

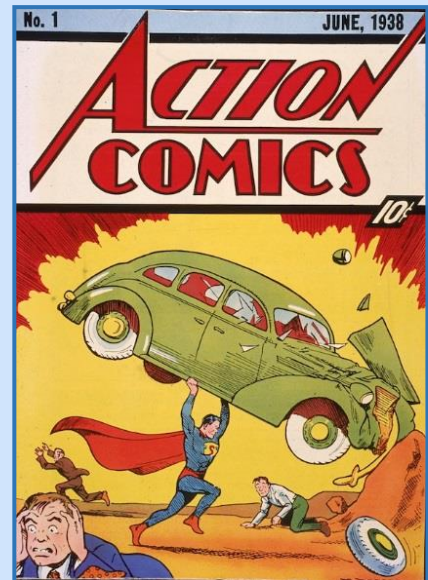
SUPERMAN SAVES A FAMILY HOME

A struggling family cleaning out the basement of their home stumbled upon what is known as the Holy Grail of comic books. It was a fortuitous find saving their house from foreclosure.

ABC News reported that a copy of *Action Comics No. 1* – the first in which Superman ever appeared – was discovered as they went about the painful task of packing up a home that had been in the family since at least the 1950s. The couple, who live in the South with their children, asked to remain anonymous.

“The bank was ready to foreclose,” said Vincent Zurzolo, co-owner of ComicConnect.com and *Metropolis Comics and Collectibles* in New York. “Literally, this family was in tears. The family home was going to be lost and they’re devastated. They can’t figure a way out of this. They start packing things up. They go into the basement and start sifting through boxes – trying to find packing boxes – and they stumble on eight or nine comic books.”

Most of the comic books in the box were worth between \$10 and \$30, but one – dated June 1938 and depicting the Man of Steel lifting a car above his head – was extremely rare. That issue, which originally sold for 10 cents, is considered to have ushered in the age of the superhero.



“It’s a tremendous piece of American pop culture,” Zurzolo said.

The couple learned online that ComicConnect.com had brokered the record-breaking sales of *Action No. 1* copies for \$1 million several months earlier and then \$1.5 million one month later.

You couldn’t have asked for a happier ending,” Zurzolo said. “Superman saved the day.”

The greatness of a joyful experience such as the one reported here is measured by the distance between the before and the after. Before their joy, this family faced financial hardship and foreclosure. Afterward, all of their troubles seemed over. They went from foreclosure to great fortune.

The message of the Advent season represents a far greater joy. Before our joy, we were estranged from God and condemned. But the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in the manger promised to change our fortune forever.

(more)

Jesus came into the world to exchange His riches for our poverty, thus effecting the most dramatic swing of fortune imaginable. This makes the “good news of great joy,” spoken of by the angels on the night of Jesus’ birth, the greatest of all joys.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:10-11 KJV).

– Beecher Hunter

