

# BURROUGHSANIA

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VOLUME ONE, NUMBER FIVE

# BURROUGHSANIA

Volume One Number Five  
For August 1956

Edited by: M.J.Moorcock.  
Produced by: M.J.Moorcock.  
Artwork by: Bruce Kidd.

36, Semley Road,  
Norbury,  
S.W.16.

8th July 1956.

Dear Burroughsanians,

like so many prozines I'm  
"changing my policy" and giving you what you've  
asked for.

Going by letters received and chats with various  
people I've decided what the most people like, and  
what they dislike. Thus I'm cutting out "Sojan",  
even though the younger readers like it because

more adults subscribe (or should I say read) to "Burroughsania" than  
do people of my own age. But also I'm doing away, for the time being,  
with "Barsoomian Nights" - as the Unions say: "One out they're all out".  
One thing - "Sojan" was written by me from a rough by John Wisdom. The  
first part featured John's plot but after that I lost his mss. so I had  
to do it myself. As it was a success among my friends I shall probably  
finish it and send it to a boy's magazine. So don't think I've done  
John a bad turn in not finishing 'his' story. I might be going on with  
"B.Nights" in the distant future - I wrote these, too.

Sorry, no number ones are available but those who don't want to keep  
them might pass them on to people who want to complete their file I'll  
let them have the names of people who require them.

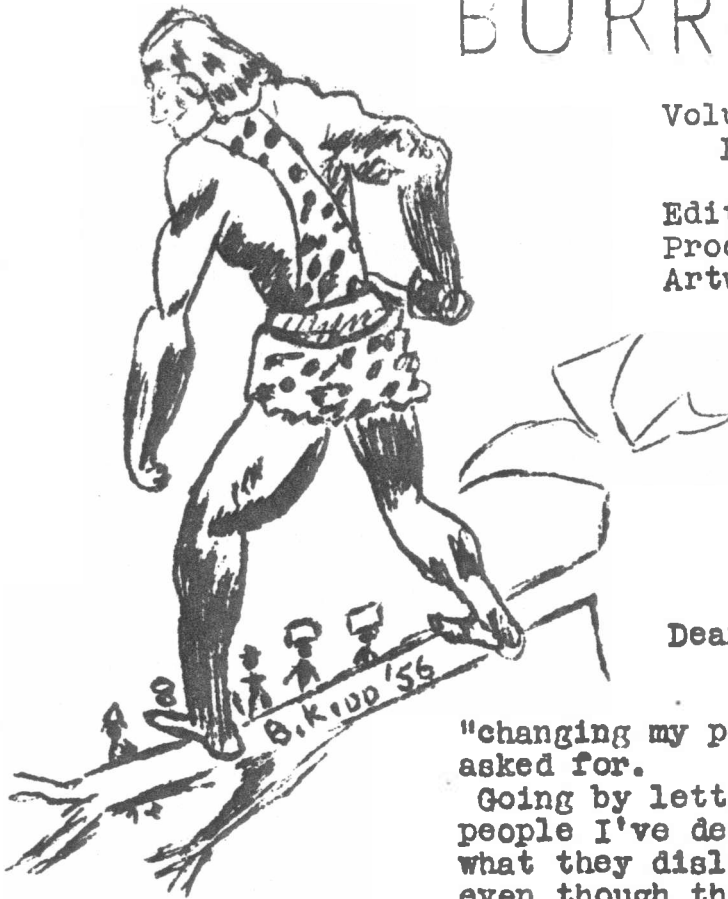
There is a splendid "The Heat is On" column this month. Our first  
real letter column, excluding Archie Mercer's letter last month.

What d'you know? I've now procured a genuine staff artist - Bruce  
Kidd by name - an EC comic-book fan, who is also staff-artist for that  
select little journal "ARCHIVE" which, as you know, features only the  
best and most elite of Stf fandom. writers.

From time to time we're going to let Bruce loose in a column of his own

"More interior decoration" howl the critics. Well, you asked for it!

We're not going to attempt masterpieces so please consider our int.  
illos. not as St. John's but as sem-cartoons. Frankly Bruce's stuff  
is the best I've seen in any fanzine - and Bruce is the same age as me.  
Unfortunately I have to copy them onto the stencil so don't blame Bruce  
for any mistakes, naturally I lose some detail etc. on transferring them  
to a stencil. I'm dangerously near the end of the page. Goodbye, Mike





FROM FRED LOVETT COMES THIS NOVEL COMMENT LETTER.

"MIKE MOORCOCK ON TRIAL"

PROSECUTION ALLEGE; Large amount of spelling errors. It is only natural that people will call Burroughsania 'a mess' with bad spelling errors (a few pointed out by Archie Mercer) and mistypes.

Front cover Why have an illustrated front? Why not have a stencil cut and have a neat, sensible heading (e.g. "Tarzan" on the last page?)

Printing Have back-to-back printing.

DEFENCE ALLEGE; Godd duplicating (95% anyway). "Barsoomian Nights" the best thing printed yet. Summing up Mike has put a great deal of time and effort into Burroughsania, and I personally think that if he received support from the readers of the magazine, Critics Corner will cease to exist. Archie Mercer has led the way with his letter, it is up to us to give Mike all the support which his important post (EH?) as secretary, founder, and odd-job man of the club demands (SPARE MY BLUSHES!) If Mike had received a few more letters of criticism when the mag. first came out, Burroughsania would have been to the fore. In my opinion it is not Mike to blame, but ourselves.

I am afraid I cannot offer any suggestions as to reducing the cost of the magazine. The suggestion offered by Archie Mercer to print the articles on both sides, in my opinion, must be dismissed. If you observe the backs of the pages you will, perhaps see my point. The ink has smudged many parts of practically every page on the back. I raise this point from experience.

The front page is, I agree, a mess. Having full sympathy with the efforts of Mike to produce an artistic front-piece, I must say Mike is no artist. If the front page was duplicated bearing BURROUGHSANIA across the top, it would give a completely new look to the zine. The expense for such a venture would be 12/6 for the cutting of the stencil, but it would be well worth while. With careful coloring, the result would be infinitely better. The no. and vol. could then be typed at the bottom of the page. Fred Lovett.

All that Fred said in his letter is mainly true except for the cost of a stencil. Gestetter (Sorry I shouldn't of used that durty wod in public) charge 12/6 for a rather poor effort but Roneo (my machine bless her) charge 30/- (see Tarzan ad.) so I would be rather an expense, seeing as I lose enough on B'ania any how. NOW FOR THE NEXT:

FROM BRUCE KIDD:

Comments in capitals are MINE!

"..... the cover was alright, but unauthentic (Just how many folks read Burroughsania, huh?) The story by Wisdom was the most; glad to see a 'serial-form' yarn in les fmz. I think Wisdom is an ERB the 2nd.!! Same applies to you (YOU CRAZY MIXED UP KID!) The ERB Index is the best thing of its kind I've seen since the Ray Bradbury Inxex. Congrats to Vernell Corriell (~~WHY THE HELL~~ CONGRATS TO VERN FOR THE INDEX ? JUST ONE OF THOSE UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES I SPOSE) I liked Barsoomian Nights, but I prefer Bradbury's Mars to Burroughs's Mars. This 'tale-telling' sort of story I think real cool! Sure would like to know just how you do that Tarzan comics ad. Trust Archie Mercer to worm his way into Burroughsania!!! The psychological article will always be treasured in my vaults (I mean, of course ERB's effect upon the Younger Generation) I love pyschological's. Enough? Edgar Simple drove my brother say-see-see (poor fershlugginer kid)

I think ERB wrote the most wonderful adventure stories around....."

Now you know how I get the Tarzan ad. done - ERB wrote some good science fiction too you know - what about THE MOON MAID or BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR ?????

FROM "WITTY" WHITMARSH:

".....the mag. was quite good this month except for the picture on the cover, it looks more like Captain Blood than Carson of Venus; I imagine that something in the 'printing shop' went wrong as the first page is partly reproduced on the back cover.

I did not think that this month's Barsoomian Nights was so good as last month's, it wasn't so descriptive. I enjoyed Mr. Mercer's letter very much, although it was a bit stiff in parts.

Now, criticism of ERB's Effect Upon the Younger Generation. The idea was good, but your rendering of it seems to me, to be more like an essay from Macualay than an article ~~dn~~ a modern fanzine...."

NO COMMENT!

FROM ARCHIE MERCER: EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST ISH.

".... The inside cover of BANANA 4 comes off rather well-your colouring over the figure while the ink on the next sheet was still wet made the ink come off just where you coloured but nowhere else - and as you'd only coloured his clothes, it looks exactly (from the inside) as if he was dressed in old newspapers. Which is one effect I bet you never intended!

Sojan still stinks, whoever wrote it. I can't very well say anything about Barsoomian Night because it breaks off abruptly in the middle. This "younger generation" article is of course the sort of thing you should be concentrating on. Makes sense, mostly, too. I can't go along with you when you make out that ERB's use of unusual words makes him "Literature" rather than literature, though. His fancy style's more "journalöse" than literature (THAT SHOULD BE literary SORRY, ARCHIE, ONCE MORE I'VE RUN OUT OF CORRECTINE FLUID)

".... I suppose I'd better put my name down for this Annual effort, too. Presumably it's like BANANA only bigger ? (And, one fondly hopes, BETTER?)"

"....Burroughs is an outstanding writer for the story he tells, rather than the way he chooses to tell it in. If what he wrote was accepted as great literature (I mean, if he wrote in a style that was accepted as great literature rather than the style he DID write in) I probably wouldn't like him."

OK, OK TOIN OFF DAT HEAT - I'M FRIED ENOUGH!

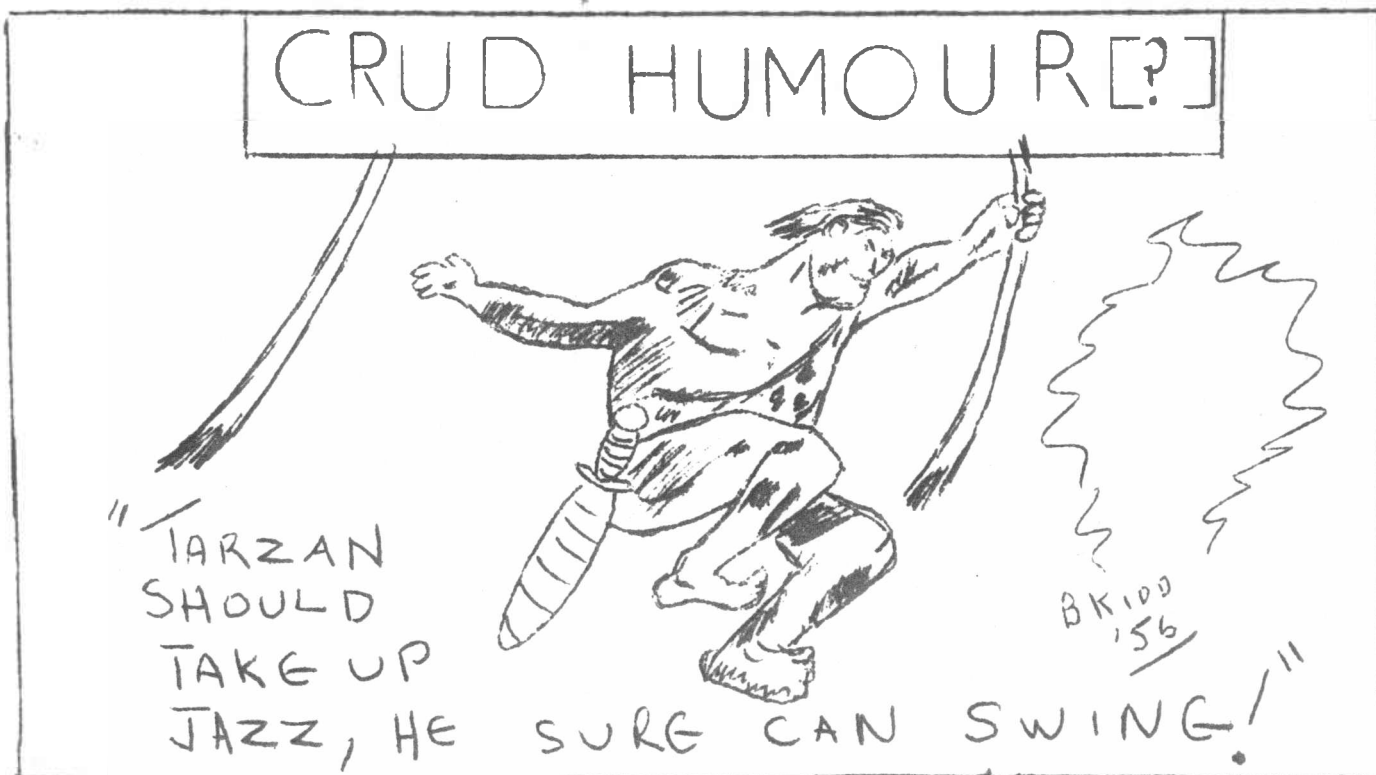
NOW FOR COMMENTS FROM THE ACID TONGUE OF EMJAYEM:

I agree about my circulation not being enough among regulars. Sojan does not STINK - it just doesn't appeal to adults - as I have said all my friends liked it who are around the 15/16 mark. Heh, heh, heh you'll never be able to say anything about Barsoomian Nights now.

Mike.

P.S. To Bruce: I've only got a circulation of 35 at the moment which doesn't grow, neither does it go down. While some stop taking it others (suckers!) send for it. Thus eventually I'll have more regular subscribers when people have decided about B'ania so, theoretically (I didn't use a dictionary for that one) it will slowly climb. I hope so, anyway. By the way, couldn't you just acknowledge ONE issue out of FIVE you-know-who ? I WOULD appreciate it, really!

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# "A RARE LAPSE"

By Mike Moorcock

A John Carter Article

One of the things Burroughs fans are always telling each other is that whatever his faults Burroughs is seldom guilty of inconsistency - once he has drawn a character and described a location or world and its characteristics, he sticks to those things and does not, as do many authors of long series, persistently change his characters and settings to fit the adventure or situation.

But as there is one thing which strikes me whenever I read a Martian story.

You remember how in "A Princess of Mars" John Carter arrives on the Red Planet and one of the first things he remarks upon is telepathy. Here is a passage I have in mind: "What surprised Solar most in me was that while I could catch telepathic messages easily from others, and often when they were not intended for me, no one could ever read a jot from my mind under any circumstances. At first this vexed me but later I was glad of it, as it gave me an undoubted advantage over the Martians."

Further on in the book John Carter visits the atmosphere plant where he is accommodated by the keeper of the plant. I think it best if I quote another passage: "One curious fact I discovered as I watched his thoughts was that the outer doors are manipulated by telepathic means. The locks are so finely adjusted that the doors are released by the action of a certain combination of thought waves. To experiment with my new-found toy I thought to surprise him into revealing this combination, and so I asked him in a casual manner how he had managed to unlock the massive doors for me from the inner chambers of the building. As quick as a flash there leaped to his mind nine Martian sounds, but as quickly faded as he answered that this was a secret

Please Turn  
Page

HAVE YOU  
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A RARE LAPSE continued from previous page.

he must not divulge."

The whole chapter is devoted to telling how, by reading his "host's" thoughts John Carter learns that he is to be murdered, and how he uses his telepathic power to help him escape.

At the end of the book Carter saves Mars with his knowledge of the secret of how to unlock the doors. You are all familiar with the story.

Now the next book "Gods of Mars." When John Carter and Tars Tarkas are imprisoned in the Chamber of Mystery and the Warlord manages to escape, he is attacked by the two Tharks, one after the other. But the first is killed and the second fills his place. The second is a wily opponent and he succeeds in backing the Virginian round so that he stands with the corpse of the first Thern behind him. Then the second white-skinned warrior forces Carter back and causes him to fall across the body. It is strange that the power of mind-reading that our hero had in the previous story does not come to his aid here. That is the very first passage that surprised me for I was intrigued (where's that darn' dictionary) by this and expected this favourite hero of mine to make full use of the power he held. Many other similar passages are strewn freely through this book. In many cases John Carter could easily have used his mental power to get him out of a scrape - but does he?

In the Warlord of Mars I can't remember a single scene where John Carter uses his powers of telepathy and, as this was the first story featuring John Carter I ever read, it is unlikely that it would have escaped me. Just to make sure, however, I re-read the book, keeping this telepathy business in mind and I didn't come across anything to do with John's Princes of Mars powers. It is Woola who saves him from the thing which a quick glance at the Thern's mind could have told him. Read this yourself if you don't believe me.

Skipping THUVIA, MAID OF MARS, CHESSMEN OF MARS, MASTERMIND OF MARS, A FIGHTING MAN OF MARS and SYNTHETIC MEN OF MARS as not really John Carter yarns I now come to SWORDS OF MARS the only way in which our blue-eyed boy (sorry grey-eyed boy) learns of any of the plots against him and in which he is involved is by common or garden eavesdropping - as in Gods and Warlord no mention is made of telepathy. Neither are they mentioned in three of the four Llana of Gathol magazine parts - I shouldn't think it is mentioned either, in the other three which I, unfortunately, do not possess but will be grateful for (hint) if anyone has them for disposal.

This, then, is the only really outstanding lapse Burroughs has ever made in his Martian stories. I realise, however, that if John Carter had kept his mind-reading powers not one of the later Martian stories could have been written exactly as they were as all the plots hinge on Carter's not knowing his opponent's next move. This is a good thing - everyone admires a superman but nobody likes 'em too super.

- FINIS -

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MANY THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE I HAD DESPAIRED OF WHO TUMBLED OVER THEMSELVES TO SEND ME NICE FAT SUBSCRIPTIONS. NEARLY ALL THE BIG SUBS CAME AT THE SAME TIME.

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