

RESIN #15 from Norm Metcalf, P.O. Box 336, Berkeley 1, California, 94701, USA.
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Yezidee #4 - Dian Girard

Your comments on Merritt reminded me that several years ago I promised Toskey I'd check with Roy Hunt about A. Merritt's works. Toskey was wondering about variance in the different versions. Roy corresponded with Merritt about Merritt's stories and has the inside information on just which were the Approved Versions. So here are A. Merritt's preferences.

Burn, Witch, Burn! - any book version

Creep, Shadow! - all versions are identical

Dwellers In the Mirage - any hardcover edition or the Paperback Library edition. (Merritt's original ending was tragic for the characters. The original version appeared in Bizarre, Jan 41; FN and the Avon editions.)

The Face In the Abyss - Roy prefers the shorter book version to the original magazine versions. Roy didn't say what Merritt thought about the two versions.

The Metal Monster - the original Argosy version never satisfied Merritt but neither did any other version. The original is longest.

The Moon Pool - Merritt regretted the changes he'd made for the book version and preferred the original magazine version.

Seven Footprints To Satan - any edition

The Ship of Ishtar - the original Argosy version (none of the magazine or book reprints with one exception. The Borden Memorial Edition contains the original text.)

Niflheim #4 - Dave Hulan

According to the listing in The Gridley Wave #12, Oct 63 Burroughs wrote the Tarzan series in the following order:

- 1) "Tarzan of the Apes"
- 2) "The Return of Tarzan"
- 3) "The Mad King"
- 4) "The Eternal Lover"
- 5) "The Beasts of Tarzan"
- 6) "Sweetheart Primeval" in The Eternal Lover
- 7) "Barney Custer of Beatrice" in The Mad King
- 8) "The Son of Tarzan"
- 9) "Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar"
- 10) "The New Stories of Tarzan"/Jungle Tales of Tarzan
- 11) "Tarzan the Untamed"
- 12) "Tarzan the Terrible"
- 13) "Tarzan and the Golden Lion"
- 14) "Tarzan and the Ant-Men"
- 15) The Tarzan Twins
- 16) "Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle"
- 17) Tarzan and the Tarzan Twins with Jad-bal-ja, the Golden Lion

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- 18) "Tarzan and the Lost Empire"
- 19) "Tarzan at the Earth's Core"
- 20) "Tarzan, Guard of the Jungle"/Tarzan the Invincible
- 21) "The Triumph of Tarzan"/Tarzan Triumphant
- 22) "Tarzan and the Leopard Men"
- 23) "Tarzan and the City of Gold"
- 24) "Tarzan and the Lion Man"
- 25) "Tarzan and the Immortal Man"/Tarzan's Quest
- 26) "Tarzan and the Magic Men" in Tarzan the Magnificent
- 27) "Tarzan and the Elephant Men" in Tarzan the Magnificent
- 28) "The Red Star of Tarzan"/Tarzan and the Forbidden City
- 29) "Tarzan and the Jungle Murders" in Tarzan and the Castaways
- 30) "Tarzan and the Champion" in Tarzan and the Castaways
- 31) "Tarzan and the Madman"
- 32) "The Quest of Tarzan"/Tarzan and the Castaways
- 33) Tarzan and the "Foreign Legion"

Apparently revision for the book versions changed the order of events. Tom Gardner said that The Eternal Lover belongs after The Beasts of Tarzan. And probably The Mad King (which I haven't read) belongs after The Eternal Lover. (Not that it matters too much. The Mad King is a sidetrack from the main course of events in the Tarzan series.)

Of course, it's a bit tricky assuming a book to be an original hardcover. Serialization takes place at times in what to sf are the unlikeliest and/or obscurest magazines. One book I'd thought to be a hardcover original in 1940 turns out to have been serialized in MacLean's. But sticking my neck out with memories of long ago I'd nominate Alfred Noyes' The Last Man/No Other Man and Herbert Best's The Twenty-Fifth Hour. I read them about the same time as I read your best nominees of Slan, Final Blackout and Sixth Column. (I have yet to read your fourth nominee, Gray Lensman.) And I thought them then to be of approximately equal quality. What my opinions would be now can't know without re-reading. (But actually, you're right. There were no hardcover original sf stories in 1940. Bleiler, Dr. Eaton, Grant, myself and a few others have been hoaxing everybody for a long time.)

Pleasure Units #5 - Gordon Eklund

Instead of four Amtor stories by Burroughs there are eight. After reduction to book form this works out to Pirates of Venus, Lost On Venus, Carson of Venus, Escape On Venus and "The Wizard of Venus" in Beyond the Farthest Star. Pirates of Venus and Lost On Venus are now out in a Dover omnibus with the original text from Argosy and the Matania illustrations from Passing Show interpolated in the proper textual positions.

A Princess of Mars is the only Burroughs I've read in years that isn't marred by major flaws. Burroughs was overly fond of highly-improbable coincidences to keep the characters alive for the next episode. He also never bothered too much about the background of his stories. For example, the First-Born couldn't have lived all those ages on the Sea of Omean. Their only two means of access to the surface were supposed to be through the shaft to the surface and the tunnel they constructed to the Temple of Issus. The fliers, which were their only means of reaching the surface through the shaft, hadn't been invented until after all of the seas (except Korus, Omean and Toonol) had dried up. But they'd been pumping water out of the Sea of Omean since at least the time of the seas drying up. And besides they'd apparently been living on the Sea of Omean since before the other

... races of Barsoom had intelligence and/or memory. At least, the popular opinion was that they came from Thuria. (This isn't quite so inappropriate as it seems. The First-Born lived in the bowels of Barsoom while in the bowels of Jasoom is Thuria in the Land of the Awful Shadow shielded from the central sun by the moon of Pellucidar. Burroughs may have been having a little joke here.) The First-Born living in the northern valley whom John Carter encounters in "The Black Pirates of Barsoom" seem like a letdown. Instead of raiding Barsoom they were content to hide out in the valley. And how they managed to remain unknown to the outside world for so many ages Burroughs never bothered to explain. Phor Tak's paint in A Fighting Man of Barsoom couldn't have made an airship invisible. Instead of invisibility the airship would be the most conspicuous item in the Barsoomian skies due to the parallax and blurring it would generate. In the same book Hadron of Hastor exclaims something to the effect of 'dark as the Sea of Omean'. Assuming that Omean became part of the expletive vocabulary so soon as John Carter made it known to all Barsoom the fact still remains that Omean wasn't dark. The rocks composing the shores and islands were phosphorescent causing Carter no end of trouble during his escape since there was perpetual light.

As I read the Pellucidar and Barsoom series I was going to take notes. But it isn't worth the effort of evaluating Burroughs. His sloppiness is too fascinating. I'm hoping that one of the books I haven't read yet will show that care was expended on it. (Some say that The Land That Time Forgot is Burroughs' masterpiece, one book that he actually put some effort into.) Burroughs had the potential of becoming a good author. Too bad he didn't do better.

Resin #14 - Norm Metcalf

After reading the Pellucidar series I see I fouled up the proper order. It should be At the Earth's Core, Pellucidar, Tanar of Pellucidar, Tarzan at the Earth's Core, Back to the Stone Age, Land of Terror, and then Savage Pellucidar. The first three aren't too bad. Ignoring the utter impossibility of Pellucidar itself and trying to forget that Burroughs failed to distinguish between objective and subjective times they're a lot of fun. Burroughs was poking fun at this crazy set of idiot characters and you could laugh along with him. Tarzan at the Earth's Core was far too contrived. (Tarzan is in danger of his life. Burroughs would quickly switch to Jason Gridley until he was in peril of his life. Then back to rescue Tarzan and have him about to die. Then back to Gridley, etc., etc.) Back to the Stone Age is quite an improvement over Tarzan at the Earth's Core. But in The Land of Terror and Savage Pellucidar Burroughs was not only laughing at the characters but at the whole book. I received the impression that he was daring anyone to give the two books serious consideration.

Things to Come was first published in 1933, not 1935.

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This issue is also intended for the Jan 64 SAPS mailing (#66).

Crudpub #71.

Spacewar #77 - Art Rapp

Sure, Blue Book was a good pulp. (At least, it was far better than most.) I wouldn't call it a great pulp, it wasn't even anywhere near the quality of Argosy. But Blue Book did have Haggard's "The Ivory Child", some Burroughs (though Moskowitz is off the beam when he claims that it published most of Burroughs), Oppenheim's "The Great Prince Shan", Palmer & Wylie's "When Worlds Collide", & "After Worlds Collide", quite a few Agatha Christie stories, William Hope Hodgson shorts, some good H. Bedford-Jones, etc. But the author lineup was inferior to that of Argosy or Adventure and even their better authors usually had second-rate stories in Blue Book.

Flabbergasting #28 - Burnett Toskey

No, those Pellucidar stories in '42 Amazing were the first three parts of Savage Pellucidar (Burroughs' tentative title was "Girl of Pellucidar"). The Land of Terror was an original hardcover. (Even Palmer must have had sense enough to reject it.)

I don't believe that Burroughs wrote "John Carter and the Giant of Mars". It is written in Burroughs' style (though he may have been experimenting with a worse-than-usual-style). One of the two clinching arguments is that the nomenclature isn't that of the other Barsoomian stories. Rather it is that of contemporary sf. The second argument is that Burroughs left no record of writing the story. His notes for every other story, together with serial numbering for each story have survived. There is no gap whatever and particularly during the period when it had to be written (subsequent to "The Synthetic Men of Mars" and prior to the deadline for the Jan 41 Amazing). The only extant record in the files of ERB, Inc. is the check/^{having been received} from Ziff-Davis. But when challenged Palmer swore up and down that Burroughs had written the story.

Outsiders #53 - Wrai Ballard

You're forgiven for not listing Adventure if you've only read the issues since 1940. It was a long ways below its peak (which was in the 20s) by 1940. All in all I think it started declining when Arthur Sullivant Hoffman was no longer editor. The real blow came when Popular Publications bought it from the Ridgway/Butterick Co. Popular Publications had the Midas Touch -- but in reverse. Everything they touched turned to crud. Back in the Golden Age of Adventure Arthur Sullivant Hoffman was a real editor. He was a crusading idealist, ran the best lettercol I've seen in any magazine (including sf), got material from the best writers of the period (though, not all) even though he wasn't paying the highest rates and in general knew what the readers wanted. There are a good many similarities between him and Campbell.

As for Short Stories I suddenly realized that there were about 2,000 issues, I didn't have all of them, the stories weren't as good as those in Adventure (about 754 pulp issues) or Argosy (about 1900 pulp issues), ... So what was I doing trying to complete my collection? I may sell it. But then when I recall I sold my twenty-three year run of Argosy and later regretted it Short Stories looks better on my shelves.

Niflheim #5 - Dave Hulan

The reason Creep, Shadow! is so often called Creep, Shadow, Creep(!) isn't so much confusion with Burn, Witch, Burn as the fact that most copies are titled Creep, Shadow, Creep. Avon (and the Methuen edition) have outsold Argosy, Doubleday, FFM and AMF where the original title was used. (Argosy's circulation dropped from somewhere around 1,250,000 to 40,000 before its sale to Popular Publications and when Creep, Shadow appeared in 1934 the total circulation of all Munsey magazines was somewhere around the 200,000 mark.)

Gemzine 4/38 - G. M. Carr

Your experience with re-reading Unknown makes me wonder what would happen if I re-read any of the issues. The first issue I ever read was the Feb 43 with Kuttner's "Wet Magic", which was one of the better Merlin stories but no earth-shaker; Cleve Cartmill's "Guardian" from which I recall only the situation and its related gimmicks; Fredric Brown's "The Angelic Angeworm" which I recall as an interesting story but without remembering any details; Cartmill again with "No Graven Image" which is also a complete blank; Fredric Brown's "The Hat Trick" which seemed clever but I wonder if it would evaporate upon re-reading; Edna van Vogt's "The Ultimate Wish" which is also a blank and Fritz Leiber's "Thieves House" which was good reading then and again four years later when I read it in Two Sought Adventure. I don't recall any more stories in the issue. Some of these stories are such complete blanks (though I can remember the artwork) that I'm wondering if I skipped reading some of them for some reason.

And unlike you I enjoyed "Sinister Barrier" and "Flame Winds". But then I haven't tried to re-read them. I wish someone would reprint "Flame Winds" and "Sons of the Bear-God" in one volume. I'm one of those who've enjoyed Norvell W. Page though several fans I know violently detest him.

Recently I re-read Eando Binder's Lords of Creation since I'd just borrowed the sequel, "After An Age", Amazing Nov 42. Lords of Creation was I remembered it -- good fun with a couple of minor flaws. "After An Age" was another matter. It put me to sleep three nights in a row. So I have about 30,000 words of it unread and it can stay that way as far as I'm concerned. (It's cheaper than sleeping pills but the side-effects are worse.) Apollonius' Argonautica was a tremendous relief after Binder's hackwork.

Niekas #7 - Ed Meskys

Al Andriuskevicius: It's not surprising that Dennis Wheatley and William Hope Hodgson have common elements in their stories. Wheatley is a Hodgson fan.

And all of Wheatley's in-print works are available from J. Ben Stark, 113 Ardmore Road, Berkeley 7, California, & 94707. Ask him for his Nov 63 list which lists all of the currently available books of Wheatley.

Foofaraw #10 - Fred Patten

According to Bleiler's Checklist Frank R. Stockton wrote more stf than The Great War Syndicate. (There are so many mundane stories in Bleiler that I don't trust the book.) Anyway listed under Stockton are:

Afield and Afloat
The Chosen Few

Amos Kilbriht
The Clocks of Rondaine

The Bee-Man of Orn
Fainful Tales

The Great Stone of Sardis The Great War Syndicate John Gayther's Garden
The Lady, or the Tiger? The Magic Egg The Queen's Museum
A Story-Teller's Pack Ting-A-Ling
The Vizier of the Two-Horned Alexander

Since you apparently have a complete set of Stockton available in the library how about reading it to verify Bleiler's listing?

Today's lack of knowledge of how to pronounce Latin prompted a fine story from Samuel Hopkins Adams -- "The Man Who Spoke Latin". (It's in print in "Ellery Queen"'s 101 Years of Entertainment.) The man who spoke Latin came via suspended animation to the early years of this century where scholars used him to settle the problem of pronunciation. But... read the story.

Yes, someone has met H. B. Fyfe. Dick Ellington used to work for the same company as did Fyfe when Dick was living in New York.

Whatever gave you the idea that Don Day ever did a second index?

mundane stories which I've read and which should be omitted from Bleiler.

John Buchan - The Dancing Floor

Edgar Rice Burroughs - Tarzan and the Golden Lion
- Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar
- Tarzan of the Apes

John Dickson Carr - The Burning Court

Gilbert Keith Chesterton - The Man Who Was Tuesday
- Manalive

Covington Clarke - The Mystery Flight of the Q2

"Ganpat" - Dainra

- Harilek
- Snow Rubies
- The Voice of Dashin
- Fairy Silver

Graves, Robert - Hercules, My Shipmate

H. Rider Haggard - Allan and the Holy Flower

- Allan and the Ice-Gods
- Allan Quatermain

- Allan's Wife (though I don't know about "The Other Tales")

- The Ancient Allan

- Ayesha

- Belshazzar

- Child of the Storm

- Cleopatra

- Heart of the World

- The Ivory Child

- King Solomon's Mines

- Maiwa's Revenge

- Montezuma's Daughter

- Moon of Israel

- Morning Star

- Nada the Lily

- The People of the Mist

- Queen of the Dawn

- Queen Sheba's Ring

Haggard (cont.) - She and Allan
- Wisdom's Daughter

(This listing of Haggard in Bleiler is incredible. Practically every title that Haggard wrote is included -- historical novels, adventure novels, they are almost all there. I'd like to throw She out of the listing because the fantastic element is only tangential to the plot and not either completely lacking or incidental as it is in these others. For example, in Morning Star the heroine believes that she had a ka. So did the other Egyptians of that period. By the same token any story of the present day U.S. would have to be labeled as 'fantastic' if any of the characters believed in democracy.)

H. Rider Haggard & Andrew Lang - The World's Desire
Holmes, H. H. - Rocket to the Morgue (this isn't sf but is of associational interest)

Janvier, Thomas A. - The Aztec Treasure House
Mathison, Volney G. - The Radiobuster (this is a debateable case. It's a collection of short stories, only one of which must have gotten it listed. But that particular story of a voyage to Mars turns out to have been a dream.)

Talbot Mundy - Caves of Terror
- King, of the Khyber Rifles
- The Mystery of Khufu's Tomb
- Tros of Samothrace

Taine, John - Before the Dawn
Jules Verne - The English At the North Pole
- The Field of Ice
- The Mysterious Island

Theodore Arthur Willard - Bride of the Rain God
- The Wizard of X Zacna

Bleiler's listing is one reason why I'd like to see Rosenblum's 'page-per--book-bibliography' revived. Each subscriber could then know what was in the book rather than assuming. And another project I'd like to see instituted is weeding the mundane stories out of Bleiler. There are supposed to be about 5,000 books listed and I've only read a few hundred of them. And don't anyone suggest enlisting the Neffers in this.