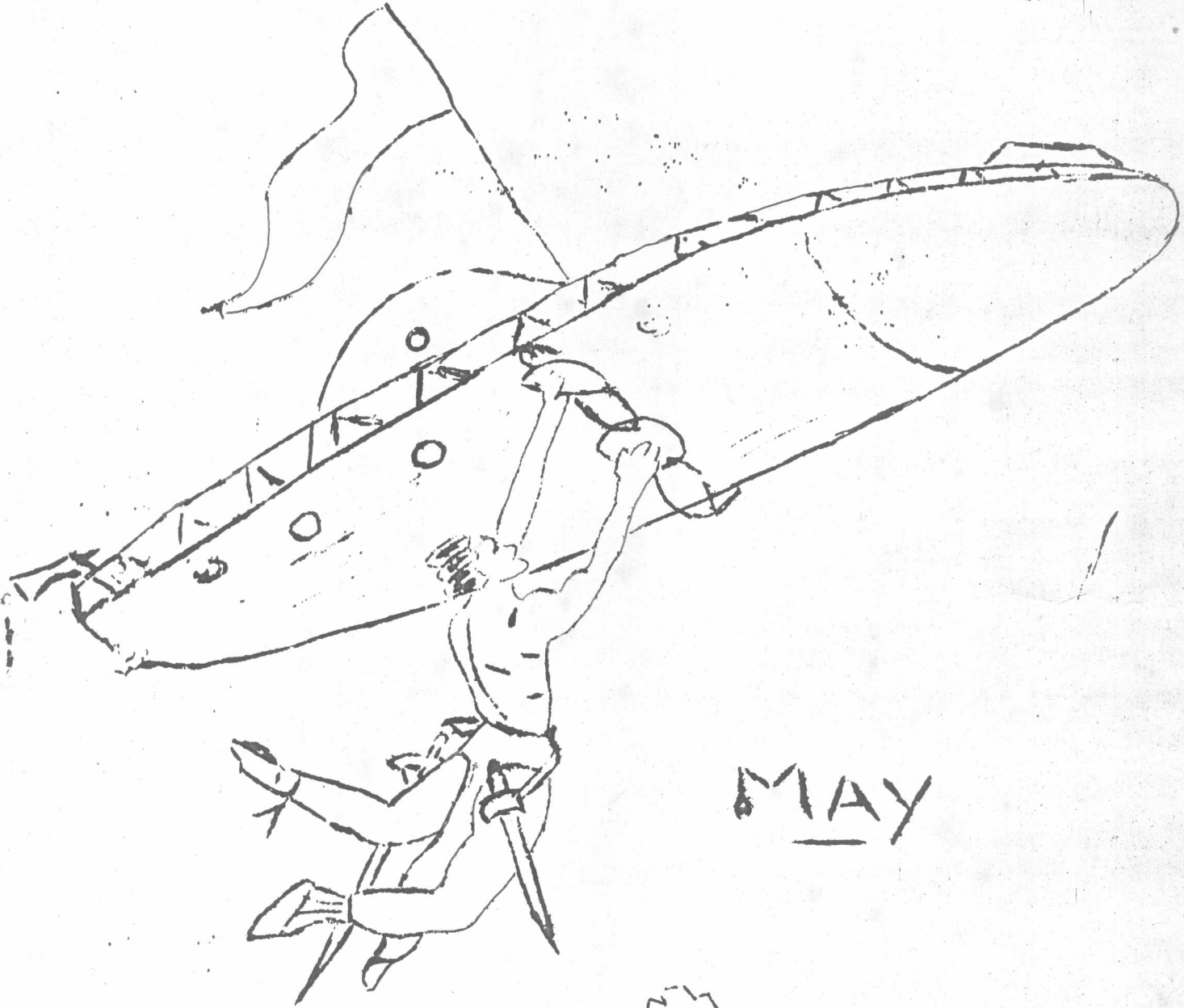


P.P. 6392 mag

BURROUGHSANIA



MAY

VOL ONE NO. TWO

THE EDITOR SPEAKS:

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

May 1956.

Hello friends,

I hope you're going to enjoy the line-up this month.

I am a bit disappointed this month. Of all the thirty five magazines I sent out (some people had two copies) only about five of those (excluding those who had placed a subscription or had paid in advance) 'paid up'. I know fourpence isn't much but the money I receive goes towards half my expenses which is something. 'Nuff said.

In this issue I'm including the first part of a serial written by John Wisdom - "Sojan the Mercenary", I hope you like it. I want this magazine to contain fiction by amateur writers, who knows some day it might be published in a pro. mag.

An article on Robert E. Howard appears in this issue to give those who have never been fortunate enough to have read anything of Howard's some idea of the type of stories he wrote. Further on is our COMPLETE list of Burroughs stories. It will be best to forget all about the list that appeared last month as it is as I stated then 'by no means complete'. The first titles will appear this month in date order but I'm afraid I can't publish them all at once. It took me over two hours typing out the whole list so that will give you some idea how long it is. For those who don't want to wait each month for the titles a list is available from me at 6d. plus post. The money which I receive for it will go to Club funds. By the way WHERE ARE YOUR LETTERS!!! Long letters wanted commenting on the paper.

Pete Odgens new paper ERBania is now on sale from him at 1/-. It will not be 1/- next month, though, but probably 6d. for less pages. This month's issue contains: an illustrated cover from "Tanar of Pellucidar" from an original by Micklewright, a very interesting editorial to "Burroughs Starved Britons", an article on the Tarzan Picture Strips in America and Britain with a check list to go with it. An article is featured on the English artist Micklewright, a Burroughs list and advertisements. This issue contains 19 pages of reading as well as a cover and index.

Here's a good reading in the future,

Best wishes,

MIKE.

ROBERT E. HOWARD.
- Burroughs's Successor ?

ROBERT E. HOWARD is dead. He died at an early age before the beginning of the Second World War. With him died Conan the Cimmerian, King Kull, Solomon Kane, Esau Cairn, Torlogh O'Brian and a host of other fine characters.

Only seven books have ever been published containing Howard stories and all of these are reprints of magazine stories. Only one has been published in England, that was "Conan the Conqueror" and it was a failure.

If Howard had lived would his stories be as popular now as Burroughs's ? His style is obviously influenced by Edgar Rice Burroughs but there is an extra, indefinable 'something' which makes his stories entirely different from those of the creator of Tarzan of the Apes. Perhaps his characters are better drawn, more 'alive' than those of Burroughs's.

Although Howard's book did not sell over here he was, and still is, very popular with American fantasy readers. He has probably written almost as much as Burroughs. Most of his stories appeared in "Weird Tales" as did all his verse, but some appeared in the well-known Munsey papers such as "Argosy". His earlier stories in "Weird" are King Kull stories, later came Turlogh O'brian the Irish adventurer in King Alfred's time, Conan the Cimmerian barbarian, perhaps the best known and best loved of all Howard's creations, Solomon Kane, described as 'the dour Puritan soldier and redresser of wrongs' - a more obscure character but a good one none the less, Esau Cairn of the Planet Almuric, whose adventures appeared in a three-part serial in "Weird" after Howard's untimely end. Its title - "Almuric".

"Red Nails", featuring Conan and later appearing in book form with three other stories as "The Sword of Conan" (18/6 "Fantasy Book Centre") is one of my favourites - it originally appeared in Weird for July 1936. Another good story is "The Hour of the Dragon" this featuring the Cimmerian and later published as "Conan the Conqueror" by Gnome Press in U.S.A. and T.V.Boardman in England. (9/6 "Fantasy Book Centre", 7/6 S.Hand). For a well-written short tale I'd say "The Blonde Goddess of Bal-Sagoth" (Sagoth!?) combines all of Howard's talents, this features Turlogh the Celt.

Howard loved to tell stories featuring Black Magic and all his stories, barring a few, have this air of pent up forces, unknown to Man, striving to escape from the unfathomable depths Howard hints at. Again a good example of this is "The Hour of the Dragon" which features, among other things, the reincarnation of Xaltotun the ancient ruler of Acheron who plans to restore the forgotten land to all it full and horrible splendour. Others which spring to mind are "The Fire of Assurbanipal" (set in modern times), "Black Canaan", a tale of Voodoo rites in the Southern Swamps of America.

Howard could certainly grip you with that eiry style of his.

(Continued Overleaf)

(Robert E. Howard - Burroughs's Successor ? cont.)

Lately a series of four stories has appeared written by L. Sprague De Camp from unfinished manuscripts by Robert E. Howard. I feel that there is much De Camp here and very little Howard. De Camp is a very able writer, one of the best in the present day fantasy field, but he cannot capture the Howard style. By-the-way the four tales are now available in book form as "Tales of Conan".

I feel that if it had not been for his death Robert E. Howard would have at least equalled Edgar Rice Burroughs in the number of books published - and, I do not doubt, they would be just as popular and just as much sought after as Burroughs's writings.

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An Index to the Mag. & Newspaper Stories of Edgar Rice Burroughs.

PREPARED BY: John F. Cook,
21, Hawthorne Road,
Bradford, Penna. U.S.A.

No attempt has been made in this indexing to include reprints which appeared in many magazines (we will endeavour to print those later) and newspapers from time to time. This index only includes the original appearance of the stories.

| | |
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| Under the Moons of Mars (Six parts)
By "Norman Bean" ERB's only pen name. | All-Story Magazine.
Feb to Jul. 1912. |
| Tarzan of the Apes | All-Story Magazine.
October 1912. |
| The Gods of Mars (five parts) | All-Story Magazine.
Jan. to May 1913. |
| The Cave Girl (three parts) | All-Story Magazine.
July to Spt. 1913. |
| The Return of Tarzan (seven parts) | New-Story Magazine.
June to Dec 1913. |
| A Man without a soul. | All-Story Magazine.
Nov. 1913. |
| The Warlord of Mars (four parts) | All Story Magazine.
Dec 1913 to Mar '14. |
| The Outlaw of Torn (five parts) | New Story Magazine.
Jan to May 1914. |
| The Eternal Lover | All Story Weekly.
Mar 7 1914. |
| The Mad King | All Story Weekly
Mar 21, 1914. |
| At the Earth's Core (four parts) | All Story Weekly
Apr. 4 to 25, 1914. |
| The Beasts of Tarzan (five parts) | All Story Cavalier Weekly
May 16 to Jun 13, 1914. |

LIST OF BURROUGHS TITLES CONTINUED.

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|--|--|
| The Mucker (four parts) | All Story Cavalier Weekly.
Oct 24-November 14, 1914 |
| Sweetheart Primeval (four parts) | All Story Cavalier Weekly.
Jan 23 to Feb 13 1915. |
| Pellucidar (five parts) | All Story Cavalier Weekly
May 1 to 8 1915 then All
Story Weekly May 15 to 29 1915. |
| Barney Custer of Beatrice(3 parts) | All Story Weekly Agu 7 to 21 1915. |
| The Man Eater (Six parts)
ERE'S title was "Ben, King of Beasts" | New York Evening World. Nov 15 -20
1915 |
| The Son of Tarzan (six parts) | All Story Weekly.
Dec 4 1915 to Jan 8 1916. |
| Beyond Thirty (very rare) | All-Around Magazine Feb 1916. |
| Thuvia, Maid of Mars(Three parts) | All Story Weekly.
Apr 8 to 22 1916. |
| The Return of the Mucker (five parts) | All Story Weekly.
Jun 17 to July 15, 1916. |
| The Girl from Farris's (four parts) | All Story Weekly
Sept 23 to Oct 14, 1916. |
| NEW STORIES OF TARZAN (SERIES) | Blue Book Magazine. |
| Tarzan's first Love. | September. |
| The Capture of Tarzan. | October 1916 |
| The Fight for the Balu. | November |
| The God of Tarzan. | December |
| Tarzan and the Black Boy. , | January |
| The Witch Doctor Seeks Vengeance. | February. |
| The End of Bukawai. | March |
| The Nightmare. | May |
| The Lion | April 1917. |
| The Battle for Teeka. | June |
| A Jungle Joke. | July |
| Tarzan Rescues the Moon. | August |
| Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar (five parts) | All Story Weekly Nov 18 to
December 16, 1916. |
| The Cave Man (four parts) | All Story Weekly Mar 31 to Apr 21
1917. |

MORE TITLES NEXT MONTH.

Robert E. Howard stories in book form: "The Coning of Conan"
 "Conan the Conqueror", "King Conan", "The Sword of Conan",
 "Conan the Barbarian", "Tales of Conan" (with L. Sprague De Camp)
 An anthology of short stories. "Skullface".
 Some more Otis Kline titles: "Cyclops of Xoatl" (Weird) "The Iron
 World" (T.W.Stories) "Robot's Revolt" (T.Wonder S.) many more Robot
 stories in Thrilling Wonder Stories. Titles will be published when
 these are known.

"SOJAN THE MERCENARY"

By John Wisdom.

PART ONE.

A myat trotted peacefully across the broad, seemingly never ending plain which made up the landscape for as far as the eye could see. No sound issued from the cloven hooves, muffled by the moss-like substance which clothed the ground in a mantle of purple, green and yellow with traces of violet here and there.

A wandering warrior sat astride its broad back, scanning the horizon for the place which was his destination. There was something strange about Sojan the Mercenary, at his myat's side hung a shield, a virtually unknown accoutrement on Zylor, Sojan's mother planet, but the tribe to which Sojan belonged had perfected it as a valuable asset when beset by warriors not carrying one.

Suddenly Sojan caught a flash of marble to the left and knew that he had sighted Vermlot, the capital city of Hantor, the greatest warrior nation of a warrior world. East, South, North and West the Imperial Green of Hantor flew. Her warriors had swept across a hundred vassal kingdoms and moulded them into one, to make an impregnable body-guard around Hantor which none dared challenge.

As he neared the city walls a guard bade him halt and state his business.

"I come in peace," he cried, "to offer my sword and loyalty to his Imperial Highness, the Warlord of Hantor. I am a poor mercenary, my only possessions being the clothes I wear, the weapons I carry and the myat I ride."

He was admitted to the city and, while making his way to one of the many taverns situated within the protection of the mighty walls, passed the Royal residence where his strange weapon aroused much interest. A certain warrior made mock of him and his shield. Sojan dismounted and moved toward his insulter.

"I do not like your attitude, serom," he said, "serom" is the earthly equivalent of an Earth "swine". "Draw your sword and defend your words that I am no fighter to hide behind a piece of metal!"

That is how the fight began, and what a fight it was!

Sojan unslung his shield from the myat and drew his own long blade. The circled each other warily for a while, each trying to surmise the others skill. The warrior struck first, aiming a wicked slash at Sojan's legs with his curved 'vilthor' (sabre-like weapon) but the Mercenary from Ilthoth jumped high in the air and attacked the other with a weaving arc of steel, driving him further and further back. Then the man saw his chance and slashed at an exposed limb of the mercenary's but was too slow, there was a dull thud as the sword hit and rebounded off the shield, then he was made to duck beneath a vicious slash from Sojan. (To be continued)

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