



A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO COLLECTING VALIANT COMICS

by Greg Holland

The **VALIANT Universe of comic books** began with **Magnus Robot Fighter #1** in May 1991. Produced by Voyager Communications, Inc., Magnus, along with the second Valiant title, **Solar – Man of the Atom**, were revivals of comic book titles originally printed in the 1960's & 1970's by Gold Key. From 1991 to 1992, Magnus, Solar, and successive original Valiant titles such as **Harbinger**, **Rai**, and **X-O Manowar** combined to provide a solid foundation for the Valiant universe...which was praised for its exciting characters, inviting art, and strong continuity of storytelling across all titles building up to the eighteen-part Unity crossover event of 1992.

The Unity storyline, combined with a surge in comic book collecting at the time of DC's "Death of Superman" and the recent introductions of *Wizard: The Guide to Comics* and *Overstreet Monthly* price guide magazines propelled early Valiant comic books to market value listings of \$20, \$50, or even \$100+ each, though the books were less than two years old. The demand for Valiant titles quickly multiplied and by 1993, comic shops became very well stocked on any Valiant title produced after the Unity crossover, while earlier issues remained in short supply. A change in management in 1992 at Voyager Communications, Inc., saw the departure of some of the key players in the production of the early Valiant comic books. Many comic book collectors and investors purchased multiple copies of 1993 Valiant titles, but were unable to obtain more than a few of the 1991-92 Valiant issues due to smaller print runs compared to other comic books of that time.

By mid-1994, many of the collectors and investors who flocked to the comic book scene in 1992 were leaving, hoping to liquidate their inventories – to cut their losses in most cases – and a flood of recent comic books perceived as "valuable" by monthly price guides were unloaded upon the secondary market. For Valiant comic books, this meant that recent Valiant comics purchased for \$2.25 to \$3.95 each were becoming available for "bargain bin prices", often \$1.00, \$0.50, or even less. Valiant comic book values for all issues were quickly lowered, or even deleted, in the monthly price guides as comic shops nationwide reported that they were unable to sell the discounted Valiant inventory they had on hand, primarily consisting of large quantities of those Valiant comics from 1993 produced after the success of the Unity crossover.

In 1994, Voyager Communications, Inc., was sold to Acclaim Entertainment, Inc., and Valiant comic books continued to be published until 1996. The comic book industry continued to shrink, as did the number of Valiant comics printed in 1995 and 1996. Acclaim re-launched their comic book program as "Acclaim Comics Valiant Heroes" for 1997-1998, and then re-re-launched as "Acclaim Comics" in 1999-2000.

As a result of these events, and excluding consideration of the limited edition variant cover comic books, Valiant comic books can be divided into the following two-year time periods for collector reference:



VALIANT COMICS 1991-1992 – the earliest Valiant universe comics, introduction of characters and stories praised for tight continuity leading to the Unity crossover event.

Print runs were lower when compared to other comic books of the time, secondary market prices for these issues topped \$100 in the mid-1990s for some issues. *Magnus Robot Fighter #0 to 16, Solar Man of the Atom #1 to 15, Harbinger #0(Pink), #1 to 10, Rai #0 to 8, X-O Manowar #1 to 8, Shadowman #1 to 5, Archer & Armstrong #0 to 2, Eternal Warrior #1 & 2, Unity #0 & 1.*



VALIANT COMICS 1993-1994 – the most common of all Valiant comics produced, widely available since the time of their printing and still seen in larger quantities of highly discounted comic books. *Issues which are especially easy to find in large quantities include: Bloodshot #1, Deathmate, HARDCorps #1, Magnus Robot Fighter #25, Ninjak #1, Rai and the Future Force #9, Secret Weapons #1, Solar #25, Turok #1, X-O Manowar #0, and other "first issues" from 1993-94.*



VALIANT COMICS 1995-1996 – the final issues of the Valiant comic titles. Much lower demand after 1994 led to lower print runs for these issues. Collectors attempting to complete the title runs note that many of these issues are "hard to find" compared to earlier regular issues. *Included among these books are most Valiant issues #30 and above, as well as the final issues of later titles such as Armorines, Geomancer, Ninjak, PSI-Lords, Timewalker, and the Visitor.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VALIANT COMICS, you will find galleries, price guides, checklists, message boards, and a thousand other VALIANT comic book reference pages available online at:

www.VALIANTCOMICS.com