

OVER  
**800**  
CLASSIC DRAWINGS  
AND PHOTOGRAPHS



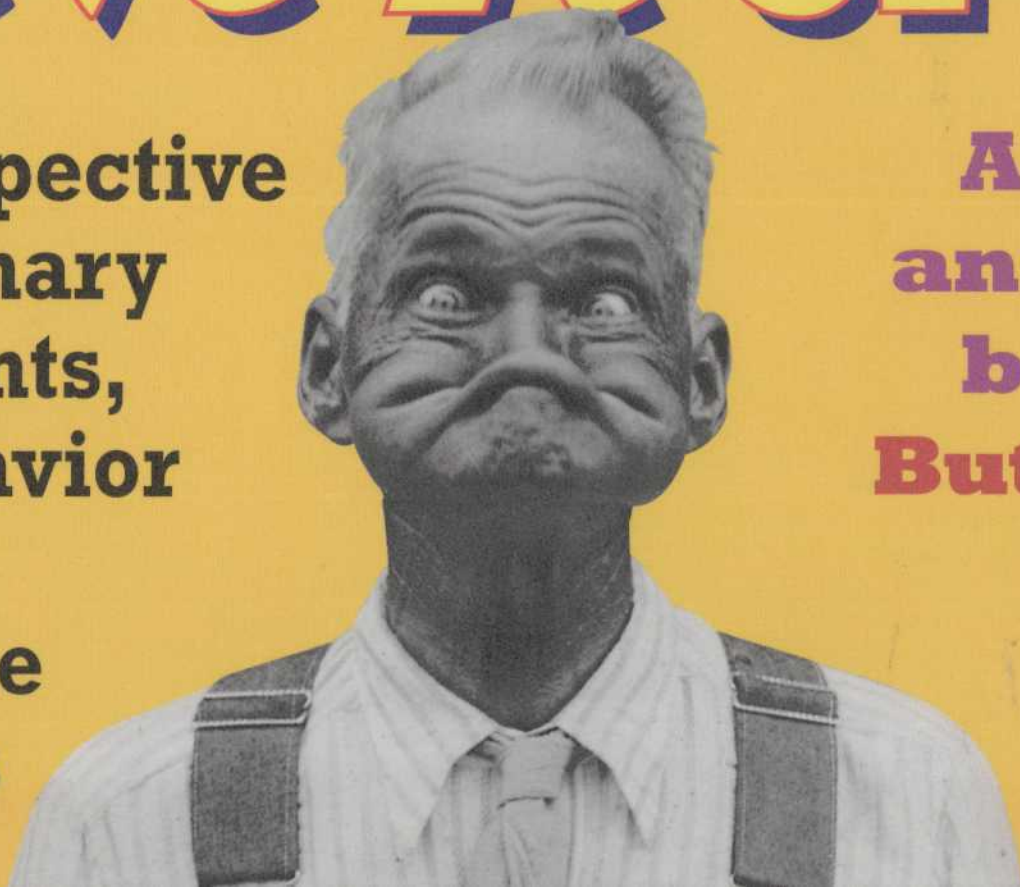
BY  
JULIE MOONEY  
AND THE EDITORS OF  
RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!®

**The World of**

**RIPLEY'S**

**Believe It or Not!**®

**A global retrospective  
of extraordinary  
achievements,  
curious behavior  
and  
bizarre  
events**



**Amazing  
and hard to  
believe—  
But all true!**



# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....6

Introduction.....7

## **1. Around the World with Robert Ripley**

*Ripley's Love Affair with China.....8*

## **2. Amazing Anatomy**

*Lonely At The Top: The Life of Robert Wadlow,  
World's Tallest Man.....14*

## **3. Baffling Balance**

*A Well-Balanced Individual: Master Equilibrist  
Bob Dotzauer .....22*

## **4. Bizarre Buildings**

*Atlantic City's Elephant Hotel: Souvenir of a  
Bygone Era.....24*

## **5. Creature Curioddities**

*Bozo the Mind-Reading Dog .....28*

## **6. Curious Coincidences**

*Lincoln @ Kennedy: Uncanny Coincidences.....34*

## **7. Different Duds**

*Robert Ripley: Fashion Mogul?.....42*

## **8. Eccentric Epitaphs**

*Cognac and Roses: Poe's Mysterious Annual Graveside Visitor.....46*

## **9. Efforts & Endurance**

*Kuda Bux's Amazing Trial by Fire.....50*

## **10. Fabulous Foods**

*Dinner is served...and served...and served.....58*

## **11. Feats of Faith**

*Ripley's Fascination with Mystic India.....66*

## **12. Fishy Fables**

*Do You Believe In Mermaids? Ripley's Encounter with  
the Famous Fijian Hoax.....72*

## **13. Historical Hijinx**

*Ripley Makes History: A BION Cartoon Launches  
Public Demand for an Official National Anthem.....74*

**14. Incredible Inventions**

*Roland Emmet's Whimsical Gadgets.....78*

**15. Miniature Marvels**

*The Lord's Prayer on the Head of a Pin.....82*

**16. Oversized Oddities**

*Van Gogh's Self-Portrait in Postcards: Ripley's Largest Exhibit.....86*

**17. Mother Nature's Mischief**

*A Prophecy Fulfilled: The Birth of the Sacred White Buffalo.....90*

**18. Nutty Names**

*To Hell With Ripley! Robert Ripley Travels to Hell, Norway.....98*

**19. Peculiar Places**

*The Black Hole of Calcutta.....104*

**20. Personal Projects**

*Masakichi: Lifelike Legacy.....110*

**21. Queer Customs**

*Head Shrinking Made Easy: A Recipe.....114*

**22. Remarkable Royalty**

*Wax Majesty: Royalty on Display.....120*

**23. Talented Tots.....128**

**24. Terrific Transportation**

*One Man's Junk is Another Man's Treasure: Ripley's Mon Lei.....130*

**25. Whimsical Wonders**

*Scavenged Sculpture: Leo Sewell's Trash Art.....134*

**26. Wonderful Weddings**

*147 Years of Wedded Bliss.....138*

**27. Ouch!**

*The Iron Maiden of Nuremberg.....142*

**28. Huh?**

*Navel Novelty: One Man's Startling Adventure Inside  
His Own Belly Button!.....146*

**29. About Ripley Entertainment**

*We're 'Out There' Too! Ripley's Entertainment Meets  
The XFiles.....150*

**30. Ripley's New Millennium**

*Believe It or Not: Terrific Teaching Tool!.....154*