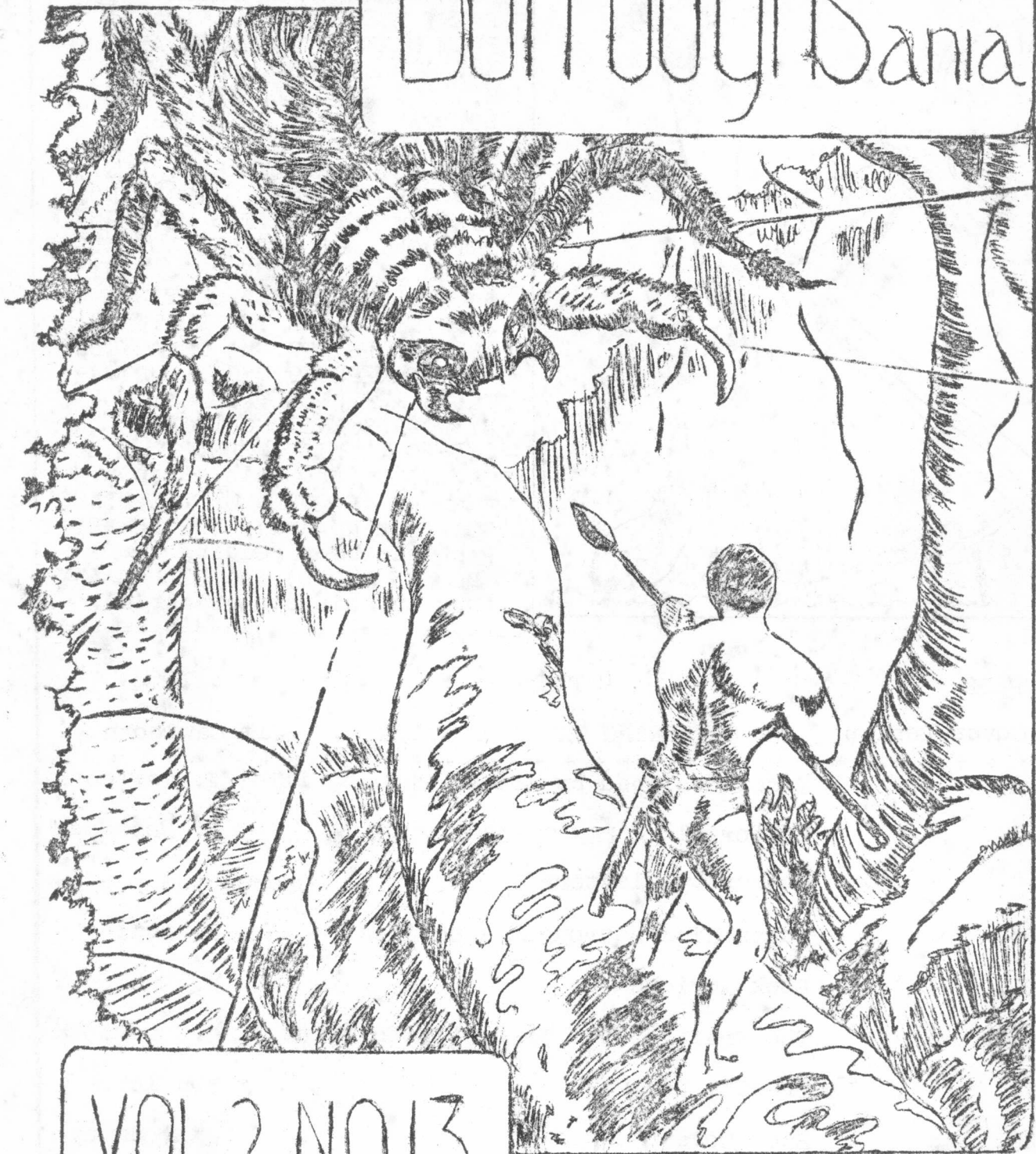


Burroughsania



VOL. 2. NO. 13.

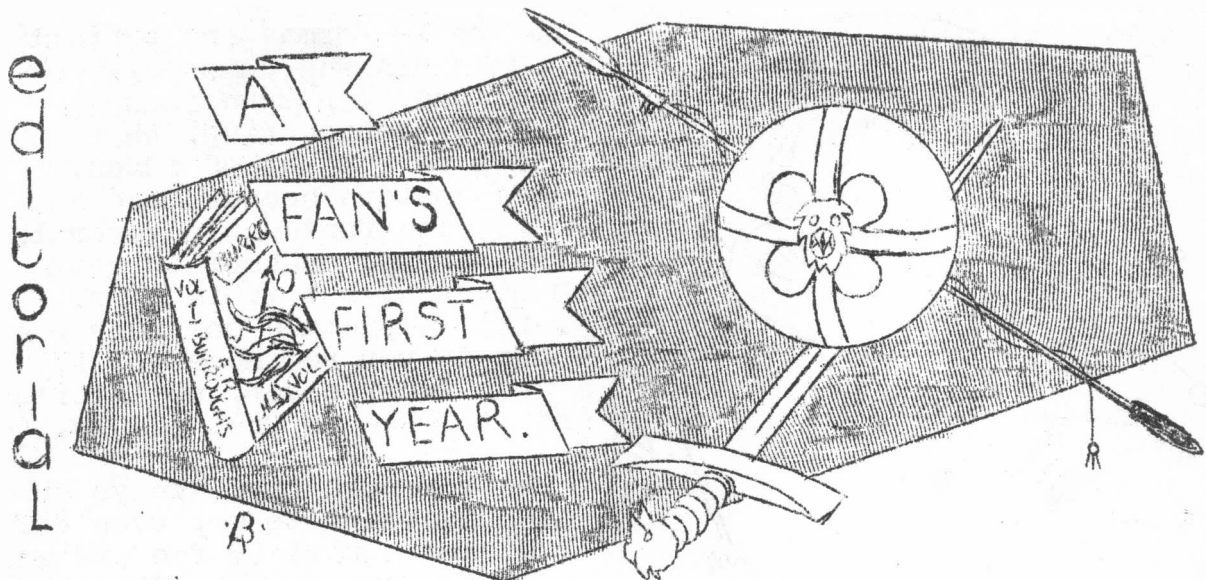
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PAGE	ITEM	AUTHOR
Cover Design	GATHERING TAREL ON AMTOR	Jim Cawthorn
2.	Index designed by Arthur Thomson illo: J. Cawthorn	
3.	Editorial A FAN'S FIRST YEAR	M. Moorcock
6.	One or two letters	One or two people
8.	Edgar Rice Burroughs - Satirist	R. Lumley
11.	Book Reviews	R. Lumley
15.	The Fruit of the Tree of Life (Rpnt.)	M. Moorcock
19.	Trading Post	You lot.
20.	Back Cover	Bill Harry

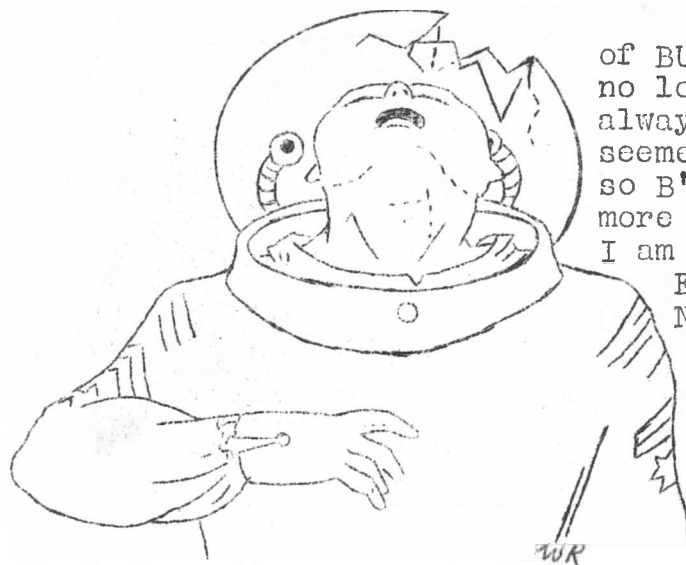
Vol. 2. No. 13



This time last year (or thereabouts) I knew very little of fandom and fanzines, it seems surprising that in the few months that I have been 'in fandom' that so much could happen. Burroughsania started it, somehow it got sent to Archie Mercer, thence to Alan Dodd and Ron Bennett and so on, spreading, later on, to the Globe with me. What a poor attempt those first issues were. 6 uninteresting pages! And what a poor attempt it might still be if I hadn't accidentally 'got into' fandom. For from the very first, fandom stimulated me, comments letters and suggestions - and then contributions of art-work and material. One evening at the Globe I was talking to Arthur Thomson. "I've thought of doing a series of pictures for B'ania," he said, "would you like me to?"

Naturally I was overjoyed, and from No. 7 until recently Arthur's art adorned the covers and interior of B'ania. The first few fans who had got B'ania almost by accident kept on taking an interest - all of them took great pains to tell me that they thought ERB awful crud - but they kept on writing and with No. 8, material by them started being featured - Ron Bennett was first, then Archie Mercer and then Alan Dodd. When TYPO was planned these fans were still there, commenting and contributing and encouraging. Making me proud to be a member of fandom - people to whom all of my readers should be grateful. And I can't leave out Arthur Thomson who gave me much good advice on how to lay out an issue, stencil cutting, headings, etc. etc. With B'ania 11, Arthur was forced to drop out for a spell, owing to personal reasons, and I gladly accepted Bill Harry's art-work when he offered it - of course, I didn't accept it because Arthur had dropped out - to have both of fandom's top artists in B'ania would have been a great privilege. After his debut with a front cover for No. 11, Bill sent me piles of stencils with fillers, title illos and back covers - I still have some back covers I haven't yet used.

The whole format and content of BURROUGHSANIA was changing, no longer were Burroughs fans - always lax - contributing, they seemed to have run out of ideas, so B'ania's content became more and more to do with fantasy in general. I am still trying my best to get ERB material but it is hard. No. 12! A picture on every page - but do you remember No. 1, a poor front cover, no interior art at all - in fact a mess.



Frank Vernon Lay, always an encouragement to me, even before I became a fantasy fan and was editing a magazine called BOOK

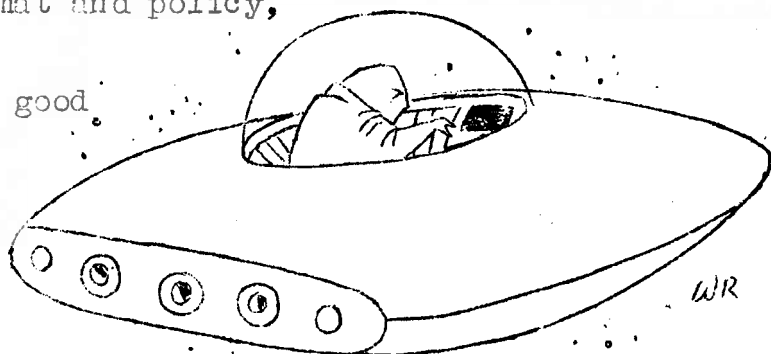
COLLECTOR'S NEWS, an off-spring of GREYFRIAR'S GAZETTE which in turn developed from OUTLAW'S OWN, hand-written, partially typed by a laborious one-finger method when I was 11 or 12, with a circulation of 12. Anyway, Frank Vernon Lay sent his MASTERS OF FANTASY series in regularly - I could always say that if ever anyone else let me down - I could rely on MASTERS OF FANTASY. Bob Lumley blossomed out with good articles and art-work which got better every issue. Plenty of letters from Europe and America and other parts of the world. Bill Rotsler appeared occasionally - on this page I see.

In early Autumn of 1956, a single-sided 'slime-sheet' inspired by Bruce Kidd (now gafia) was circulated to one or two fans and my circle of friends. It was brash and utterly neo-fannish. Number II appeared as a supplement to Burroughsania and wasn't much better - Fantasy and Jazz Fen became Fantasy and Jazz Fan until in March 1957 after it had seen 4 spasmodic one or two sided issues I took a firm control of it and re-titled it JAZZ FAN, 3 issues (at time of writing) have appeared to date and it has a wide circulation all over the world, inside and outside of fandom.

TYPO, also had pretty good reviews on the whole, and mainly favourable comments which encouraged me to plan the next issue.

BOOK COLLECTOR'S NEWS, after a hard attempt to keep going, including a drastic change in format and policy, folded in September 1956.

FENTASY was planned and a good half of it stencilled and rolled off but looking back now, I can see that it was pure crud. This still occupies a large space in my storage cupboard but it's unlikely if it will every be assembled or circulated.



And now - FANTASIANA - strictly sericon - I hope you like it. I have no end of favourable comments on this and I have been surprised at the enthusiasm of everyone in supplying all kinds of checklists.

No - no more zines planned at present - but I hope to enlarge both JAZZ FAN and FANTASIANA as soon as I can afford the time and money. I must really drop something - not a zine.

And my letters get fewer and shorter (at times anyway) as I make more and more friends all over the world - and I do mean friends - people you know are nice people. On my long list I include Frank Vernon Lay, Arthur Thomson, Ron Bennett, Archie Mercer, Alan Dodd, Jim Cawthorn, Bill Harry, Bob Lumley, John Wisdom, Lars Helander, Cato Linberg, Paul Zimmer, Ed Kisch, Alan Date, Witty Whitmarsh, Pierre Versins, Michel Boulet, Jan Jansen, Jill Day, Terry Sorsby, Mike Green, Clarence Raven, Jim Linwood, John Berry, Vinç and Joy Clarke and all at the Globe, Pete Ogden, Christina Mackenzie, George Richards, Arthur Sellings, Sid Birchby, T. H. White, Pete Taylor, Mike Rosenblum (1 loong letter) some of them not fans at all - just interested, people I can be proud to know - and lots and lots more, to list them here would take ages. Most of them I have never met face to face, or half would be a better number.

Nearly all of them I came in contact with only in this last year.

A full year, crammed with fanac and fan publications - tho' few of them 'fannish'. A hopeful attempt to keep a chain of four zines running to time (and with your help they will) and an attempt to make an 'MJM Publication' a sign of good fan-reading.

The regularity, the quality, the content of BURROUGHSANIA, FANTASIANA, JAZZ FAN and TYPO depends on the material I receive - and that depends on you!

All the best,

Mike

Just a word or two about the contents this issue, due to illness I haven't been answering letters as regularly or as lengthily as usual, nor have I had so much time for B'ania and the others - but I'll be back to normal after my holidays at the end of June and will make a sincere attempt to get B'ania onto her old regular monthly basis - also TYPO must be prepared altho' I need material. This issue - ah yes, Hope you haven't been bored by my longer-than-usual piece - the reprint on page 15 has been entirely re-written and lengthened. Frank Vernon Lay has, I believe, been ill recently but MASTERS OF FANTASY will be back with No. 14 - Sid Birchby also has promised me something. But I am still desperate for material so please get writing. Jim Cawthorn will be drawing more for B'ania in future issues. I'm near the bottom of the page - 'bye.

One or two letters

And it will be only one or two - maybe only one, as B'ania 12 isn't even ready while this is being typed. Jim Cawthorne sent me some interesting letters and information - some of which will be published in FANTASIANA but what wasn't for F'IANA I shall quote here.



26.5.57.

Well, after your last letter, what else can I say but keep the strip drawings. Good job I don't wear a hat! Actually I only sent them as an example of the kind of stuff I like best, not as something to be printed. I enjoyed the sample mags, though; the jazz discussions had me flummoxed. I like a wide range of music but when it comes to technical details - Liked Bill Harry's Red Indian cover. Looking at ATOM's drawings, I reckon that they are superior to the stuff he's had published in promags. What I really admire about him, though, is the really 'fannish' spirit of his cartoons, and the speed with which he seems to think them up! What he gets through in one fanmag issue would keep me going for six months. By the way, how do you manage to publish all this stuff. The sight of Don ((Allen)) sweating over 'Satellite' was enough to keep me away from a duplicator!

Thanks for the offer of the two Conan stories but if they are THE BLOOD-STAINED GOD and THE GOD IN THE BOWL, then I'm afraid I've already had them. GOD IN THE BOWL was the first Howard story I ever read, and as I knew nothing about the Hyborian Age series at the time, it didn't make much impression. As you can see - the later ones did. ((then Jim appended a list of AVONS not listed in F'IANA and in the list was a story by Lord Dunsany.))

Incidentally, writing out the above reminded me that I used to work with a man who served under Lord Dunsany in the 1914/18 war. The chief things he remembered were Dunsany's generosity towards his men, such as buying them smokes and drinks, and the way his long lanky figure used to make every horse he rose look about as big as a Shetland pony.

Well, I must stop this thing somewhere, so I'll say that enclosed are the only odd drawings lying around just now. Two rejected pages from A WITCH SHALL BE BORN and my impressions of the Gray Mouser and Artos the Bear. If you haven't heard of Artos he appears in :-

THE GREAT CAPTAINS by HENRY TREECE, and is known nowadays as King Arthur. This is the life of Arthur as it might have actually happened; no legends, Round Tables or magic, but some terrific character-drawing and plenty of action and humour. I suppose in a sense, it is fantasy since nobody has ever actually proved that Arthur existed.

((I wrote to Jim asking him to tell me more about the two characters he had drawn so well - and they were good. He sent me the cover for No. 13 and mentioned in his letter))

Herewith the cover for No. 13. Hope it will be OK - I'm a bit rusty on stencil technique! Those two Conan illos seem to come out pretty well; sorry to hear about the trouble you had with the paper ((the blue paper used in this issue stuck at every opportunity so I have few spares this issue)) Just one thing I'd like to point out (if you haven't already seen it) - the Venusian nation were Vepajans - not Vejapans ((my fault not Bob's - I've always spelled it that way - didn't notice it - sorry)).

Now, about those two books. THE GREAT CAPTAINS is 13/6 I think and its quite recently published so shouldn't be hard to find. The GRAY MOUSER isn't a story, he's a character in a series of stories by Fritz Lieber. You'll have to search around for them though as they used to appear in Unknown Worlds. They were fantasies set in ancient times, with no regard for time. The two companions, Fafhid and the Mouser, might in one story be in an actual setting, such as 200 BC and in the next some age that never existed.

((Although you mentioned that drawing was more in your line than writing, Jim, I think that your letters disprove this. Well, it was one letter wasn't it))

((Maybe an article later ? On Artos or the Mouser ?)).



Edgar Rice Burroughs has often been condemned as a writer of pure escapist "Blood and Thunder" but only a few fans have delved beneath the surface of clashing swords and near-rhetorical prose to find things which incidental readers have missed - a great deal of bitter satire, humour and religious feeling. The humour and religion I shall leave for a later article.

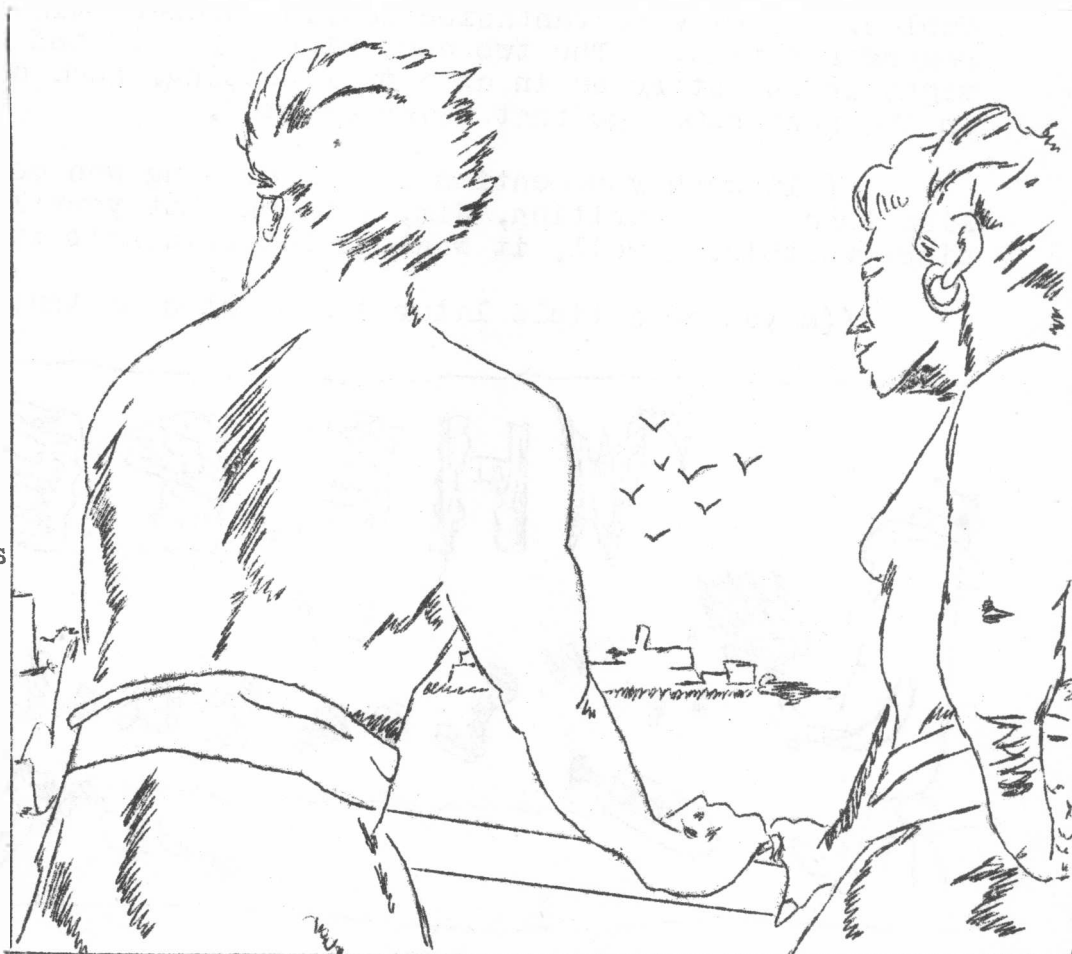
The obvious examples are the Carson quartet and the Pellucidarian septet. The Tarzan and Martian books eventually degenerated into very little more than the fore-mentioned stereotyped escapist romances. Perhaps it is because Burroughs finally ran out of new angles for these series.

The Carson of Venus stories and the Pellucidarian adventures have never attained quite as much popularity as Burroughs's earlier creations, perhaps it is that most of ERB's fans are escapists or youngsters and won't be bothered with the trouble of reading 'below the surface' or even 'between the lines'.

I have never been an arden ERB fan but I have found a lot of pleasure reading Mike's collection and thus, perhaps, I have managed to find something which many have missed.

The Carson books are obviously political satires, the Pellucidar books are satirising human weaknesses and analysing where humanity has gone wrong.

I have no books to which I can refer as I have no collection but as I remember, the plots of the Venusian stories were all based on the efforts



of Vejapa to overcome a political body known as the Thorists. Mike didn't have the last book when I was reading them so I don't know if they finally succeeded. The Thorists were a combination of all that is bad in politics - a kind of Nazi, Fascist, Communistic party.

Once, when the Vejapans were powerful, there had been a mighty empire stretching from the equator to the pole. The culture was near-perfect, the people not at all class-conscious. Yet there were still people who were dissatisfied - as there always will be - and their leader was called Thor, a man with a criminal record. He founded a secret order and preached a gospel of class-hatred, known as Thorism. The rise of the Thorists and the downfall of the culture is a direct parallel to our own Dictatorships and Burroughs becomes very bitter - a bitterness which sharpens his satire and this satire gets better as the stories progress.



dc

The satire in the Pellucidarian stories is subtler. Continual little digs at humanity's failings.

The Pellucidar of the final books is a veritable Utopia of happy medium, although I doubt whether such a Utopia could ever evolve - but that is for another article to discuss at length, my purpose in this short piece is to show the people who either read ERB for escapism - or condemn him, that there is a great deal more in his stories than is apparent at first reading. And as I have said before, it is significant that the books that have gone a little deeper than most, never get the same popularity as others.

Pellucidar is satire on humanity - you have one people on one island with all the bad traits of humanity - then you have are given what could have happened - a similar island with a people who have all the good traits of man in them. These are described, a little moral thrown in, and analysed.

If I had the books and the time I would like to go through them, picking out passages to illustrate my meaning - but I will leave that for you to do.

Just remember this - don't forget this article when you next pick up a Burroughs book. Try and look for things which show that Burroughs was not the shallow writer that people make out he was.

Bob Lumley. 25th May 1957

+ +

Have You Read?

THE OTHER THREE MAGAZINES PUBLISHED BY MIKE J. MOORCOCK

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- They are:
- "fantasiana" - a hopeful monthly, price 4d. Which publishes checklists on every aspect of Science Fiction and Fantasy. Checklists welcome. App. 10 pages.
 - "Jazz Fan" - a monthly which appears maybe less often maybe more often. Hoping to concentrate mainly on folk music, blues etc. Free up to ten pages - postage to be paid over ten pages (2d) nothing to those who receive it by hand. Material welcome. App. 8/10 pages.
 - "TYPO" - a three-monthly - maybe less often, depending on material - price 6d. for 30-odd pages. Purely fannish material in this. Material welcome.



A column about books I have enjoyed reading, and which I am sure you will enjoy, too. I have tried to pick books which are not too expensive or hard to acquire. Reviewed this issue are: BRING THE JUBILEE: THE BROKEN SWORD: LEST DARKNESS FALL: THE MASTER: THE OCTOBER COUNTRY: TIME TRANSFER.

+++++

BRING THE JUBILEE by Ward Moore. BRE reviewed. Published 1955 by Heinemann at 12/6. Available as remaindered book at 2/6 from W. H. Smith and Sons, most branches. 199 pages.

This is an excellent book.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

The story tells of what might have happened if the South had won the American Civil War. The only drawback for British readers is that the average Briton knows little about this war and part of the plot depends on your knowledge of the event which was the decisive point in it. It is written in the first person from the point of view of Hodge Backmaker, a Northern boy who grows up circa 1942. The 1940s and 50s of the independent North and South are far different from the United States of our own time. The South is becoming decadent, the North poor to a degree, aeroplanes have not been invented, instead there are sailing ballons, horses still play an important part in road transport but cumbersome steam vehicles (minibiles) are owned by the rich. The author draws a fine set of characters and although the plot is a good one, the strongly drawn characters and the fine storytelling, overshadow the fantastic plot. Recommended.

THE BROKEN SWORD by Poul Anderson. Published 1954 at 2.75 by Abelard-Schuman Inc. N. Y. U. S. A. 275 pages.

This book is well-known to fantasy lovers and it deserves its popularity. It is NOT a sequel to that fine serial in F&SF THREE HEARTS AND THREE LIONS by the same author.

On the lines of WELL OF THE UNICORN, it has a certain quality which Pratt's story, for all its length and colour, lacks. We all know Anderson can write a good s-f tale in the modern style, but he is at his best when writing a story rather than ideas and character studies threaded onto a plot. He has matured since his early work in PLANET, but this tale brings back memories of those rich, action-packed stories which are still favourites of mine.

Like Rider Haggard, with whom he has been compared, Anderson is a natural born story teller and the blood of the skalds he writes of seems to flow in his own veins, he is of Norse descent.

THE BROKEN SWORD is obviously influenced a great deal by the Eddas and Sagas of the ancient Norsemen and is fit to rank with them. It has all the fire and glory of the Icelandic sagas with rather more emphasise on Faerie than these were wont to feature.

The hero, Skafloc, is stolen by the elf-earl Imric and a changeling substituted. The publishers were stupid to give away the end in the blurb as it spoils the climax which builds higher and higher as the story progresses.



RL

CONTINUED OVER

If you like a good tale in the same vein as the Norse tales, with blood, battle and weird magic on every page, with Odin and the Wild Hunt sweeping



across the world, with the Valkyr maidens forever hovering over the scene - then this is the book which will answer your prayers.

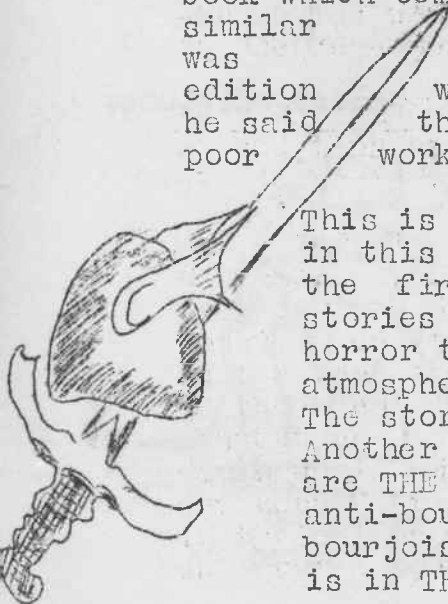
LEST DARKNESS FALL by L. Sprague de Camp. BRE reviewed. Published 1955 by Heinemann at 12/6. Available as remaindered book at 2/6 from W. H. Smiths (if only I'd waited). 230 pages.

This is one of those stories we always associate with de Camp. The hero (as unconventional as usual) finds himself dropped into 6th century Rome, "When" as the blurb says, "the Goths ruled Italy and civilisation in the West was collapsing," just before the beginning of the Dark Ages. The plot tells of the hero's attempt to make sure darkness does not fall by "inventing" (or trying to) things from his own time. The dialogue is amusing, the description good, the plot interesting and very fast moving. In fact it is a good all-round tale in typical de Camp manner. A very good bargain if you can pick one of the second hand (or rather remaindered) issues up.

THE OCTOBER COUNTRY by Ray Bradbury. An anthology of short stories. BRE reviewed. Published 1956 at 15/- by Rupert Hart-Davis, London. 306 pages. Illustrated by Joe Magnaini.

The first thing noticeable about this book is its very fine format. Dust jacket, paper, print and binding are all very pleasing. The Americans are far ahead of us in book binding (at least s-f books) jacketing etc. but here is a book which comes up to the standard of Gnome Press books and similar publishing houses' books. The person who was responsible for the preparation of this fine edition was most indignant when he knew of my criticism, he said that the USA edition was a tatty monstrosity of poor workmanship. But this is definitely well done-up.

This is Bradbury's latest bound anthology to be published in this country and is ably illustrated by Joe Magnaini, the first fully illustrated Bradbury I have seen. The stories are neither s-f nor fantasy but most of them are horror tales. There is no-one who can build up an atmosphere of sheer horror-climax better than Bradbury. The story, THE EMISSARY, stuck in my mind for days after. Another good tale is THE NEXT IN LINE and others outstanding are THE SKELETON and THE LAKE. A wonderful picture of an anti-bourgeois clique turned utterly bourgeois while their bourgeois host becomes more and more of an exhibitionist is in THE WATCHFUL POKER CHIP OF H. MATISSE.



Being a little on the over-imaginative side, I am susceptible to Mr. Bradbury's eery prose which is beautiful, horrible, humourous, bitter and satirical all at once. The poetry in his style never fails to entrance me and the stories do the same.

THE MASTER by T. H. White. Published 1957 by Jonathan Cape, London at 12/6. 256 pages.

This latest book by the author of THE SWORD IN THE STONE is really up to date and concerns a race of super-beings who use as their base the island of Rodall in the North Sea. The central characters are children but this tale (as is usual) appeals to both adults and younger people.

THE MASTER is up to standard and White has lost none of his fine style. As always, animals appear frequently and a dog, Jokey, is one of the main movers. There's not much more I can say, especially as Mike's article has only just appeared, but don't miss it - get a copy now!

TIME TRANSFER and others by Arthur Sellings. Published 1956 by Michael Joseph, London, at 10/6. 240 pages

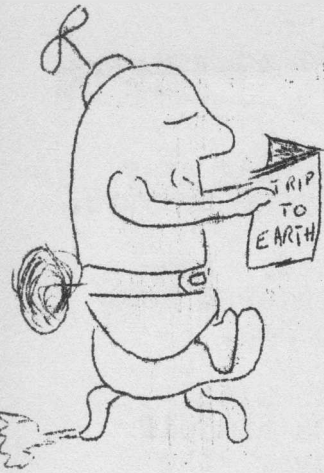
This is Mr. Sellings's first bound book and is a collection of his short stories from various s-f magazines. JUKE-BOX is one of those stories which sticks in your mind. Could it be possible that a recording taken by aliens of a couple of human beings could not only duplicated outward speech and movement but everything brains, habits, memories, reactions, everything? The other stories are competently told, all of them good thoughtful plots based on sound ideas. Worth adding to your collection. A very good selection of tales all of which I can recommend.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS which I have enjoyed reading. Pocket editions.

BEOWULF a new translation by David Wright. Published in the Penguin edition only at 2/6. With glossary etc. 1957. No. 170

SHE by H. Rider Haggard. A new pocket edition just published with new cover design etc. At 2/6 by Hodder and Stoughton.

GUYS AND DOLLS 20 stories by Damon Runyon Published late last year at 2/6 obviously brought out to cash in on the film, what a good thing the film was made because these stories shouldn't be missed. I hadn't heard of Runyon until Mike lent this to me - now I am a confirmed Runyon fan. BOB LUMLEY.





"There was a time," remarked old Lar Semas, the Court Recorder, as he cast a benevolent eye upon the score or so of young warriors grouped around him. Most of them were barely a year hatched but the weapons they wore so proudly were not useless ornaments.

"There was a time," he continued, "when mighty oceans rolled across Barsoom and fair-skinned, laughing peoples sailed upon them in great ships of skeel. Mighty walled cities they built by the edges of these seas, and they decorated the walls of their dwellings and public places with murals which can never be surpassed.

"These murals told of many things, some of which I am going to relate to you now. I shall tell you of Intho the first of the Black Pirates who came from hurtling Thuria in a strange flier many thousands of years before fliers were perfected by the red men of Barsoom.

"I shall tell you of Har Mintor, the red man, whose swordsmanship was equal to that of the mighty Warlord - John Carter and who was the only man to escape from the awful Valley Dor. His sad tale shall I tell you.

"Of Karnart the Evil and of Silwar Crastum, his enemy who was beloved by the Gods of old Barsoom. You will learn of the first man born of the Ancient Tree of Life. I will whisper to you the awful tale of Harkron the War-God and Duala, the God of Love who once were second only to the Creator of the Tree of Life - Shaikan.

"Many more tales shall I tell you, tales of Triumph, of Love, of War and of Sadness. And when I have finished you may tell, as I have done, the strange tales of Myth and of Legend which have passed down from father to son and from teacher to

student until they reach your ears."

The old man paused and leant forwards the eager faces of his listeners.

"Here then is the first tale - the story of

THE FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE

In the centre of the Valley Dor there stood, countless ages ago, the ancient Tree of Life.

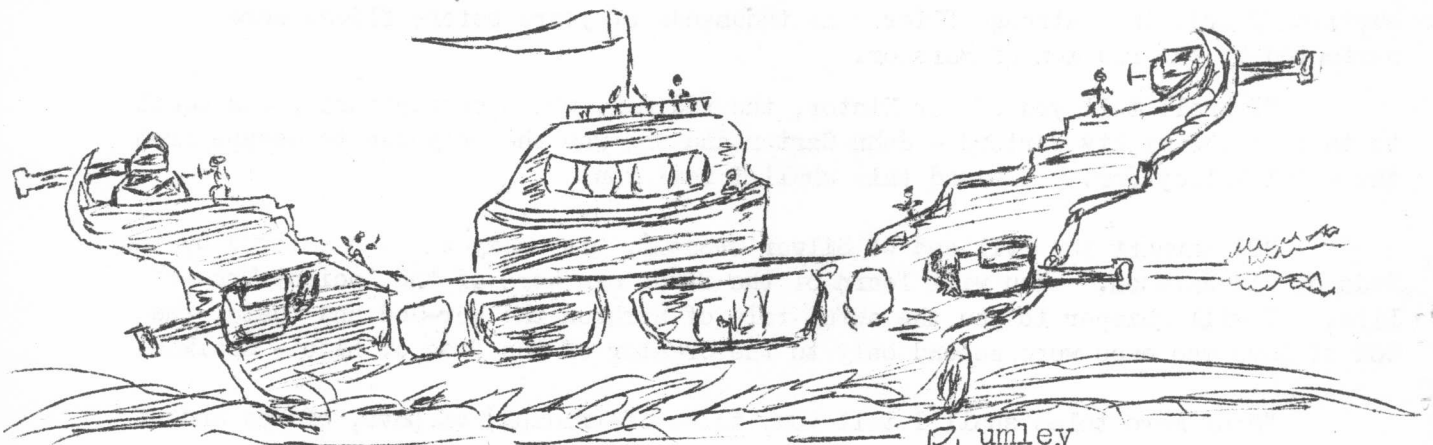
This Tree was created by Shaikan, the God of Gods, when Barsoom was first born of the great mother of nine planets - the Sun.

As years passed, the Tree bore fruit under Shaikan's careful guidance. Four separate beings it bore - the great white ape, a six-legged rodent, a hideous plant in the shape of a huge man and finally - man himself. All the animals of which the Tree bore fruit were pure white and seemed as though dead.

Shaikan looked down from his mountain throne of Otz and saw the forms of life growing upon the Tree and was pleased that his skill had perfected such life.

"Tell me Harkron," he said, turning to the God of War who stood observing the things which Shaikan had made. "Tell me, what fruit will be the greatest upon Barsoom?"

Now Harkron was jealous of the beings which his master's skill had brought about and said in anger "Hear Ye this, O Shaikan, I predict in ages to come that all these things shall perish, either in war or in some great catastrophe which will slay every form of life which you have created. This I say and know it will come about." So saying, he moved with huge strides across the mountain tops and was soon a speck in the distance.



+++ "GREAT SHIPS OF STEEL" +++
umley

"I fear that Harkron was always a hasty one," smiled The Creator to Duala the God of Love as they moved towards the Tree.

With a wave of his great Staff of Eternity to which all must bow, even Shaikan, he commanded blood to flow in the veins of the three animals and sap to start its course through the arteries of the plant. Then he waved his staff again and commanded the creations to transmit to him the thing they most desired with which to start their lives. At once there appeared before the mammals female replicas of their kind but in front of the plant there appeared nothing, for the plant alone was bi-sexual and needed nothing to propagate the race of its kind.

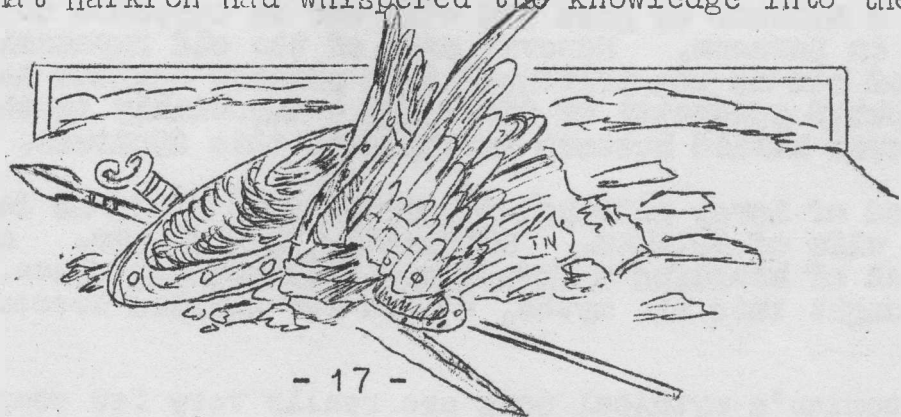
Then Shaikan caused the stems to release the four and taking the man and woman, who were most like him and had inherited more of his qualities than had any of the others, he left the other three to go their ways. Shaikan placed the two in a beautiful forest abounding in luscious fruit of every kind, this forest grew by the side of the mighty Throxus, the largest of the Barsoomian seas. He named the man Darmas and the woman he named Farina and he left them to see what they would make of their lives.

In a few year's time he returned to the spot and saw a little dwelling place and neatly tilled fields and knew that Darmas and Farina were the most intelligent of his creations.

These are the most satisfactory," he mused, "these shall be the rulers of the rest."

Thus, he copied the likeness of the two and created another pair of white people, very similar to them and three pairs of people with skins of different colours - yellow, green and brilliant red. The tale of how a beautiful princess once mated with a great white ape is only whispered - but men do say that this was how the Tharks were borne. This tale I may tell you one day. And that is how the races from which most Barsoomians sprung were created.

And when, in a few years, Shaikan returned to Barsoom after visiting the neighboring planets he was amazed to find new tools in the hands of man - tools for destroying one another. For many years he puzzled how they had found these weapons - and finally came to the realisation that Harkron had whispered the knowledge into their ears.





But the tale of how Harkron was punished for his evil must be told later - for it is a long story.

With the creation of man, a new urge came into the minds of the lesser Gods - the urge to rule man as they thought he should be ruled. For thousands of years they battled and caused things to happen, the most interesting of which I shall tell you. In the course of the centuries many favourites were chosen by various Gods, some evil some great.

Most of these men were great heroes, brave and handsome, skilled in the arts of war. Men who led lives full of great Joys and great Sorrows, ill-fated men

who died young, just as Barsoom will die.

The tale I shall tell you next will be that of Karm the Brave who was the greatest Barsoomian soldier. Now I hear the captain of the swordsmanship team calling so you must depart. Farewell!"

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Brief list of principal Gods of the Ancient Barsoomians.

Shaikan, sometimes called Yurfo (Creator), the first of the Gods who sits on a great Throne in the Otz mountains and surveys the whole of Barsoom. His Staff of Eternity symbolises the one thing to which all men must eventually succumb - Fate. The alien reasoning of the old Martians is difficult to explain in so small a space.

Harkron, a mixture of good and evil who is supposed to have created all evil on Barsoom. However some of the old Barsoomian nations worshipped him as the principal God, placing Shaikan as a kind of disinterested spectator of the world - especially in the remains of a city found buried beneath Zodanga, is this apparent.

DUALA, God of Love, although in some murals Duala is depicted as a Goddess, wife of Shaikan. Shaikan's main advisor. Often shown in the act of breaking a huge sword, symbolising peace. Although often brought into the myths, he had few temples devoted to his worship.

The Barsoomian's mythical Gods are really very few compared with the myriad gods and godlings to be found in most Earth myths. These myths also preach a lot of morals, rather obvious to modern readers.



FOR SALE

Note - J. Burne, in the wanted column has books and mags for disposal as well.

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MAD STRIKES BACK! What offers?
Mike J. Moorcock - you know.

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THE SILVER STALLION, J. BRANCH
CABELL: FARMER GILES OF HAM, J.R.
R. TOLKEIN: THE HOBBIT: J.R.R.
TOLKEIN (last two in mint con. with
D/W) WILL EXCHANGE ONLY "PLANETS"
NOS. 1, 2 and 5 - USA ed. for
ONLY - "WEIRDS" - and I want some-
thing good bwah! Those Planets
cost me good hard cash. OR I
will exchange the PLANETS MENTIONED
for Planets of a later period -
two for one. Ain't I a vile
huckster today? I want - most
everything no-one seems to have -
WEIRDS especially. Also COMPRE-
HENSIVE books on Folk Music - or
books of Folk Music - particularly
the books by John and Alan Lomax
on USA FM. Yes, me again.

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Lots of pocket-books (BRE) from Mrs.
S. Moore, Woodhollow Cottages,
Staverton Road, Daventry, North-
ants. Including: ILLUSTRATED MAN,
BRE. WEIRD TALES Vol 1 No. 5 (Der-
leth Banister etc. - 6d.) ANTIC
HAY, Huxley, VOYAGE TO VENUS, Lewis.
SUPERNATURAL STORIES NO. 6. GABRIEL
OVER THE WHITE HOUSE. FROM WHAT
FAR STAR? etc. All reasonably good.

WANTED

J. Burne, 4A, Brassie Avenue, E.
Acton, London, W. 3 wants:
CURSE OF YIG: NIGHT'S BLACK AGENTS:
REVELATIONS IN BLACK: AWAY & BEYOND:
LUKUNDOO: END OF ETERNITY: GENIUS
LOCI: BOOK OF PTATH: NOT AT NIGHT
OMNIBUS: SLEEP NO MORE: JUMBEES:
FLIGHT INTO YESTERDAY: MIXED MEN:
WHO KNOCKS?. Also interested in
practically any weird/fantasy tales,
also "Weird Tales" in sequences of
at least three years. I will pay
cash or exchange for other items
I have for disposal: SKYLARK OF
SPACE, SKYLARK THREE, SKYLARK OF
VALERON: SPACEHOUNDS OF IPC: TALES
FROM CAVAGAN'S BAR: PLAYER PIANO:
THE POWER: GENUS HOMO: BLACK FLAME:
INCREDIBLE PLANET: AND SOME WERE
HUMAN: PORCELAIN MAGICIAN: WEST
INDIA LIGHTS: OUT OF THE UNKNOWN and
HAUNTER OF THE DARK (HPL) and many
others, also a few 1945 ASF, bound
volumes of Galaxy and Unknown, pbs.
etc. All American. Prices are
reasonable but I would prefer exchan-
ges. EDITOR'S NOTE: I would
advise people with the same tastes
as mine to write immediately to
John and secure the above items -
he seems to have a fine selection.
I underlined two which I can especia-
lly recommend. PLEASE NOTE that as
from SKYLARK OF SPACE, the titles are
for disposal.

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PIERRE VERSINS - Primerose 38,
LAUSANNE, SWITZERLAND. Requires the
following, musn't be expensive.
FANTASTIC MYSTERIES, FANTASTIC NOVELS:
THRILLING W. S., STARTLING. AMAZING &
WEIRD, especially with Finlay in them.

Burroughsania

