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SCIENCE FICTION DISCUSSION

by John Harwood

If you are a regular reader of science fiction you will sooner or later come across stories of interplanetary travel, time travel, and stories of the fourth dimension. Edgar Rice Burroughs has of course written about the first in the "Mars" and "Venus" books and "The Moon Maid". Has he ever done anything about the latter? Well, let's look ~~over~~ some of the books.

In "The Eternal Lover", the action goes back and forth between the past and present, although at the end of the book it all proves to be a dream. However, there is the discovery, also at the end of the book, of the skeleton of Nu, the pre-historic man, and the skull of the sabre-toothed tiger from the same cave in which they appeared in the dream.

Julian, in "The Moon Maid," tells of what is going to happen to himself, or his reincarnations, in the future. This could be prophecy, but he knows everything that's going to happen in such detail that it seems as if he had actually witnessed the events. Couldn't it be possible that he projected his mind into the future? In this instance it could be a case of a person's mind traveling in time.

In "The Jungle Girl", when Gordon King tries to retrace his steps after a walk in the jungle he cannot locate any familiar land marks. Later he discovers an ancient race of natives. Would this be a time travel or fourth dimension story or maybe a little of each? In some fourth dimension stories a person can step through into another world, in others he steps through into another time. If it wasn't either of these, maybe King was just lost in the jungle and wandered across an ancient tribe that survived into modern times without having come in contact with civilization as in some of the Tarzan stories.

When John Carter travels between worlds does he actually go through space without protection from the cold and low pressure of the vacuum that separates us from Mars or does he get there by some fourth dimensional route? Usually when he makes this trip he tells of a moment of extreme cold and darkness. If he spent any length of time exposed to such low temperatures he would freeze to death before he got there. However, in some of the stories of interplanetary travel we read about space ships entering the fourth dimension, thus being able to travel several times faster than the speed of light. In this way John Carter could reach Mars by entering the fourth dimension and only taking a few seconds to complete the passage.

Of course, I may be all wrong about this. Maybe someone will do another article for the BB proving just how far I've got off the beam.

The CASE of the SPANISH TARZAN BOOKS

by Darrell C. Richardson

"The Death of Tarzan", "The Grandson of Tarzan", "Tarzan and the Red Moon"----- who ever heard of such books? For several years I had heard vague rumors to the affect that many strange new Tarzan titles had appeared in the Spanish language. A friend brought several of these "new" titles back with him from a business trip to South America. After translating some of these books, plus a list of other Tarzan titles published in Spanish, I realized that many of these titles had never appeared in English. To date, only twenty-two Tarzan books have appeared in the U.S., and there are only three Tarzan short novels in magazine form that have not yet reached book publication. (These are: "Tarzan and the Champion" from Blue Book, "Tarzan and the Jungle Murders" from Thrilling Adventures and "The Quest of Tarzan" from Argosy.)

I wrote the Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., Tarzana, California, about these "new" Tarzan titles. This information seemed to surprise them and they explained these unusual titles as follows: "Many novels are broken-up in parts for foreign publication and printed under different titles. This is because American novels are longer than the average novel abroad, and also because of the fact that other countries cannot charge as much per book, as we do in the states."

This explanation did not satisfy me and I did further research along this line. I obtained several additional titles through various Latin American connections. With my own knowledge of Spanish, along with the aid of a friend from Porto Rico, I read through these volumes, and translated a list of other titles found on the flyleaves of the Spanish books I obtained. As a result, I found that many of the books were entirely new, and to my knowledge had never appeared in English or any other language except Spanish. A brief review, or digest of three of the books follow:-

TARZAN EN EL REINO DE LAS TINIEBLAS (Tarzan and the Kingdom of Darkness)

This book was translated by Alfonso Quintana and is a part of the "Third series of Extraordinary Adventures of the King of the Apes." It sells for 30 centavos and was published in Buenos Aires with J.C. Boviro, Editor, Casilla de Carreo 1451. It was released on August 1, 1933. It, like all the others, is a small paper-back book, but it is a full book-length novel.

Besides Tarzan, the hero of the story is Guy Tibbett, an American explorer and elephant hunter. The leading lady is Norma Kay, who comes to Africa with her grandfather, Leo Kay. The leading villian is a certain Captain Crosby (no kin to Bing!) who leads a group of Arab slave-traders. There is another girl in the story, Joan Bowling, a friend of Norma Kay. Andy Hopkins, another American, is a companion to Guy Tibbett.

Tibbett, falls into some sort of a cave in the jungle, and discovers a strange race of underground people. He escapes back to civilization and tells his story, but is thought to be insane. Later, Norma Kay and friends, who were captured by Crosby and sold to Arabs, escape.

When chased by a rhino, the girls leap into a river to get away, and are carried down into the underground kingdom by the current. Tarzan goes to the rescue. He saves them from countless dangers, and always arrives in the nick of time to aid them (which is a habit of Tarzan.) At the finish, all are rescued, two or three love affairs turn out okay, the villains are cleaned up by Tarzan, and everybody's happy.

TARZAN Y EL BOSQUE SINIESTRO
(Tarzan and the Sinister Forest)

This title was released on January 17, 1933 under the same conditions as the above volume. Characters in this story are Tarzan, Lady Greystoke, Korak, the Son of Tarzan, Danny Key, (a flyer and one of the heroes), Alina Blane, (a beautiful American girl, whose father had been lost in the jungle many years ago), Joe Hansen, (a spy that has just escaped from prison), Sarefu, (an intelligent negro who acts as guide for Joe Hansen), Vicola, (wife of Sarefu, and a beautiful mulatto girl), Richard Larbes, (friend of Joe Hansen), and the old white hermit of the forest (who turns out to be the missing Rodolph Blane, father of Alina), etc.

As per usual in an ERB thriller, the plot is quite complicated, and the action shifts from this party to that in almost every chapter.

Tarzan helps Alina look for her father, and he even tips off his ape friends to watch out for him also. The action then shifts to a distant point where a barbaric native tribe sacrifices a native girl each year as an offering to their gorilla God. Nearby, on a little island lives the white hermit. His island is so surrounded by crocodiles, that it is a trifle risky to visit him.

Joe Hansen is mixed up in some sort of a plot and all of our friends seem to stand in his way. Vicola, the beautiful negro woman, while traveling with Hansen is captured by natives and is about to be sacrificed to the gorilla chief when Tarzan arrives just in time to save her, even though she is an enemy. Joe Hansen kidnaps Alina and promises her to some Arabs if they will kill Tarzan for him. Later the gorillas attack the camp of Hansen and the Arabs and carry off Alina Blane and Vicola.

A mechanic friend of Danny Key's wanders off into a queer forest and is almost killed by living trees. These huge trees have arm-like branches and eat human flesh. Tarzan arrives on the scene and battles the carnivorous trees, saving the mechanic.

Years ago some of the gorillas had inter-married with negroes and formed a tribe of gorilla-men. They looked like human beings from the front but their backs were like a gorillas. The gorilla-men fought a savage battle with the real gorillas in which the latter won and the half human gorillas were wiped out.

In the meantime, Vicola got a gun to Alina and she kills her gorilla guard and escapes. Tarzan appears on the scene again and has a big duel with the King-gorilla. You know what happened--the old gorilla bit the dust!

The hermit leaves his island by means of a rope and meets Alina whom immediately recognizes as his daughter. Alina and Danny suddenly realize that they are in love. (The reader has known this for about one hundred pages).

Joe Hansen sets fire to the jungle and then he and his party attempts to escape by means of the river. Vicola, the negro girl, is killed by an alligator. This angers Sarefu, and blaming Hansen for the death of his wife, he kills him. Then Larbes intervenes and he and Sarefu kill each other.

To escape the fire a raft is built, and Tarzan leads his party down the river to safety.

TARZAN Y LA DIOSA DEL MAR
(Tarzan and the Goddess of the Sea)

This title was released January 31, 1933 just two weeks after the above book. This book is definitely fantastic in approach. The prologue tells of the sinking of a ship many years before. A single life-boat is launched which carries several women and sailors. After many days and nights without food or water the captain kills one of the party so they can eat. They keep on killing another person every few days, drinking the blood and eating the flesh. One day as they are about to kill a girl she leaps overboard and sinks into the sea. The life-boat overturns, and as it's occupants sink into the ocean they see a queer lighted opening in the bottom of the sea. They are drawn through this opening and up into an underworld land where they can breathe. Caverns are lighted by luminous plants which give off a soft glow. Here the survivors form a kingdom. They inter-marry and increase, and the golden-haired girl who had jumped overboard comes to be regarded as a goddess. They had become fond of human flesh so they kill somebody occasionally for a meal.((Burp!)) On an island in an undersea lake they discover a huge prehistoric animal which they call the Dragon. They build a removable bridge across the giant squid and octopus filled waters to the island and offer the Dragon an occasional human sacrifice. Many generations come and go and they keep the custom of both men and women wearing long hair.

In a more modern day there is another ship-wreck and another party reach the undersea kingdom in much the same manner. Included in the party are two American engineers and some girls. The party is captured by the strange tribe and they find that they can converse with each other as the original ship-wrecked crew spoke in classical German and the language had been passed down to the present members of the lost tribe.

Tarzan enters the picture when he is knocked off a boat and begins to swim for shore. He sees the queer lights below the surface of the sea and swims down to investigate. He is drawn through the opening and makes his way to the tribe where he is hailed as a God. While visiting the Dragons island, Tarzan and the white Goddess of the sea are marooned on the island by a jealous priest who takes away the bridge. To escape the Dragon, Tarzan carries the Goddess into the water and there he kills the giant octopus (the cover of the book illustrates this scene) and replaces the bridge.

One of the girls of the tribe who does not eat human flesh, she slips out and catches fish to eat, falls in love with one of the engineers.

The Goddess falls in love with Tarzan and one of the priests overthrows her rule. She flees through a secret passage way to the island of the Dragon with Tarzan. The rest of the party are taken prisoners, including the high priest who has remained loyal to the Goddess. Tarzan slips back at night but is only able to rescue the high priest.

When the time of the sacrifice comes and the false priest stands forth to slay the party, the real Goddess, who has slipped back into the city, reveals herself. At the same time Tarzan looses the Dragon into the city. The Goddess calls to her people that if they would be saved to swim with her back to an island. The city is destroyed by the Dragon, but the Goddess and her people build a new city upon this ~~other~~ island. The Dragon is kept on the island it has conquered as a threat to any of her people who might want to betray her again.

Tarzan and his party leave this fantastic undersea kingdom through the same passageway that they had entered it. By a queer freak of fate a boat is passing by just as they come up to the surface of the sea and they are carried safely back to civilization.

In concluding this article I may say that there are several theories in regard to "The Case of the Spanish Tarzan Books". One possibility is that Mr. Burroughs has sold the name of "Tarzan" to Latin American publishing houses in much the same way that he sells the name to a moving picture company. Again, there is the remote possibility that Mr. Burroughs has written many stories that the American reading public know nothing about, and that he will give them to us gradually through the years.

What seems more likely is that the character Tarzan, has been plagiarized by unscrupulous writers throughout the Latin American Countries in much the same manner that the "Sherlock Holmes" tales have appeared in countries around the world. The stories seem hurriedly written, much on the order of the "Doc Savage", "Shadow" and "Ki-Gor" stories, whose authors produce a full book-length novel almost every month.

I know that Mr. Burroughs has had similar trouble before, because he recently borrowed from me a 1920 copy of "Sovereign Magazine", a British publication, which contained a Tarzan novelette called "When Blood Told". Since he had no record of having authorized the publication of such a story, he had his London lawyers look into the matter of possible plagiarism.

Incidentally, in addition to my magazine collection of Burroughs' works, and a complete set of all his books in first edition, I have various foreign editions in German, Esperanto, French, Swedish, Polish, Danish, Hungarian, Portuguese, British, Canadian, Italian and Braille for the blind.

In all cases these foreign editions are translations of familiar Burroughs titles. It seems that the Spanish language has a monopoly on these "unique" titles. Following is a list of some of these other than familiar titles.

Tarzan en el Valle de la Muerte (Tarzan in the Valley of Death)
Tarzan el Vengador (Tarzan the Avenger)
Tarzan en el Bosque Sinistro (Tarzan in the Sinister Forest)
Las Huestes de Tarzan (The Armies (Allies?) of Tarzan)
Tarzan y la Diosa del Mar (Tarzan and the Goddess of the Sea)
Tarzan y los Piratas (Tarzan and the Pirates)
La Muerte de Tarzan (The Death of Tarzan)
La Resurrección de Tarzan (The Resurrection of Tarzan)
Tarzan el Justiciero (Tarzan the Justifier)
Tarzan y la Esfinge (Tarzan and the Sphinx)
La Lealtad de Tarzan (The Loyalty of Tarzan)

El Secreto de Tarzan (The Secret of Tarzan)
 Tarzan y el Buda de Plata (Tarzan and the Silver Idol)
 La Huella de Tarzan (The Trail of Tarzan)
 Tarzan y el Profeta Negro (Tarzan and the Black Prophet)
 La Odisea de Tarzan (The God of Tarzan)
 Tarzan y el Elefante Blanco (Tarzan and the White Elephant)
 La Justicia de Tarzan (The Justice of Tarzan)
 Tarzan y el Lago de Fuego (Tarzan and the Lake of Fire)
 El Nieto de Tarzan (The Grandson of Tarzan)
 Tarzan el Implacable (Tarzan the Courageous)
 El Rescate de Tarzan (The Rescue (Ransom) of Tarzan)
 Tarzan y la Luna Roja (Tarzan and the Red Moon)
 El Secuestro de Tarzan (The Capture (Kidnapping) of Tarzan)
 La Venganza de Tarzan (The Vengeance of Tarzan)
 Tarzan en el Reino de las Tinieblas (Tarzan and the Kingdom of Darkness)
 Tarzan el Gran Jefe (Tarzan the Great Leader)*
 Tarzan y el Veld de Tanit (Tarzan and the Veil of Tanit)
 Tarzan entre Pígmicos (Tarzan and the Pygmies)
 Tarzan Contra el Invasor (Tarzan Against the Invader)*

Editors note;- Tarzan el Gran Jefe is the Spanish title for Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle. Tarzan Contra el Invasor is the Spanish title of Tarzan the Untamed.

SCIENCE QUIZ

by John Harwood

Here's an opportunity to test yourself on your knowledge of the science in the books of Edgar Rice Burroughs. There are ten questions, see if you can answer them without looking up the answers in the books.

1. What is the Venusian conception of the universe?
2. What is the strange attraction between Mars and her satellites.
3. Which planet in the Solar System has two moons? One revolving around the planet, the other suspended in the interior of the planet.
4. Name two ways invisibility is accomplished in the Mars books.
5. In what city on Mars did the inhabitants fight their enemies by mental concentration?
6. The green men of Mars have six limbs, two arms, two legs and another set of limbs between the others. To what use do they put this extra set of limbs?
7. What character in the Burroughs

books was reduced to a quarter of his natural size?

8. In the Pellucidar series there are all kinds of prehistoric animals. Can you name three other ERB books in which extinct beasts still exist?

9. In which books by ERB is life created by chemical means?

10. Has Burroughs ever written anything about atomic energy?

There it is, now see how well you can do. The answers will appear on the last page of this issue.

Swap Corner

TRADE FOR WHAT HAVE YOU;
 Jungle Tales of Tarzan, Tarzan of the Apes, Beasts of Tarzan, Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle, Son of Tarzan, Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar and Tarzan the Terrible.

Early G&D editions, illustrated by Allen St John. I think sum of them are first editions but I have no way of identifying them as such. Write Bob Stein 514 W. Vienna Ave., Milwaukee 12, Wisconsin.

SEND IN YOUR WANTS
 AND TRADE LISTS

John Carter — The Greatest Swordsman. (PERIOD)

The third issue of Variant, the official publication of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society, contains an article by Alfred C. Prime entitled "The Greatest Swordsman?". In the article Mr. Prime scoffingly comments on the excessive slaughter that takes place in the Martian books written by Edgar Rice Burroughs.

He even lists the total number of casualties that take place in each book as follows:-

In "A Princess of Mars" John Carter kills 82 green men, two white apes and eight assorted beasts.

In "The Gods of Mars" he does in 80 enemies. Then kills 84 more in "The Warlord of Mars".

In "Thuvia, Maid of Mars", Carthoris kills 17 foes, ten of them red and seven green.

In "The Chessmen of Mars", Gahan of Gathol chops up a banth, 11 kaldanes, an ulsio and three red men.

In "The Master Mind of Mars", Vad Varo kills only one man and he is a policeman.

In "A Fighting Man of Mars", Tan Hadron of Hastor stands as the greatest killer in the whole series. He kills 12 men, one lizard (king-size) and three screaming spiders. Conning the invisible ship armed with the flesh disintegrating ray, the total deaths he is responsible for can hardly come to less than 5500, thus assuring him the record.

John Carter, in "The Swords of Mars", liquidated but 19 primates and 3 lesser beasts.

In "Synthetic Men of Mars", Vor Daj destroys but 7 enemies.

This list, says Prime, cannot hope to mention the number of damn-yankees killed by Captain Carter in the Civil War.

As every reader of the Mars series knows, and Mr. Prime quotes, "Mars is a planet filled with strange and warlike people, and with stranger and even more ferocious animals." Since Prime is such a student of the Martian series, he must also know that the peoples of that planet are continuously at war with each other. Carter is credited by Prime with 278 kills. It has taken the Warlord several years and nine books to reach this total. And yet--in another war on another planet, recently, a warrior was given the highest award of the leading country on the planet for killing, overnight, as many enemies as Carter has killed in the entire series.

Prime says "Tan Hadron eliminates these men (the 5500 disintegrated) personally, himself aiming and firing the weapon." If this be the case, then the man who released the Atom bomb that killed untold hundreds, and the affects of which are still killing to this day, is responsible for all those deaths, eh?

All the slaughter that has taken place in a series of nine fictitious stories dealing with another world cannot compare with the slaughter that has taken place on this--a civilized planet populated by an actual living people.

And Mistah Prime, Suh, since Cap'n Cahtah is a real south'an generalman, he did'nt count the damn-yankees a'tall. (That's a joke, son.)

Burroughs fans will no doubt forgive Mr. Prime for writing so facetiously of the Mars series, since he no doubt used the article as an excuse to re-read the Mars books. Proving that he genuinely enjoys the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs.

ANSWERS TO SCIENCE QUIZ

1. The Venusians believe that Venus is a disc-shaped world floating on a sea of molten rock and metal. Whenever they get a glimpse of the sun through a rift in the clouds they think they are looking at the flames from the sea that surrounds the planet and the stars at night seem like sparks from the same source.

2. Any substance transported from the surface of Mars shrinks in size as it approaches either of the two moons so that the substance (mineral, plant or animal) appears to be the same size in proportion to the moon as it does to the planet.

3. Earth has one moon revolving around it and another on the inside hanging over the Land of the Awful Shadow in Pellucidar.

4. In "The Fighting Man of Mars" invisibility is made possible by invisible paint. In "The Swords of Mars" the Tarids use hypnosis to keep people from seeing them.

5. The citizens of Lothar when attacked, mentally conjure up apparitions of soldiers armed with bows and arrows who march out against the foe. When one of the enemy is struck by an arrow he dies as if he had been hit by an actual missile, though there is no mark on his body.

6. The green men use their intermediate limbs as either arms or legs.

7. Tarzan, in "Tarzan and the Ant Men" was brought down to the stature of the ant men by the means of a scientific device.

8. Prehistoric animals appear in "Tarzan the Terrible", "The Land That Time Forgot" and "The Eternal Lover".

9. Life is created by chemical means in "The Monster Men"; and "The Synthetic Men of Mars".

10. In the Venus books Carson Napier's plane is run by a fuel that is unknown on Earth. The action of the element vik-ro when brought in contact with the element yor-san which is contained in the substance lor results in the complete annihilation of the lor. Burroughs mentions the fact that the annihilation of a ton of coal would produce eighteen thousand million times as much energy as would be produced by its combustion. This sounds like atomic power. The fact that a handful of this fuel will last for fifty years as a source of power for the plane proves that the scientists of Venus have controlled atomic power.

Correction! In the first of the quiz games by John Harwood that appeared in the 2nd issue of the BB question six asked "In what books does Tarzan lose his memory?" The answer should have read "Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar" and "Tarzan and the Leopard Men". In printing the answers I overlooked the latter title.



How old is Tarzan? Don't miss the answer to this question. It will appear as the feature article in the next issue of the Bulletin.



Nat Pendleton, film actor and former Olympic champion, who looks and acts as if he did not know a thing more than the law allowed in various motion pictures, is in reality one of the most knowingest guys in Hollywood with that Columbia University Bachelor of Arts degree in economics, plus his ability to speak several languages—and perfect English. At one time Nat won a role away from Johnny Weissmuller in "Laughing Lady" and years later Nat was tested for the role of TARZAN, which Weissmuller, in turn, won away from Pendleton. Weissmuller's victory over Pendleton has turned out to be a happy event for Tarzan fans and producers alike.