civilian engagement in the conflict. If anything, comic book propaganda was frequently ahead of the government's appeals, calling for outright intervention long before Pearl Harbor, and for opening more battlefronts long before the military was prepared to do so.

(Trischa Goodnow and James J. Kimble)



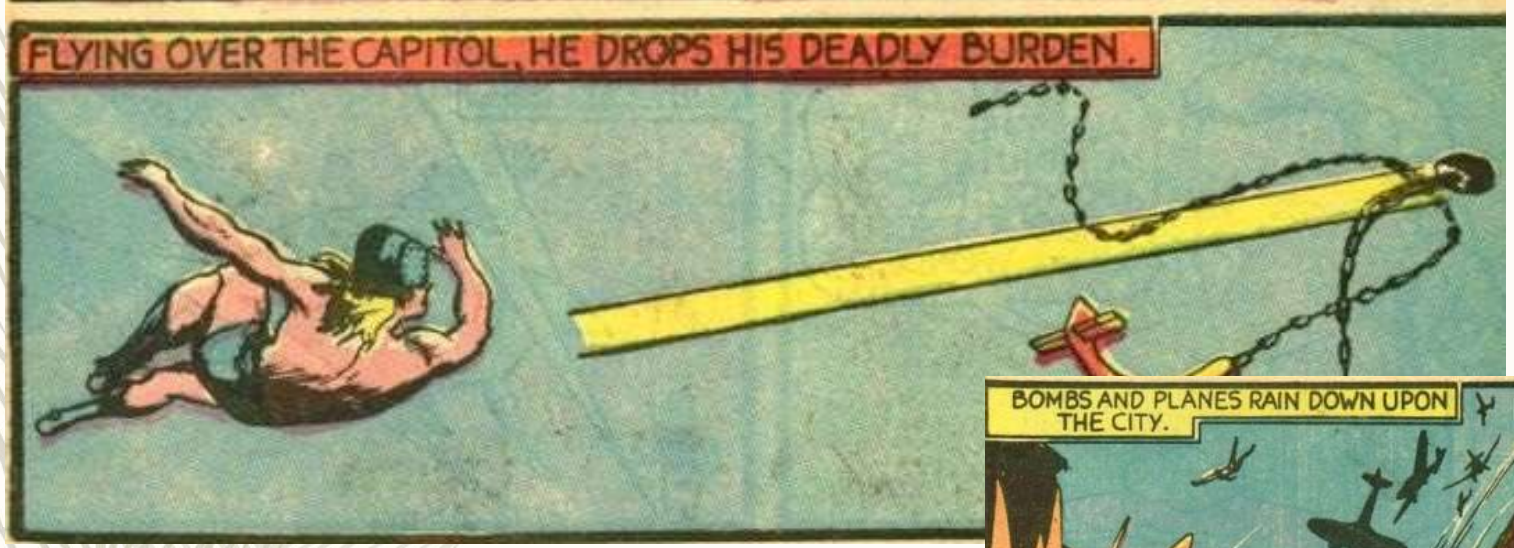




Five strips about the superhero Thor by „Wright Lincoln“,

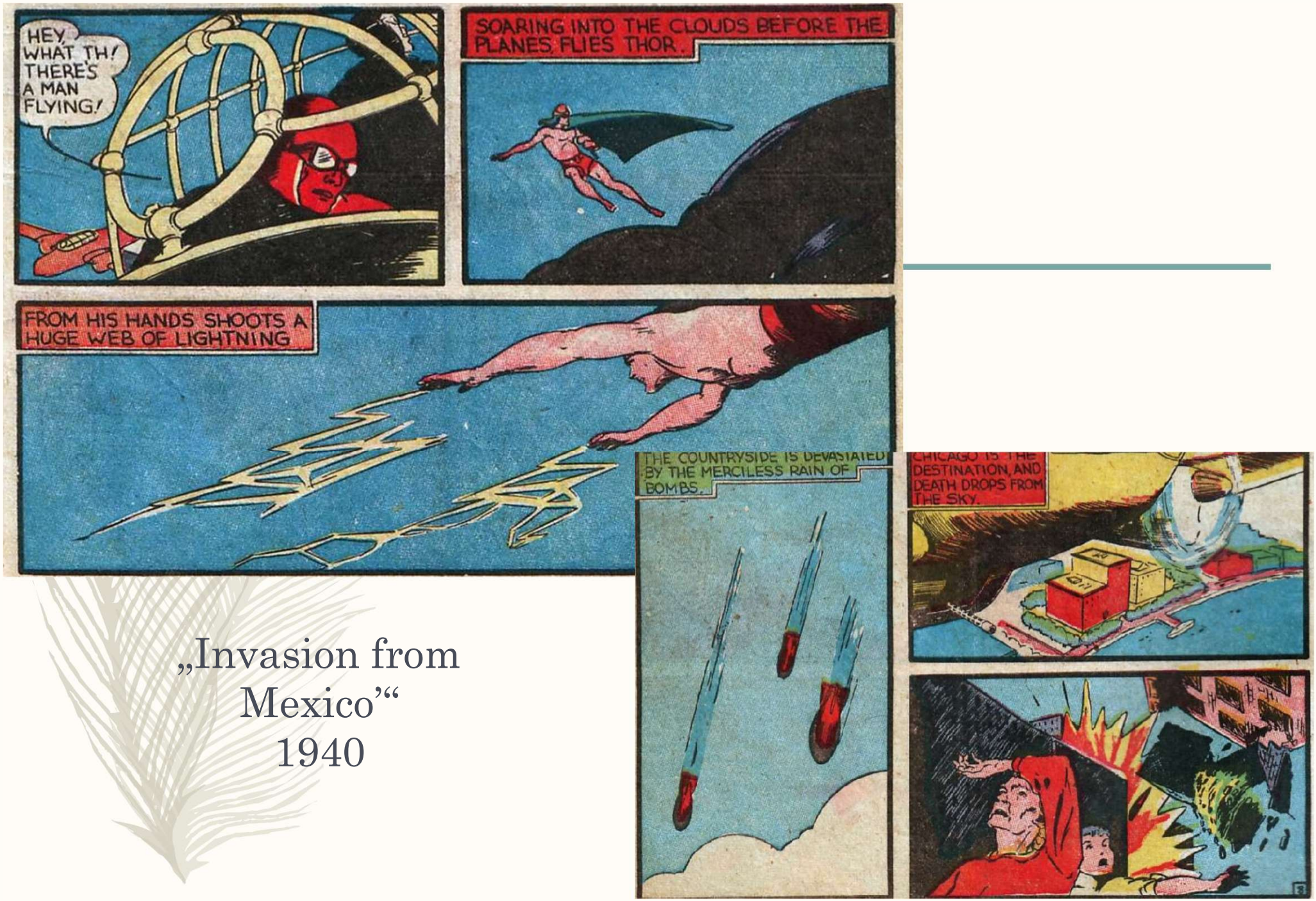
published in *Weird Comics* April-August 1940







„Thor goes to war“
1940



„Invasion from Mexico“
1940



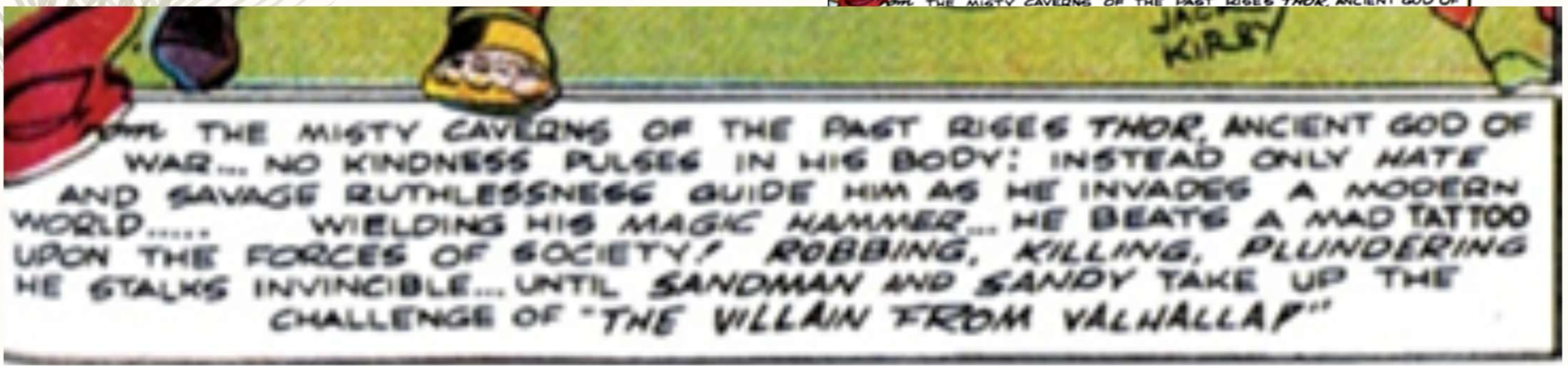


Stan Lee …. Joe Simon and Jack Kirby

From Kirby and Simon‘s Sandman from 1942








BOY COMMANDOS
No. 7
SUMMER ISSUE
TEN CENTS
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC
IND
BOY COMMANDOS
HERE COME YOUR FAVORITE YOUNG TROUBLE-SHOOTERS with CAPTAIN RIP CARTER in SMASHING NEW ADVENTURES!
SIMON + KIRBY


The BOY COMMANDOS in "The SHADOW of VALHALLA!"
ORDER OF THE DAY
Rip Carter
CAPTAIN
THE BOY COMMANDOS HAVE HAD SOME BREATH-TAKING AND STRANGE ADVENTURES IN THE GLOBAL WAR - BUT NONE AS EERIE AND MYSTERIOUS AS THEIR EXCURSION INTO THE LAND OF NORSE MYTH! CLOSELY TRAPPED IN THE WRECKAGE OF THE ANCIENT HOME OF THE VIKINGS, IT MAY BE THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE OLD WARRIORS RIDES TO THE AID OF OUR MODERN FIGHTERS FOR JUSTICE -- THE BOY COMMANDOS! OR PERHAPS IT'S ONLY A TRICK OF IMAGINATION... WHO CAN TELL?
by JOE SIMON
and JACK KIRBY

Kirby and Simon's (?) 'The Shadow of Valhalla' 1944



Nazi: Heil Hitler! We are Nazis, the true followers of the ancient Germanic gods! You must help us in our fight to conquer the world in the sign of our historic symbol -- the swastika!

Thor: Swastika? I have never heard of it! Nor have I ever heard of these Nazis you speak of!

Nazi: You must seize and imprison them! [refers to the Commandos] They are the enemies of all we stand for …

Thor: I cannot do that! All brave warriors who fall in just cause are equally free in Valhalla!! […]

Thor: Behold, father. These strange warriors have reached Valhalla!

Odin: I know them not, my son! I have sent for no warriors to be brought here from earth!

Nazi: Heil Odin! I represent your chosen leader, Hitler! And these are our enemies— The Commandos! They must be destroyed! Our fuehrer has ordered it! We shall be masters of the world!

Odin: What nonsense is this? Who is this upstart Hitler? I never chose him for a leader!

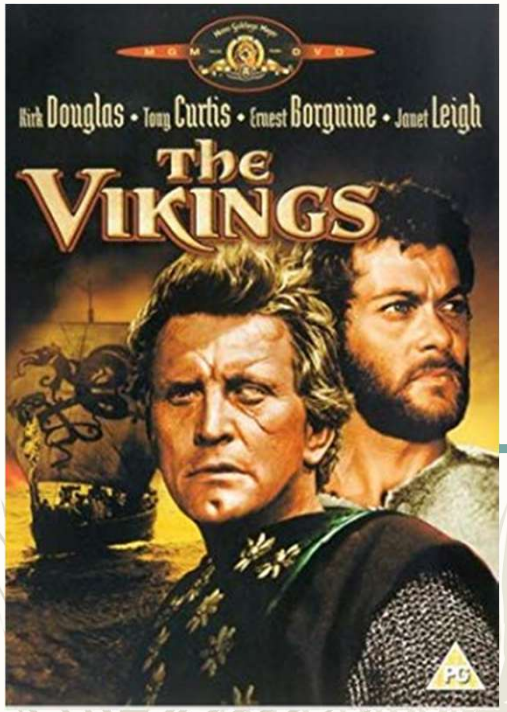


“I especially had to take liberties with Vikings because no one knows for sure what happened in the Dark Ages ... we want people to watch it. A historical account of the Vikings would reach hundreds, occasionally thousands, of people. Here we've got to reach millions.”

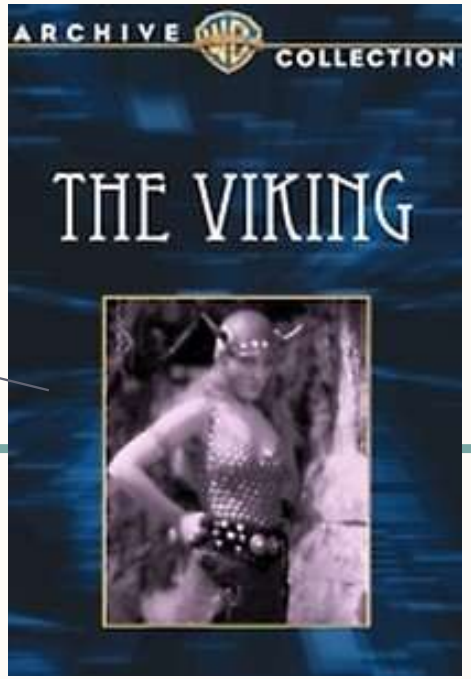
(Michael Hirst, creator of the television series The Vikings, 2013-)



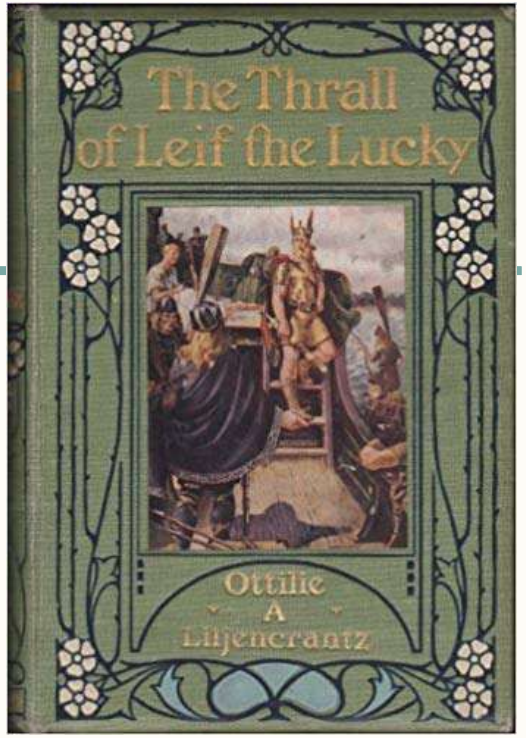

Kirk Douglas • Tony Curtis • Ernest Borgnine • Janet Leigh
The Vikings
PG



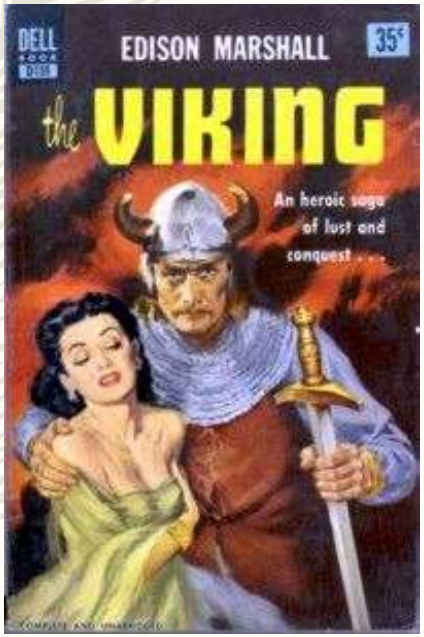
1958



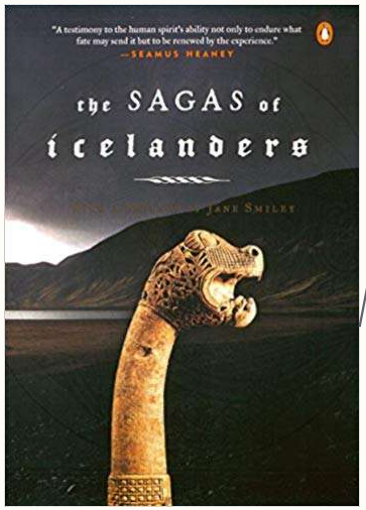
1928

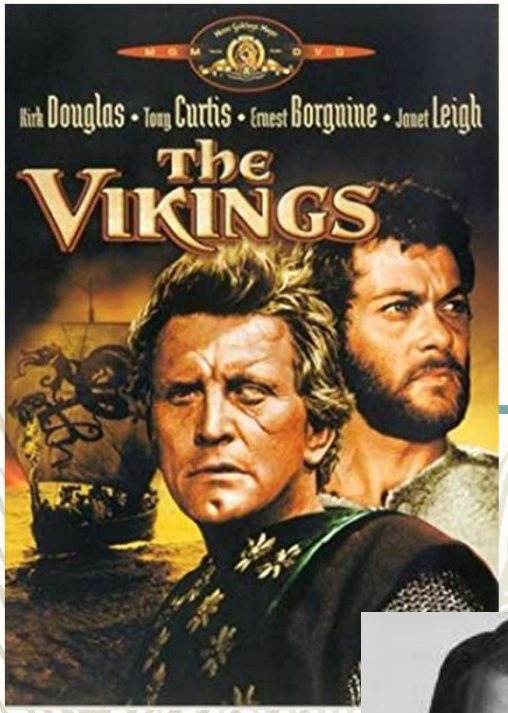


1902

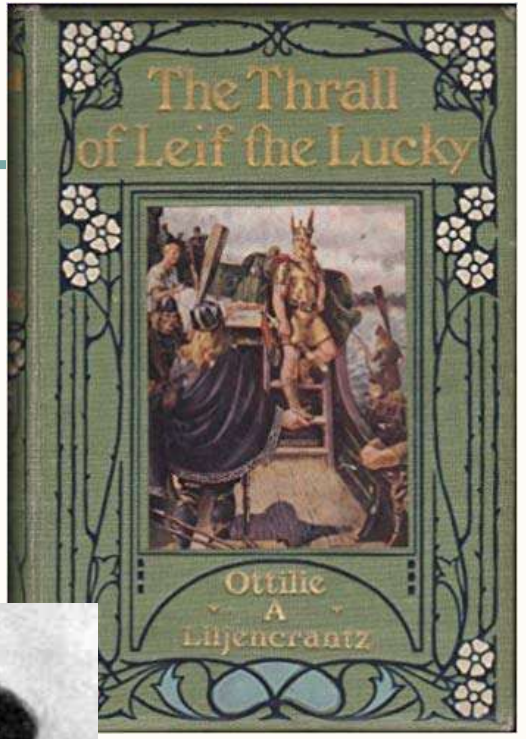


1951

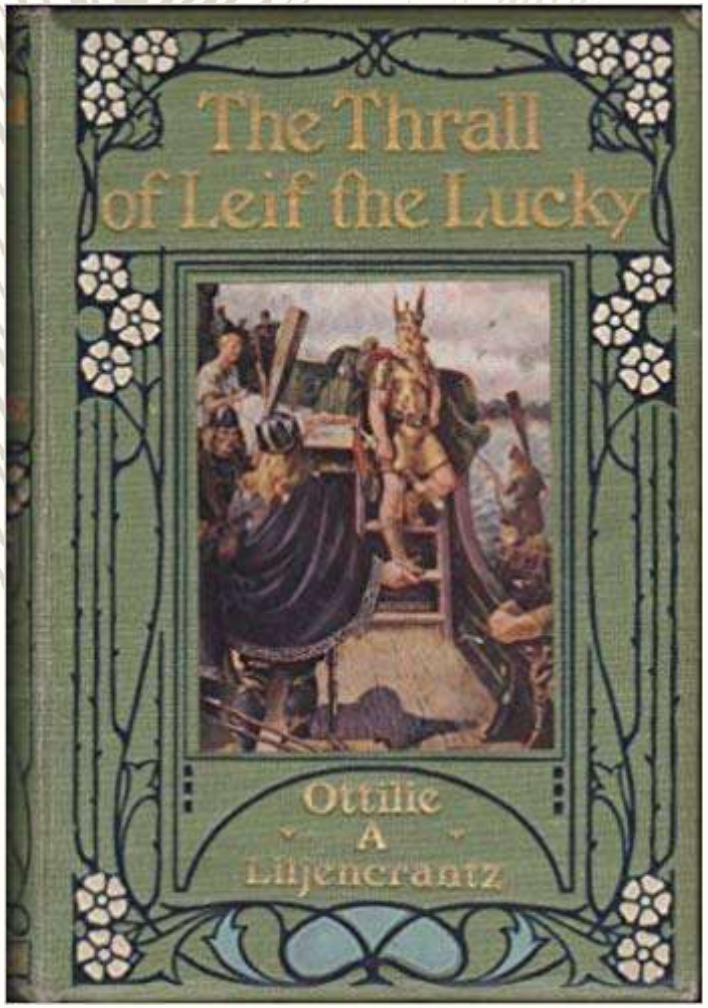



Kirk Douglas • Tony Curtis • Ernest Borgnine • Janet Leigh
The Vikings




The Thrall of Leif the Lucky
Ottilie A Liljencrantz




The Thrall
of Leif the Lucky
Ottilie
A
Liljencrantz





THE VIKING
100% TECHNICOLOR
Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

Coming to America



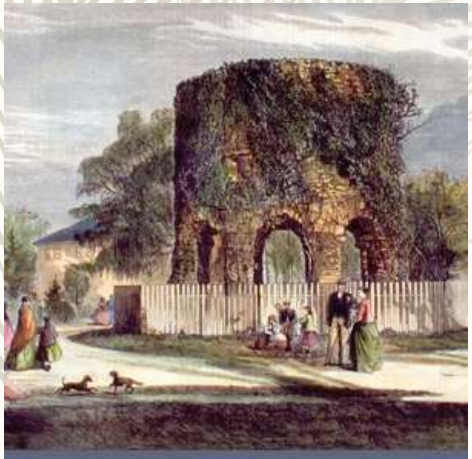




Gergio Deluci, Christopher Columbus Arrives in America in 1492, 1893 painting

The Newport Tower

As his Viking fathers had done in other lands, Leif built a watch tower of stone.

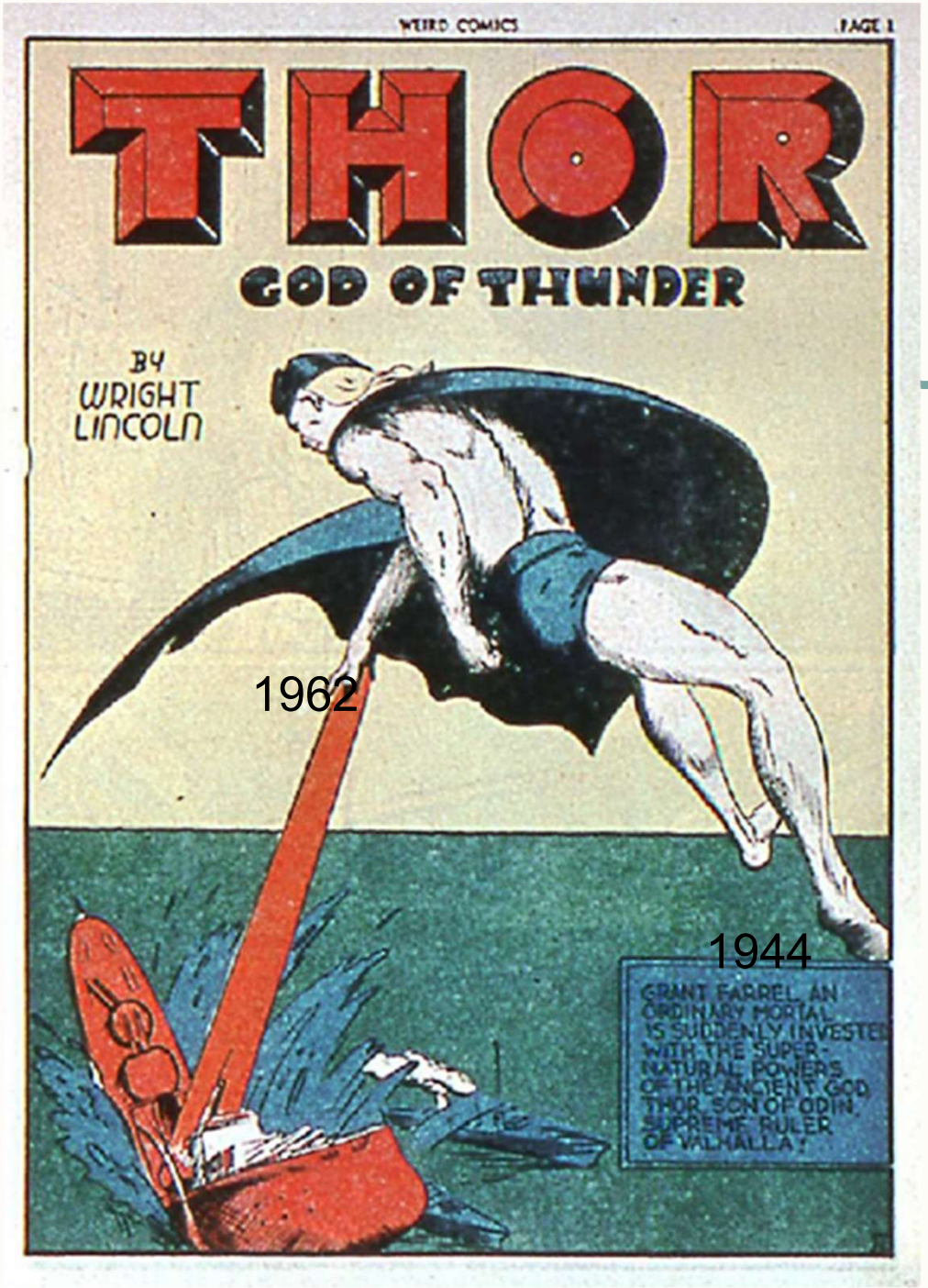




Why the American congress decided to give Icelander's a statue of Leif the Lucy …

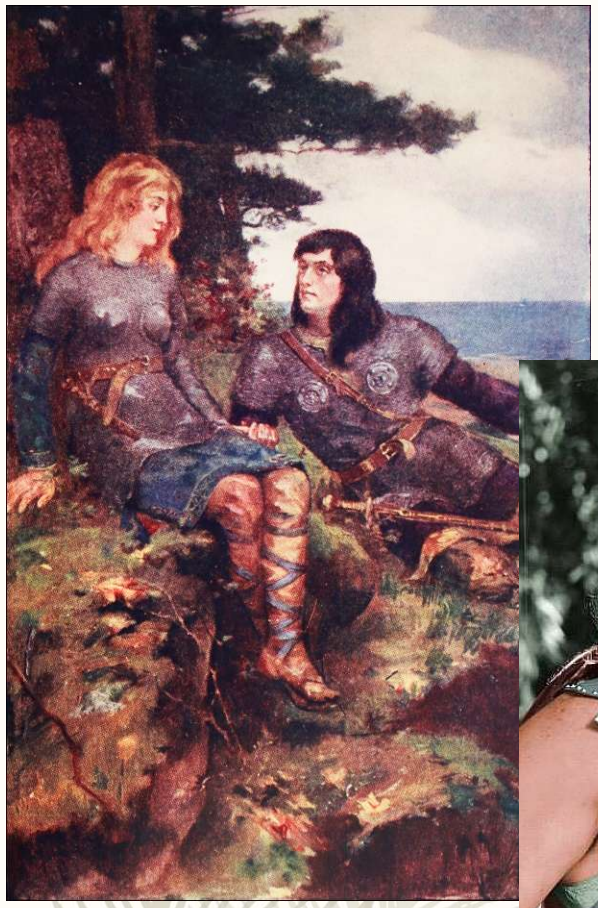


– the first white man to set foot on American soil was a native son of Iceland, Leif Ericson (the son of Eric the Red, a Norwegian who had settled in Iceland), an able and fearless sailor, who in 985 accompanied his father to Greenland, and thereafter went thence on a cruise to Norway, and on the return trip in the year 1000 discovered the American mainland, which feat constitutes the beginning of authentic American history.


WEIRD COMICS
PAGE 1
THOR
GOD OF THUNDER
BY
WRIGHT
LINCOLN
1962
1944
GRANT FARREL, AN ORDINARY MORTAL, IS SUDDENLY INVESTED WITH THE SUPER-NATURAL POWERS OF THE ANCIENT GOD THOR, SON OF ODIN, SUPREME RULER OF VALHALLA!


The
BOY COMMANDOS
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Rip Carter
CAPTAIN
1942
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By JOE SIMON
and JACK KIRBY

Leif's travels







Troy & Margaret Kinney (The Trall of Leif the Lucky, 1904)

Donald Crisp (The Viking 1928)

Alexander Calder (Statue of Leif Eriksson, 1929)