

NEWS AND REVIEWS

This is a column by the Ameri-
staff, Dave Fox. When I used
ket Society Bulletin, I had a
which I reviewed anything I
and I trust that no one will

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can part of the FENACHROME
to write for the Pacific Roc-
section with this name in
could find about spaceflight,
object to my using it here.

I have just finished a very interesting, tho in some ways dis-
appointing, book. Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master of Adventure is en-
gaging, the subject matter is one dear to the heart of many a fan,
this one included, and it is only after one is well into the book
that its unmistakable saccharine quality becomes evident. ERB may
have erred occasionally (says the book), but he really could do no
wrong. Even his poorest effort is worth reading, especially with
the splendid, superb, etc etc illo's by Frazetta! I am slow to
catch on sometimes, and it wasn't till the last part of the book
and the glowing Frazetta reference that I woke up. I looked up
J. Allen St. John in the index and found one brief mention in the
text and two, equally scant, in the preface. This about the artist
whose work to many a Loyal Burroughs fan WAS Barsoom, Pellucidar,
Tarzan's jungle, etc!! This is not to run down Frazetta, the
examples of his art in the book are excellent, but St. John's work,
good or bad, must have been a strong factor in how people accepted
Burroughs' stories, if only by its presence in all or most of the
Burroughs books. And I think that St. John's work merits attention
for more than just being there. His pictures, like John R. Neal's
in the Oz books, seemed to fit the tales they illustrated better
and better as time went on. Anyway, St. John is the old illustrator
Frazetta is the new, Canaveral Press artist---and things clicked
together!

At this awakening I felt sorry, for Lupoff's book isn't
that bad---I had no trouble reading it, and I am one of the quick-
est Layer-down-and-Never-read-it-agains west of the Pecos! It's
It's just that a sort of over-reverent gosh-wow attitude is no sub-
stitute for the real criticism needed in a book like this, part-
icularly when a writer is dealing with a man's literary blopers,
and ERB made some good ones.

However, after all that is said, the
book is still worth getting and reading. Lupoff gives synopses of
just about all Burroughs' yarns, great and small, and offers a num-
ber of highly interesting theories as to where Burroughs may have
gotten his basic story ideas, especially for the Tarzan books (some
of his theories seem to be more clever than plausible). There is
some biographical material woven into the text, tho not nearly as
much as a fan would hope for, and the book is well illustrated by
Frazetta and others. The preface, by a Henry Hardy Heins, is even
more gosh-wow!! than the text, and Brother Heins, who is some sort
of Protestant clergyman, never lets you forget it a moment! How-
ever, all things pass, and you can simply skip it. The volume is
adequately indexed, and there is a Checklist of Burroughs' Books,
and an interesting bibliography.

Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master of
Adventure, by Richard A. Lupoff, Canaveral Press 1965. Trade
Edition \$7.50, Limited Edition \$15.00.