

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS: Creator of New Worlds

An Exclusive Interview By: Forrest J Ackerman

Here in America I have just visited the man who has fascinated two generations with his New Worlds of the imagination:

Pellucidar -- the hollow world at the earth's core, timeless land of prehistoric perils.

Barsoom--What we call Mars. Fantastic planet of four-armed sword-smen...of Green men and thoats...of creatures whose heads crawl, crab-like, from their living bodies!

Amtor--the veiled amphibious Evening Star, Venus! Primeval globe of dinosaures and fish-men.

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS' books--and there are over half a hundred of them--are available in as many languages. Several have even been rendered into Braille for the blind, and one-notably Princino de Marso--has been published by a progressive English firm in the artificial language, Esperanto:

And what of the master mind behind these out-of-this-world conceptions? Edgar Rice Burroughs today is 71, and taking it easy after two heart attacks sustained while acting as a War Correspondent for the U.S. Navy at Honolulu. He is remarkably well preserved for his age, and converses intelligently and interestedly.

"Granddad" Burroughs, father of three and grandfather of 4, has seen science catch up with many of his "fevered imaginings" since he sold his first story, "Under the Moons of Mars", in 1912. "In some of early Mars books," he chuckles, "I made the mistake of describing 'amazing airships' which traveled at the incredible speed of 200 MILES AN HOUR!"

"Under the Moons of Mars", known in book form as "A Princess of Mars", he signed with a pseudonym: Normal Bean. This pun-name was meant to indicate that the author was a normal being, but the play on words was lost when the name appeared in print as Norman Bean. However, his first Mars story was such a sensational success that he revealed his true identity when he introduced Tarzan, superman of the jungle.

When he moved to California some years ago, to the quiet little suburb of Los Angeles originally known as Reseda, his fame overshadowed the town and today it is known as Tarzana!

Though his aim has been primarily to entertain, he has on occasion proved the prophet. A quarter of a century ago he practically predicted radar when, in "The Moon Maid", he wrote: "About 1940 had come..the perfection of an instrument which accurately indicated direction and the distance of the focus of any radio-activity with which it might be attuned."

In "Beyond Thirty", a magazine novelette of 2 decades ago probably completely unknown in England as it is almost unavailable at any price in America, he spun a fantastic yarn of a strange new world indeed: <u>Grubitten</u>—the barbarian Great Britain of the 22nd Century. England a jungle of wild men and wild beasts!

His latest novel is "Escape on Venus", illustrated by his son, John Coleman Burroughs. This yarn has been preceded by three Venus adventures; "Carson of Venus", "Pirates of Venus" and "Lost on Venus".

Burroughs entered the world of the laborratory in the creation of "The Monster Men", and again in "The Master Mind of Mars" and "The Synthetic Men of Mars".

He went back to the Stone Age in "The Land That Time Forgot", "The Cave Girl", "Tanar of Pellucidar", "Tarzan at the Earth's Core" and "Land of Terror".

In short stories he has told of the time when "The Scientists Revolt", of "The Resurrection of Jimber-Jaw", and adventure "Beyond the Farthest Star".

And what does he think of it all--really? The world on the verge of rocket flight to worlds that heretofore have been reachable only by flights of the imagination?

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"The scientists are clever fellows," he gives credit. "If they imagine it can be done--well. they may be right!"

Time, for Burroughs, goes Martian on!

The Writers Market (1947) sez: "What is divisible copyright? Let us apply "divisible copyright" to the book "Tarzan of the Apes" by Edgar Rice Burroughs. After author Burroughs wrote this book he sold the North American book rights only to his book publisher, retaining all other rights. He then sold motion picture rights to a producer and retained all other rights. Likewise, he sold radio rights, television rights, cartoon strip rights, for -eign rights, England book publication rights, syndicate rights, serial rights for mag-

azine publication, plate rights, cheap edition book reprint rights, stage rights, etc.

ATTENTION, TARZAN FANS:
Am now accepting advance orders for the next Burroughs
book

"TARZAN AND THE FOREIGN LEGION" \$2

Weaver Wright, Box 6151 Metro Station Los Angeles 55, Calf.



movie re vue

TARZAN AND THE HUNTRESS

Latest of the "Tarzan" jungle pictures is one of the best and strongest of Sol Lesser's series featuring Edgar Rice Burroughs' character.

Film carries more movement and sincerity than the majority of the series, and boasts largest number of wild animal sequences to date, all adding up to top entertainment. Lesser and Kurt Neumann, who handled dual chore of associate producer-director, evinced shrewed showmanship in building up story and packed production with values which will sock audiences. Cast headed by Johnny Weissmuller, Brenda Joyce and Johnny Sheffield, their customary roles are as usual okay.

Plot revolves around party of Americans who arrive in Tarzan's part of Africa, bent on capturing wild animals to sell to zoos of the world, and the ape man's efforts to rout them and save his four-legged friends of the jungle. Intervening action permits plenty of excitement, with a thrilling climax of an elephant stampede.

Film is liberally sprinkled with all types of African wild life, and these contribute to entertainment values of the picture. Animal sequences are splendidly atmospheric.

Weissmuller offers his usual convincing characterization, ably supported by Miss Joyce and Johnny Sheffield, as Boy, latter now almost as large his "father" in the series. Patricia Morison, as femme hunter, scores nicely, Barton MacLane is up to his usual villainy and John Warburton does well as Miss Morison's partner on the safari. Others in cast rank highly.

ABOUT NYOKA, THE JUNGLE GIRL

A few years ago Republic Studios produced a film adopted from the Burroughs book "Jungle Girl". It was released as a serial and featured Francis Gifford as Nyoka, the Jungle Girl.

The plots of the film and the book are as different as A and Z. The Jungle Girl's name in the book is Fou-Tan while in the film it is Nyoka. But does this give Republic Studios the right to capitalize on the name Edgar Rice Burroughs? And Introduce Nyoka as his character? Then later produce another picture titled "The Perils of Nyoka", dropping Burroughs! name from the credit list completely?

Since then Nyoka has become a comic book character appearing in two magazines, Nyoka, the Jungle Girl and Master Comics.

The name JUNGLE GIRL is still being used as a selling point but still no credit is given to Burroughs as the creator of the Jungle Girl.

I wonder if Mr. Burroughs knows of this usurping of one of his characters!

Dell Publications have ready a new Tarzan pictorial adventure book. It is a follow up of Dell's recent book, "Tarzan and the Devil Ogre", and will be on the newsstands about July 15th.

The Republic picture "Jungle Girl" has been re-released. Perhaps some reader following this serial might want to write a chapter by chapter synopsis for the movie column of this publication.

ALEX RAYMOND TO DRAW TARZAN

A newspaper article recently about Alex Raymond, creator of Flash Gordon, Jungle Jim and Rip Kirby, mentioned that Mr. Raymond would soon begin work on the Tarzan cartoon strip. If this is true, he will be the sixth artist to draw the strip. His predecessors are Hal Foster, Rex Maxon, Wm. Juhre, Hogarth, and the more recent artist, Rubimore.

Actress Pat Morison made an oil painting of Johnny Weissmuller which is being used as a lobby display for the motion picture "Tarzan and the Huntress".

The next Johnny Weissmuller film will be titled "Tarzan and the Mermaids"

Would'nt a Tarzan film in technicolor offer a rare treat to the theater goers?

THE BULLETIN IS FREE

The Burroughs Bulletin is published once a month by Vernell W. Coriell Box 78, Manito, Illinois. It is distributed FREE upon request to any Burroughs fan interested.

I am at all times in the market for any Burroughs items for my collection. So if you have anything along this line for sale, including toys, games, cartoon strips and novelties, please let me know. V. Coriell Box 78, Manito, Illinois

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Did it ever occur to you how much of a family affair Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. really is?

Burroughs incorporated himself, with son Hulbert and his good friend Ralph Rothmund, in 1923. He publishes his own books, which is something Mark Twain tried to do, but failed.

Burroughs son-in-law, James Pierce starred in the motion picture, "Tarzan and the Golden Lion", and also played the title role on the Tarzan radio show with Burroughs daughter Joan.

Studly Burroughs, a nephew, illustrated several of ERB's novels. However, this job is being done by Burroughs own son, John Coleman, now.

Hulbert and John have also written several stories.

EDITOR'S CORNER

WELL, here it is, the 1st issue of the Burroughs Bullet-in fanzine! I hope you will -enjoy reading itsas much as I have enjoyd publishing it.

I want to thank the many Burroughs fans who have helped me and sent in articles to be published. All your ideas and suggestions are welcome and with your help the Burroughs Bulletin can become the best fanzine going, so keep on sending in those ideas and anything else about ERB and his characters.

To my knowledge, this is the first time a fanzine has been published about the works and characters of one author, and I promise to do the best I can to make it worthy of the author whose name this publication bears.

Sincerely, All (2)