

Foreshadowing the science fiction covers that graced SPICY ADVENTURE and SPICY MYSTERY in the late 1930's and early 1940's, the June 1936 issue of MYSTERY ADVENTURE MAGAZINE features a fine SF cover by Norman Saunders, illustrating "Zenith Rand, Planet Vigilante," by Richard Tooker. This was the first of three stories of the space faring Zenith Rand that would appear in MYSTERY ADVENTURE MAGAZINE; the others were "Revenge on Scylla" (August 1936) and "Angels of Oorn" (October 1936). Exotic? Peppy? Exciting? The Zenith Rand stories may not have been great science fiction but they did meet those three criteria, perhaps explaining why all three stories have since been reprinted. You've got to like a series where the hero is named Zenith, his "valkyr mate" is Sandra Yates, one of the villains is named "Death" Lamson, and "suicide is better than a space-man's disgrace." They just don't write 'em like that anymore.