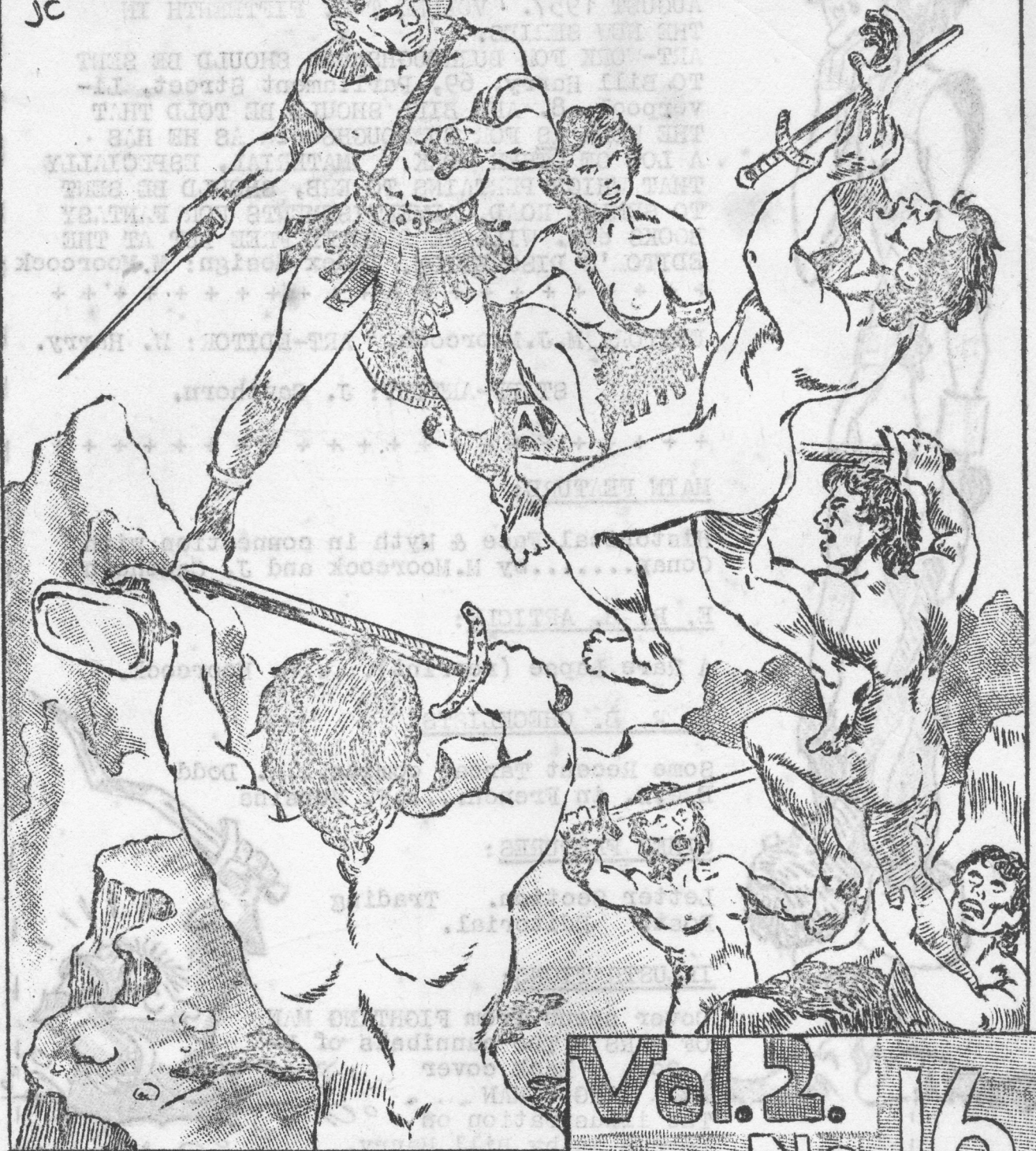


Burroughsania

JC



Vol. 2. 16.
No. 16.

INDEX

BURROUGHSania IS PRICE 6d. EVERY MONTH from MIKE J. MOORCOCK of 36, SEMLEY RD NORBURY, LONDON, S.W.16. ENGLAND. FOR AUGUST 1957. VOLUME TWO, FIFTEENTH IN THE NEW SERIES.

ART-WORK FOR BURROUGHSania SHOULD BE SENT TO Bill Harry, 69, Parliament Street, Liverpool, 8. AND BILL SHOULD BE TOLD THAT THE WORK IS FOR BURROUGHSania AS HE HAS A LOT OF OTHER WORK. MATERIAL, ESPECIALLY THAT WHICH PERTAINS TO ERB, SHOULD BE SENT TO SEMLEY ROAD. ADVERTISEMENTS FOR FANTASY BOOKS etc. WILL BE PRINTED FREE BUT AT THE EDITOR'S DISCRETION. Index design: M.Moorcock

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EDITOR: M.J.Moorcock. ART-EDITOR: W. Harry.

STAFF-ARTIST: J. Cawthorn.

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MAIN FEATURE:

Historical Face & Myth in connection with Conan.....by M.Moorcock and J. Cawthorn

E. R. B. ARTICLE:

A Rare Lapse (reprint).....M. Moorcock.

E. R. B. CHECKLISTS:

Some Recent Tarzan comics...A. Dodd
E.R.B. in French.....P. Versins

OTHER FEATURES:

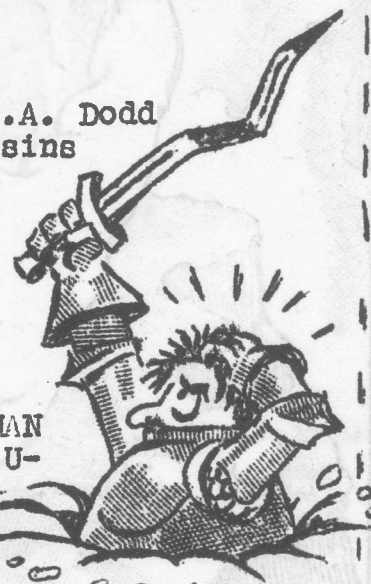
Letter Section. Trading Post. Editorial.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

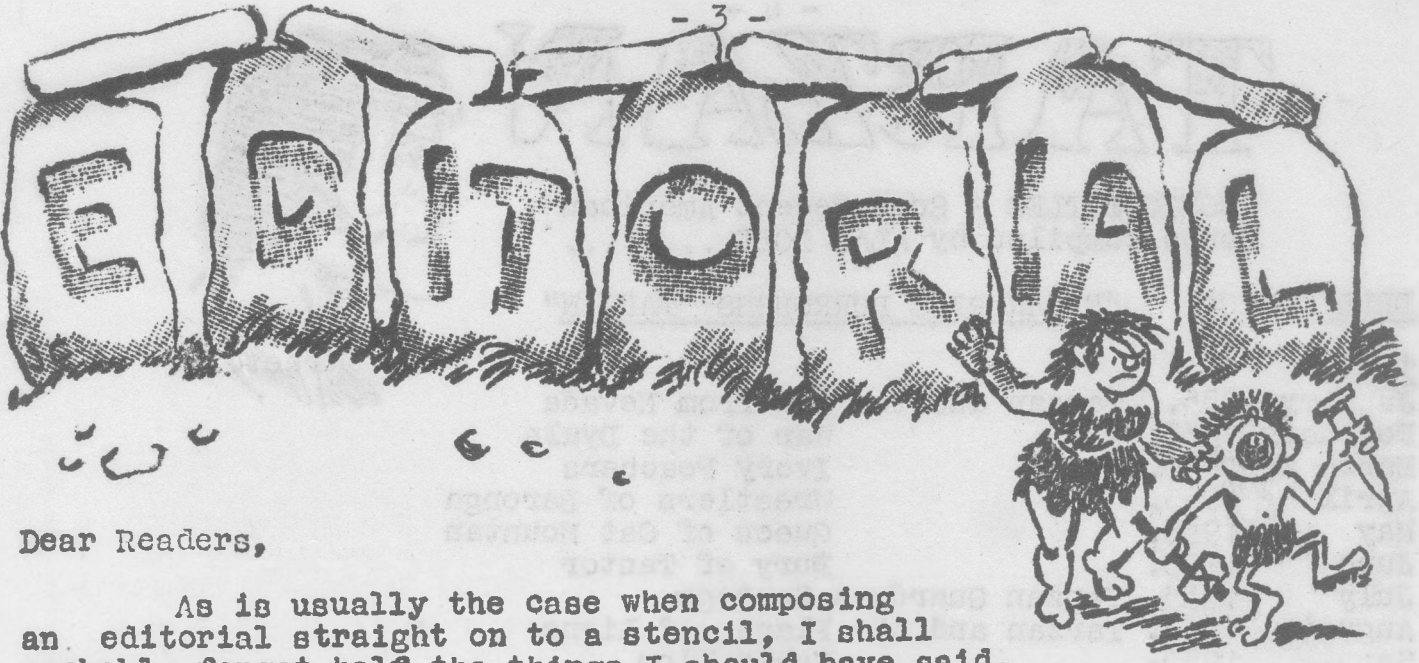
Cover scene from FIGHTING MAN OF MARS - The cannibals of U-Gor. Back cover

KING CONAN

The illustration on Page 4 is by Bill Harry.



JCI



Dear Readers,

As is usually the case when composing an editorial straight on to a stencil, I shall probably forget half the things I should have said.

I was sorry to learn from Maurice B. Gardner that J. Allen St. John has recently died. I'm sure you agree with me that he was a very fine artist.

Well, I'm now negotiating for a duplicator with Messrs. Roneo - however, unless I get paid for a story I've written I won't be able to afford to put the initial deposit down for a few weeks time. So there may be a lull in MJM pubs. 'Course if anyone would like to donate a fiver or so towards a New Roneo For Mike Fund I would take an active part in collecting all moneys.....

Yes, I'm now a vile pro., not all that vile though as the fantasy story appearing in TARZAN is only a juvenile - still, it's a start. I join up as editor next week - so wish me luck.

Personally I'd like to see a new change in TARZAN - a larger size, for instance, with glossy covers etc. - but I don't know how much I'll be control of that angle - still I'll advance my ideas. I'm sure an all fantasy/adventure mag - with the Tarzan strip as the main attraction, a fantasy story in the middle pages and a fantasy action strip in the back - would sell nowadays.

Before I get angry shoals of letters in (or even shoals of angry letters) about SOJAN - yes, I freely admit, he is a lot like John Carter in many ways - or rather the stories are influenced by ERB - not nearly so good, of course. But I like writing the stories, and if the readers like 'em - I hope to write lots more - and encourage other writers to write similar adventure/fantasy tales on the same lines. I hope to see Jim Cawthorn featuring a new strip in the next six months or so - and also on some covers. But this, of course, is all in the air - and I should be hig-headed indeed if I took it upon myself to start changing the zine around as soon as I got there.

Well, here's until the next ish -'bye!

Mike

TARZAN



COMIC TITLES - Some recent American ones compiled by ALAN DODD.....

DELL COMICS. "EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS' TARZAN"

1955

- January 1955. Tarzan and the Man from Nevada
- February 1955. War of the Dyals
- March 1955. Ivory Poachers
- April 1955. Wrestlers of Baronga
- May 1955. Queen of Cat Mountain
- June 1955. Fury of Tantor
- July 1955. Tarzan Guards a Hostage
- August 1955. Tarzan and the Plague of Lions
- Sept. 1955. Sable Lion
- October 1955. Loot of Agib
- November 1955. White Bull
- December 1955. Eagles of Engani

1956

- January 1956. Elephants Child
- February 1956. City in the Sands
- March 1956. Trek of the Bolgani
- April 1956. Black Coaks
- May 1956. Thirsty Sands
- June 1956. Beasts of Mocar
- July 1956. Chasms of Opar
- August 1956. Channel Pirates
- Septem. 1956. Eye of Thoth
- October 1956. Windmill of Maun Gah
- November 1956. Mutineers
- December 1956. Messenger from Jorah

TARZAN'S JUNGLE ANNUAL. Number Two. 1953. THE VALLEY OF TOWERS.

+++++

NEW M.J.M. PUBLICATION IN PLACE OF FANTASIANA

A new magazine for the FOLKLORE and MYTHOLOGY enthusiast is planned for publication at a future date. This is instead of Fantasiana which didn't get the backing I had hoped - checklists in hand will be published in BURROUGHSANIA from time to time. The last issue was Number Three. Suggestions for a title for the magazine, articles on all kinds of folklore - any country, Great Britain, Scandinavia, French, Egyptian, Indian, American, Assyrian/Babylonian etc. etc. etc. The magazine will be out when a suitable title has been chosen and when there are enough articles to merit it. Your support will be welcome. Mike J. Moorcock.

REPRINT FROM B'ANIA 5.

A RARE LAPSE



By Mike J. Moorcock

+++++

One of the things Burroughs fans are always telling each other is that whatever his faults as a writer, Burroughs was 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 when ever I read a Martian story I wondered if you had noticed it too - that's the reason for this article.

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 telephthic 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 remember that Carter discovered that the doors of the plant were manipulated by telepathic means. Out of curiosity, Carter asked him how he had managed to unlock the doors, he uses the information which springs to the man's mind to save himself from being murdered and escapes from the plant.

At the end of the book, Carter saves Barsoom 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 Therns, 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 hero 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 with his power of mind-reading that our hero used so much in the previous story does not come to his aid here. That is the very first passage that surprised me for I was intregued 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 though 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 in mind this telepathy business and I didn't come across anything to do with John's PRINCESS 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.

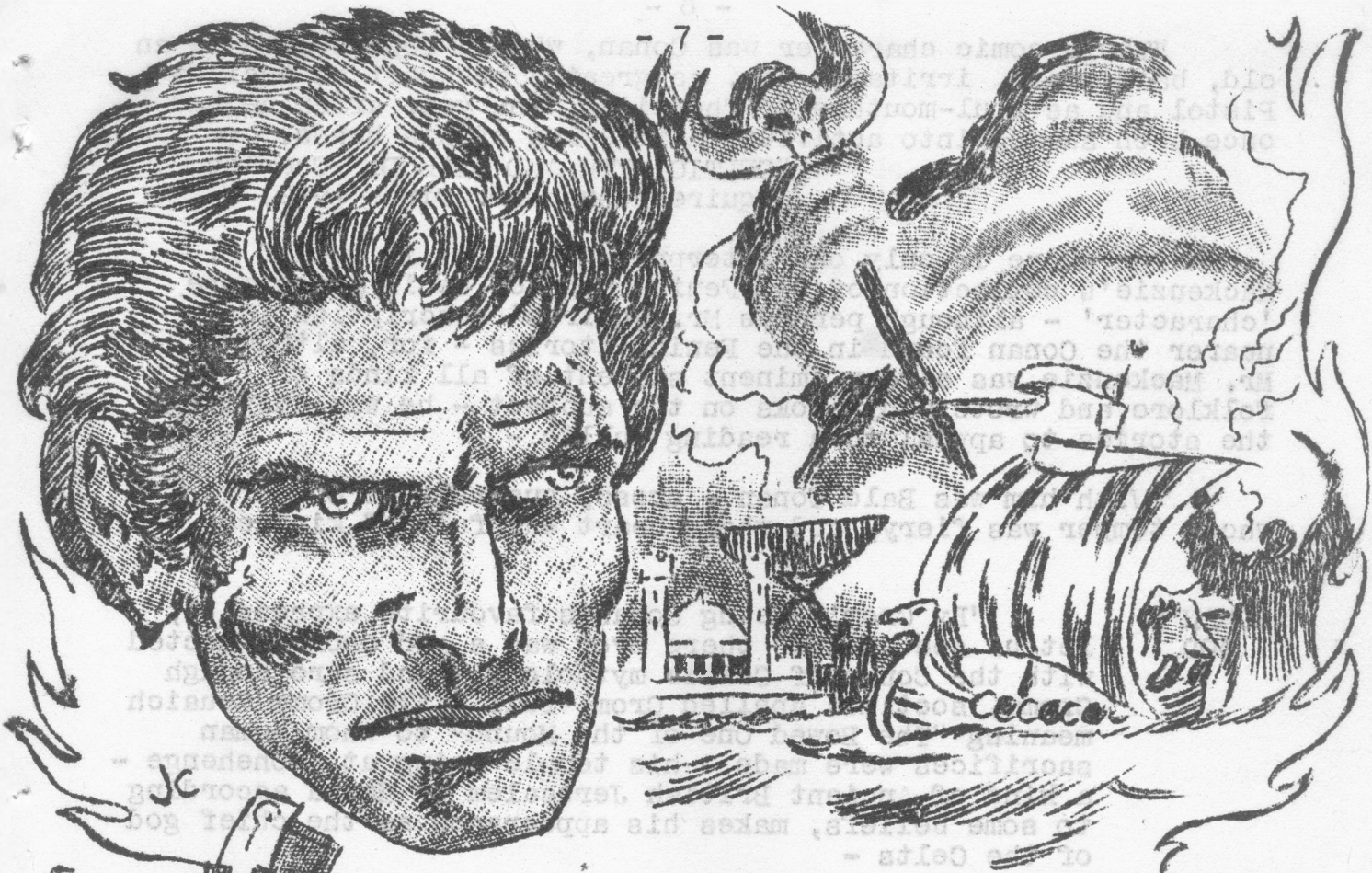
Skipping THUVIA MAID OF MARS, CHESSMEN OF MARS, MASTERMIND OF MARS, A FIGHTING MAN OF MARS and SYNTHETIC MEN OF MARS as not really John Carter yarns I now come to SWORDS OF MARS in which our blue-eyed boy (sorry, grey-eyed boy) learns of any of the plots agains him and in which he is involved is by common or garden eavesdropping ((WHEN THE ORIGINAL OF THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN I COULDN'T REMEMBER ANY SUCH SCENES - BUT NOW I BELIEVE THERE WAS ONE)) - 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 magazine episodes, which I, unfortunately, do not possess ((Possess 'em now.....)).

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 books 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.

Mike J. Moorcock.

FINIS

IN PREPARATION FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE (NUMBER 17) A LONG ARTICLE:
BURROUGHS AND HIS BEMS by Witty Whitmarsh. Definitely in this
issue. ((Well, almost - you see it's long, real long)).



HISTORICAL FACT AND MYTH
IN CONNECTION WITH CONAN

By M.J.Moorcock with added notes by J. Cawthorn

**CONAN IN
 CELTIC MYTH**

When reading of Robert E. Howard and his most famous character, Conan the Cimmerian, we are usually given to understand that Howard invented the whole 'pre-historic' world in which Conan dwells.

In fact, Conan and the Conan stories have some strong historical backing and it is obvious that Howard either based his fantasy world on his own knowledge of history, myth and legend or did a great deal of research before beginning the Conan stories. Conan, himself, has many of the attributes and ideas of an ancient Celt.

The very name Conan is the name of a Fenian hero in the stories of Finn and his Fenians -

TURN PAGE.

"Their comic character was Conan, who is represented as an old, bald, vain, irritable man, as great a braggart as ancient Pistol and as foul-mouthed as Thersites, and yet, after he had once been shamed into activity, a true man of his hands."

("CELTIC MYTH AND LEGEND. Charles Squires. Gresham. Circa 1912)

The above is only one interpretation for, in Donald A. Mackenzie's collection of the Fenian stories he is given more 'character' - although perhaps Mr. Squires' description is nearer the Conan found in the Fenian stories - for, although Mr. Mackenzie was a very eminent student of all kinds of folklore and wrote many books on the subject - he was adapting the stories to appeal to a reading public -

"With him was Bald Conan - cross, quarrelsome Conan, whose temper was fiery, and whose heart was full of kindness."

CONAN'S GOD

"By Crom!" being Conan's favourite expression, let us see whether there ever was a god Crom connected with the Conan of Celtic mythology - and sure enough Cromm, soetimes spelled Crom, full title Cromm Cruaich meaning "The Bowed One of the Mound" to whom human sacrifices were made - his temple being at Stonehenge - a kind of Ancient British Jerusalem or Mecca according to some beliefs, makes his appearance as the chief god of the Celts -

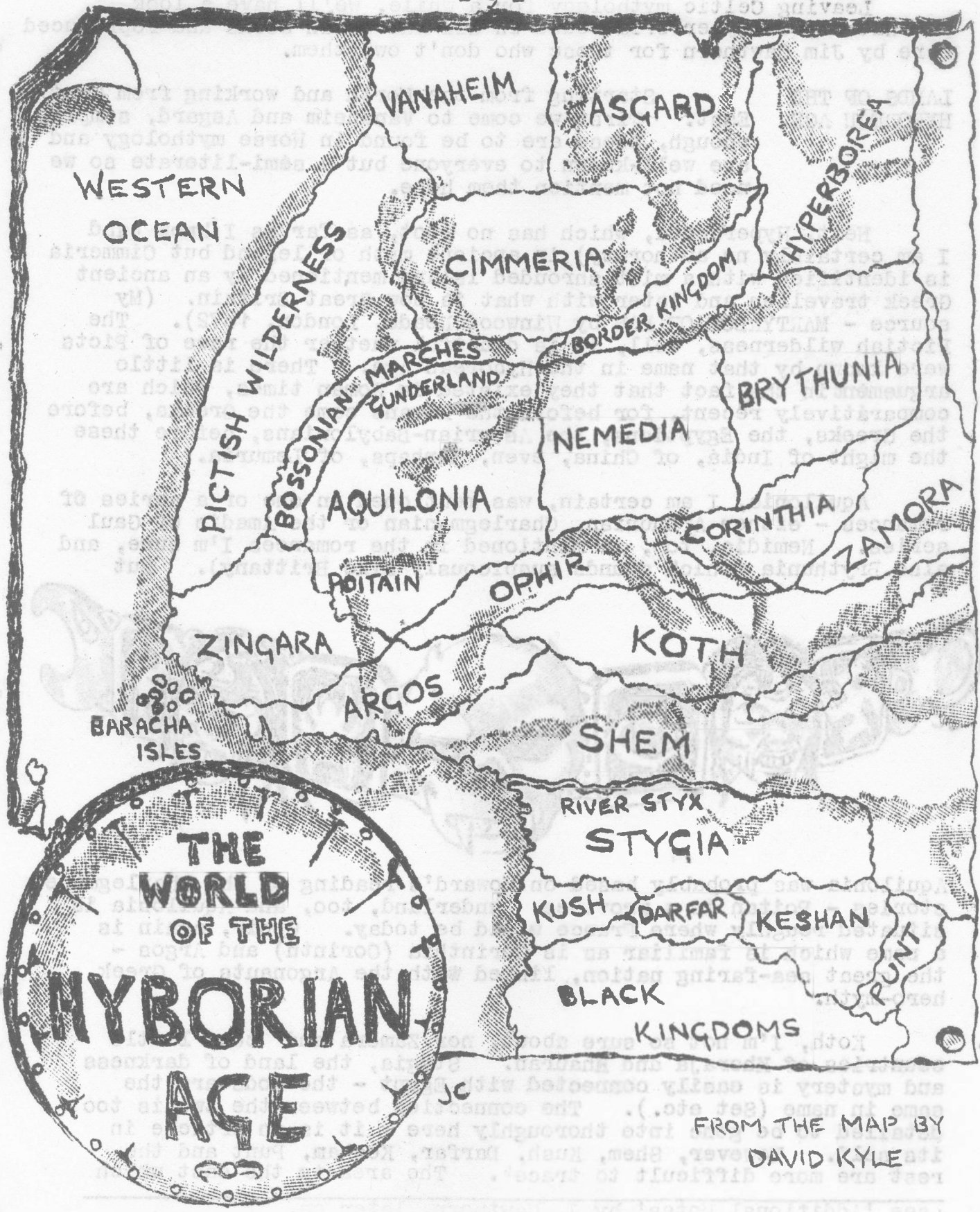
"Here used to be
A high idol with many fights,
Which was named the Cromm Cruaich;
It made every tribe to be without peace.

"'Twas a sad evil!
Brave Gaels used to worship it.
From it they would not without tribute ask
To be satisfied as to their portion of the hard world.

"He was their god,
The withered Cromm with many mists,
The people whom he shook over every host,
The everlasting kingdom they shall not have.

"To him without glory
They would kill their piteous wretched offspring
With much wailing and peril,
To pour their blood around Cromm Cruaich."

(A short extract from a poem which is found in the Books of Leinster, of Ballymote, of Lecan and in a document called the Rennes MS. Translated by Dr. K. Meyer and appeared as Appendix B to Nutt's VOYAGE OF BRAN.)



WESTERN OCEAN

VANAHEIM

ASGARD

HYPERBOREA

CIMMERIA

BORDER KINGDOM

PICTISH WILDERNESS

MARCHES
SUNDERLAND

BRYTHUNIA

NEMEDIA

AQUILONIA

CORINTHIA

ZAMORA

POITAIN

OPHIR

ZINGARA

KOTH

ARGOS

SHEM

BARACHA ISLES

RIVER STYX

STYGIA

KUSH

DARFAR

KESHAN

BLACK KINGDOMS

PUNT

THE
WORLD
OF THE
HYBORIAN
AGE

JC

FROM THE MAP BY
DAVID KYLE

Leaving Celtic mythology for a while, we'll have a look at that map of Hyperboria found in all the Conan books and reproduced here by Jim Cawthorn for those who don't own them.

LANDS OF THE HYBOREAN AGE. Starting from the North and working from West East. First we come to Vanahelm and Asgard, simple enough, these are to be found in Norse mythology and are well-known to everyone but a semi-literate so we need not mention them here.

Next, Hyperborea, which has no root, as far as I know (and I am certainly no authority) in ancient myth or legend but Cimmeria is identified with a mist-shrouded island mentioned by an ancient Greek traveller and later with what is now Great Britain. (My source - *MARTYRDOM OF MAN* by Winwood Reade, London, 1872). The Pictish wilderness, well, it is doubtful whether the race of Picts were known by that name in the Hyborean Age. There is little argument in the fact that they existed in Roman times, which are comparatively recent, for before the Romans came the Greeks, before the Greeks, the Egyptians, the Assyrian-Babylonians, before these the might of India, of China, even, perhaps, of Lemuria.

Aquilonia, I am certain, was mentioned in one or a series of romances - either Arthurian, Charlegmanian or the Amadis of Gaul series. Nemidia, too, is mentioned in the romances I'm sure, and also Brythunia (which sounds suspiciously like Brittany). But



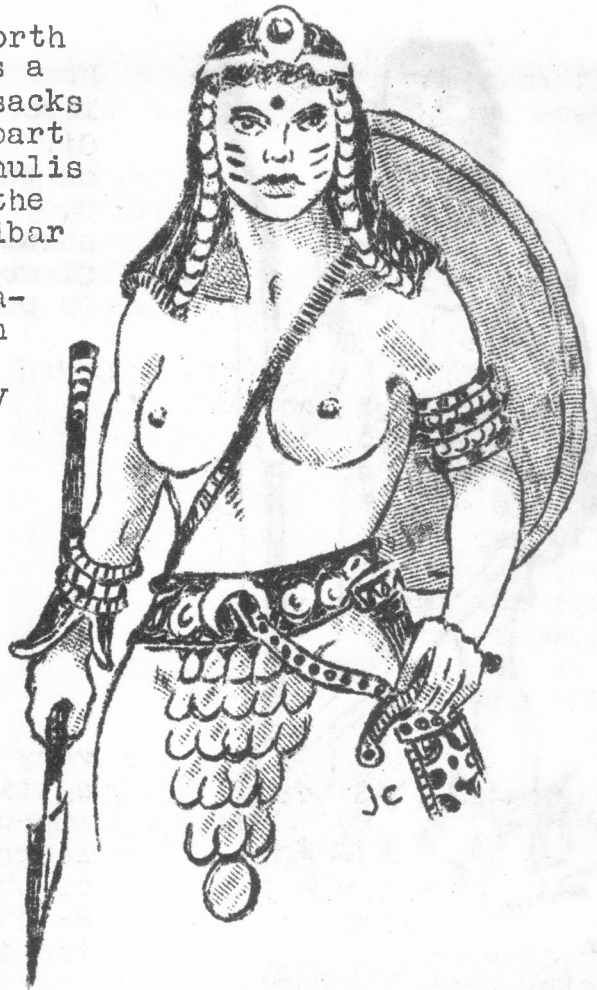
Aquilonia was probably based on Howard's reading of the Charlegmane stories - Poitan is a province, Gunderland, too, and Aquilonia is situated roughly where France would be today. Ophir, again is a name which is familiar as is Corinthia (Corinth) and Argos - the great sea-faring nation, linked with the Argonauts of Greek hero-myth.

Koth, I'm not so sure about, nor Zamora and the little countries of Khoraja and Khauran. Stygia, the land of darkness and mystery is easily connected with Egypt - the Gods are the same in name (Set etc.). The connection between the two is too detailed to be gone into thoroughly here - it is an article in its self. However, Shem, Kush, Darfar, Kesham, Punt and the rest are more difficult to trace+. The area to the east which

+see 'Additional Notes' by J. Cawthorn, later on.

includes the Tundras Desert in the North and Zamboula in the Southern part has a definite connection with Russian Cossacks (the Kozaki). Vendhya is at least part of India, if not the whole - the Afghulis of the Himelias are recognisable as the Afghans of the Himaleyas and the Zhaibar Pass as the Khyber Pass. Hyrkania, too, is mentioned mainly in Charlegmanian romance and is often linked with Babylon although the tendency of the romances to mix history and geography into a recipe of their own (i.e. confusing Saxons with Saracens and having Scotland ruled by a Saracen king in mistake for a Saxon one is a classic example) while not disproving, does little to prove, that Hyrkania and Babylon are linked in any way. Though geographically it is possible.

The above brief summary is only a very rough outline, but I shall leave it to someone with better knowledge than I to go deeply into the subject - or wait until I, myself, know more.



ATTRIBUTES OF THE CELTS AND OF THE CIMMERIANS.

According to Howard, through Conan, the Cimmerians were a race of barbarous savages, warlike and with very little material civilisation. A down-to-earth unimaginative people whose idea of death was a land of cold featurless wildernesses. Their god, Crom, was malevolent, when he took interest in them at all, and was responsible for all plagues and famines in the land. A god whose sole duty was to punish the weak.

These attributes seem to be more those of the earliest known inhabitants of the British Isles. Conan, himself, is dark. But the early race of Ancient Britons weren't tall - they were short, dark-eyed and long-skulled, essentially non-Aryan, speaking a language akin to the language of the Gallas, Abyssinians, Berbers, and other North African tribes - a language belonging to the class generally termed 'Hamitic' and which originally came, so some believe, from some part of Central, Eastern or Northern Africa. Essentially non-Aryan as I said, while Conan has many distinct Aryan attributes. (See illustration by J. Cawthorn of a Pict and an Aryan). Perhaps these Ancient Britons are the Picts

Howard mentions and the race of Conan were later Celts. But if this is so, then the Cimmerians of Conan's time should be higher on the scale of civilisation and culture. They should be better armed and dressed, should be sea-farers. Apparently the Cimmerians have none of these things. Or perhaps they have degenerated.

CONAN AS FICTION

But, of course, whether Howard based his series on fact, or whether he made up the whole thing doesn't matter. It is the story, its contents, and the way in which it is told that counts.

As a fictitious character, Conan is very good, but if you try to put him in a setting which really existed - he becomes improbable. And his adventures are as laughable as those of the knights errant of the Romances. He just doesn't tie in with known



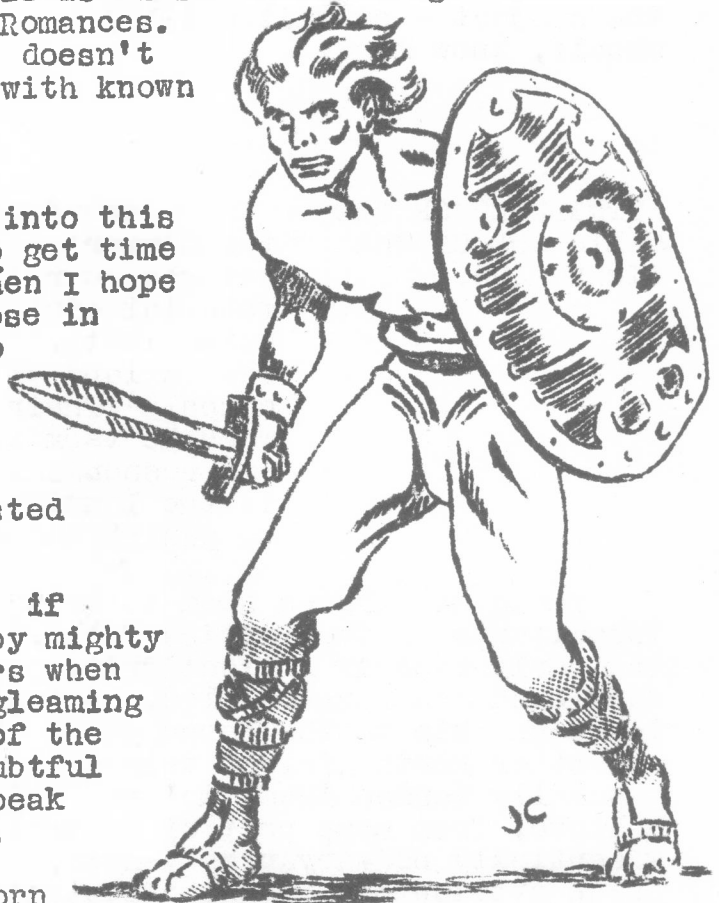
PICT

facts.

I wish I had more time to go into this matter deeply and perhaps when I do get time I shall certainly do so. Until then I hope I have managed to achieve my purpose in writing this article. That is, to decide whether Conan or the Hyborean Age of Howard's imagination could really have existed, or if they could have existed independently, could they have existed at the same time.

I'm afraid it isn't likely, if there were great lands ruled over by mighty kings in the time "between the years when the oceans drank Atlantis and the gleaming cities, and the years of the rise of the Sons of Aryas", it is extremely doubtful that they could ever reach such a peak of civilisation and leave no trace.

Now it is time for Jim Cawthorn to take over, I sent him this article for illustrating and he sent them back and included the following.



ARYAN

HISTORICAL FACT, AND MYTH IN CONNECTION WITH CONAN

ADDITIONAL NOTES - BY J. CAWTHORN

THE COUNTRIES OF THE HYBOREAN AGE

Shem, as I thought, was named after Noah's son, being the name of the Shemitic ("Shemite") or Semetic peoples. The language was spoken, in various versions, in Arabia, Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, Abyssinia, Egypt, etc. The Babylonians used it.

Kush is actually Nubia, which lies in the Sudan. In Ancient Egypt, the ruler of Nubia was titled "Kings Son of Kush", although they weren't really royalty. The lower left-hand corner of the Sudan is called Darfur, which sounds very like Darfar.

Next door to these territories is Somaliland; again, in Ancient Egyptian times, this was known as Pvoni, or Punt, one of their conquests. There is a famous wall-sculpture of a sea expedition from Egypt to Punt, though I have never seen it.

Zamora seems to be fairly common in Spain, Mexico and Venezuela etc. Probably a Spanish word.

Keshan is a bit awkward. The only one I can find is a district in Gallipoli, Turkey. However, there was a city of Kesh somewhere, around Babylonia, being the centre of a Creation Goddess cult. They called here Belit Itani, meaning 'Queen of Gods', which reminds me of Belit in "Queen of the Black Coast" by Howard. Can't get a line on any of the other place-names, though.

((EDITOR'S NOTE: More additions to this article will be welcome))



(From THE GOD IN THE BOWL by Robert E. Howard)

EDGAR

RICE

IN FRENCH

BURROUGHS

PIERRE VERSINS

Some of you may have read in B'ania Volume 1, No. 12, a letter where I stated a little blindly that there were 2 yarns by Edgar Rice Burroughs translated into French and published in 2 mags for children, one Belgian (Story, 1948) and one French (Robinson, 1938). I beg your pardon, but that was a little conceited of me

to give the data without knowing more about the mags. I think I know better, due principally to two Swiss Futopians, Pierre Strinati and Demetre Ioakimidid (Futopians are scarce birds who gather themselves in Lausanne and elsewhere and talk of fantastic literature under the Mastership of your obedient servant, myself), one of whom lent me a lot of the above mags while the other built a check-list of the works by ERB.

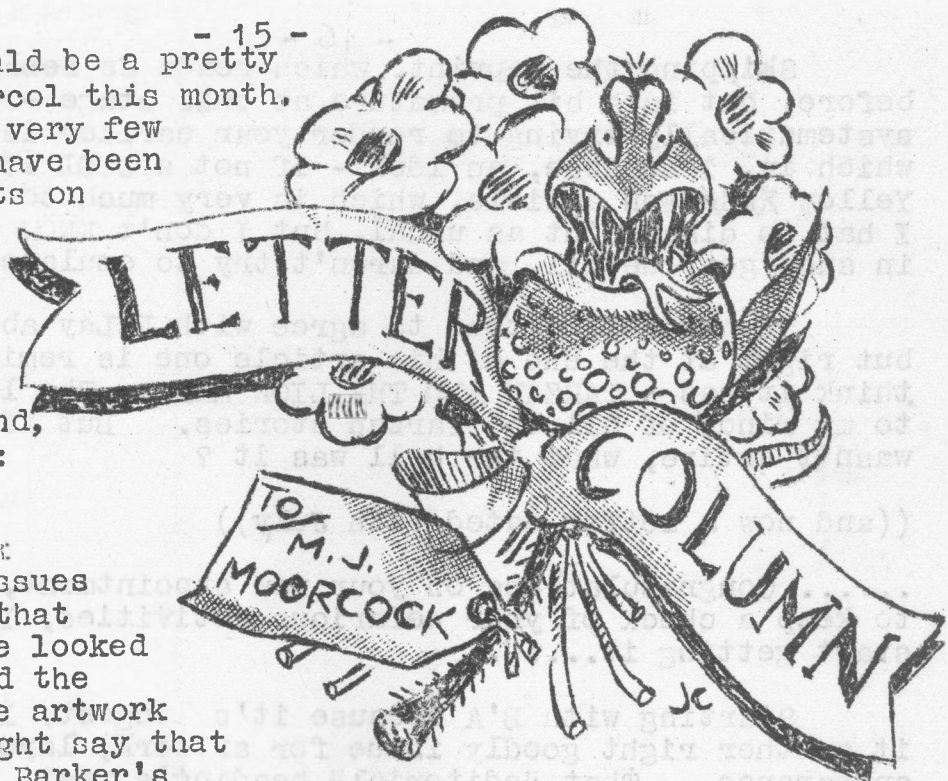
Now, here is the data which may be of interest to you, with possible errors since we didn't read all the originals. When marked (d), it's doubtful, but you may always rectify yourselves, I think, because there are exactly 10 books by Burroughs translated and they go always two by two, the second being obviously the following of the first. So I'll give them in 5 parts:

- 1) A PRINCESS OF MARS (le congerant de la planete Mars) in Robinson, 1937. Note: this one was published too in bookform by Hachette in 1938.
THE GODS OF MARS (Divinites martiennes), in Robinson, from 5th 23. '37 to 8th 15. '37 (French dates - you work 'em out. Ed.)
- 2) AT THE EARTH'S CORE (Au coeur de la Terre), in LE JOURNAL DE MICKEY, from 10.17.37 to 2.27.38.
PELLUCIDAR, in LE JOURNAL DE MICKEY, from 3.6.38 to 8.28.38.
- 3) THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT (Caspack, monde oublie), in ROBINSON from 10.9.38 to 12.25.38.
THE CAVE GIRL (d) (Au pays des hommes volants), in ROBINSON, from 12. 25.38 to 3.12.39.
- 4) THE MOON MAID (A la conquete de l'hemisphere inconnu), in Robinson, from 11.14.37 to 1.30.38.
THE WAR CHIEF (d) (L'epervier rouge), in ROBINSON from 2.6.38 to 4.10.38.
- 5) PIRATES OF VENUS (le vagabond de L'espace), in ROBINSON, from 6.25.39 to 10. 8. 39.
LOST ON VENUS (d) (L'appel de l'inconnu), in ROBINSON from 10.8.39. to 3.10.40.

And here we are. You'll see that we have 3 doubtful interpretations. Demetre Ioakimidis thinks, for instance, that THE CAVE GIRL must be the original title for AU PAYS DES HOMMES VOLANTS because in his checklist of ERB (which lists 54 titles from 1914 to 1947) THE CAVE GIRL is listed one year after THE LAND THAT TIME FORGOT, and because he has noticed that in the precedent works there was always a year between two following stories. Naturally, not having the originals, I can't control the thing, but I think it is at least logical. Anyway, it's up to you, I think you may be perfectly able to rectify our errors without difficulties at all.

I think there should be a pretty interesting lettercol this month. At time of typing very few issues of No. 15 have been mailed but comments on No. 14 etc. have been received since 15 was prepared.

MAURICE B. GARDNER of Portland, Maine, USA writes:



...I want to thank you for the two issues of Burroughsiana that you sent. I have looked them over, enjoyed the articles, also the artwork very much. I might say that the review of Lex Barker's MYSTERIES OF THE BLACK JUNGLE was well written, and having seen the film a short while ago I was thoroughly disgusted with it. I had seen Lex in Tarzan films, and enjoyed his acting immensely. Since that time I've seen him in several westerns, and he was good. I'm very much afraid MYSTERIES OF THE BLACK JUNGLE was just a waste of film.

I also enjoyed FRUIT OF THE TREE OF LIFE.

I, too, like the stories of Merritt and Kline. Just recently I read Kline's PORT OF PERIL, and enjoyed it very much. The writing is very similar to E. R. Burroughs, and the illustrations by J. Allen St. John were remarkable. Any of these illustrations could be placed in an ERB Martian or Venus book. It is regrettable that Mr. St. John recently died, as many of the first books were ably illustrated by him. ((I, too, am very sorry to hear of St. John's death - he was, indeed, a fine artist - although I have never considered his work better than that of some ERB illustrators as many do.))

2 letters from ARCHIE MERCER

On No. 14.

.....The artwork is somewhat superb again. Simply terrific all the way through. And WITHOUT the use of Arthur, what's more. I don't get what he's supposed to be responsible for in the index, by the way, but I can't see any ATOM-ic-looking drawings around the place ((Arthur DESIGNED the Index, clot, don't you remember the Christmas ish. The latest ish - this one - has a different design - by ME, yes, me.....))

Skipping the reprint, which reads as sensibly as it did before, but is a bit premature at this stage - unless you're systematically trying to render your earlier issues redundant, which is, I suppose, an idea - if not a GOOD idea - we come to Yellow ~~Books~~ Men article, which is very much to the point. But I hat to disappoint as usual, but I don't KNOW things like that in such gory detail, and daren't try to emulate Witty's feat.

In general, I tend to agree with FVLay about Burroughs, but right at the end of his article one is reminded of - I think it was - TARZAN AND THE LION MAN. The least satisfactory, to my mind, of all the Tarzan stories. But if the end of that wasn't satire, what the hell was it ?

((and now a letter dated 14th July))

..... Congratulations on your new appointment, anyway. Just to keep a check of your nefarious activities, I think I WILL start getting it.....

Starting with B'A because it's longest, I hereby pronounce it another right goodly issue for artwork, layout and general appearance. That "editorial" heading's neat, while I'm in the artwork/layout dept ((This month's is good, too, don't you think - Jim is certainly a good all-rounder - seems capable of anything - writing too.))

I'm not so keen on the literary side of it, this time, though. I hardly ever go to see sf/fantasy films nowadays, so all these film reviews get a bit monotonous (same as the films they review). The Blackwood article was interesting, though again he's another author I've never had much to do with, and probably wouldn't care for if I did. Prefer Burroughs any day.

The lettercol, too, is too much I-like-this, I-didn't-like-that for perfection, though it still has its points.

....Book reviews fairly interesting - I have the Penguin BEOWULF but the rest of it's again outside my scope.

WITTY WHITMARSH

.....Now to B'ania. Both front and bacover were very good - back was the best, but not nearly so good as Talu. These Cawthorn illos are superb - you are the luckiest faned I can think of - you've got the three best of fandom's artists - Harry, Atom and Cawthorn and a jolly good runner-up in Alan Date.

The Doddreview was very good, as Alan's always (or nearly always) are. The Masters of Fantasy would have been good if that last page had been cut out - it ruined the whole thing - it was \$oo sort of learned, and meandering - know what I mean ?



I gather Jim Cawthorn had just been to see the Shrinking Man, when he did the heading for the Letter Column ((I should've mentioned that this was so - Jim sent it to me 'courtesy of Scott Carey - who was, I gather, a character in the film - didn't see it myself - I share Archie's opinion - although not his opinion of film reviews. Which reminds me - a film review of the Shrinking Man would be a Good Idea)). Seeing Pete's letter reminded me - what has happened to ERBania ??? Haven't heard of one since Dec. '56. ((I haven't actually got the stencils yet - but it is scheduled for running off some time this week... I shall be doing it - I think it'll be somewhere around 30 pages)). The illo of the derelict flier was - or I should say is - very good, it's just captured that er... well, that angle shows death of a machine - or something.... get me ?

((Editor's Note: Yes.))

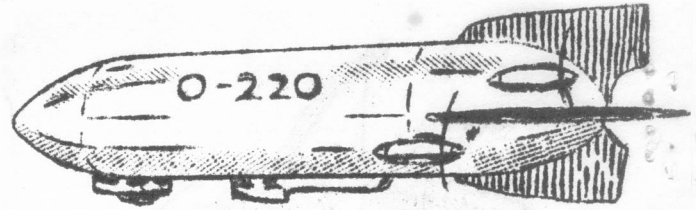
((And then came a letter from Frank Vernone Lay who under the title ONCE MORE MY OBJECTIONS TO MOST MODERN SCIENCE-FICTION sent me this:))

FRANK VERNON LAY

...To my critics, I would point out the key word in the above heading - viz. most. Bob Lumley says: "Modern s-f is very often a vehicle to carry an idea - making the reader think in a much easier way than if he were reading a dry factual manual."

That is just one of my points - is very often a vehicle to carry and idea. How many times have we heard "Now that's an idea! I'll use it for a story." It's so seldom that the story and characters match up to the idea. One or other suffers. And is a factual manual necessarily dull ? ((Most are - to me anyway)). To I have enjoyed immendely just recently are THE INEXPLICABLE SKY by Arthur Constance and THE TRUTH ABOUT FLYING SAUCERS by Aime Michel. Both of these should be required reading for budding s-f writers and also of many of our scientists who are only too ready to claim their share of the limelight with careless prophecies of "the Moon in Ten Years - only the expense is stopping us." etc. And the classic fantasy tales, he says, are nothing more nor less than sheer story-telling. Of course the important thing is, are we talking about the same thing ? Is Bob's definition of Fantasy and the difference between it and S-F the same as mine ? I regard

Sir H. Rider Haggard as the supreme Fantasy writer and yet by some definitions his stories are not fantastic, so until we agree some basic assumptions it is useless to discuss our differences - they may not be differences at all.



JC

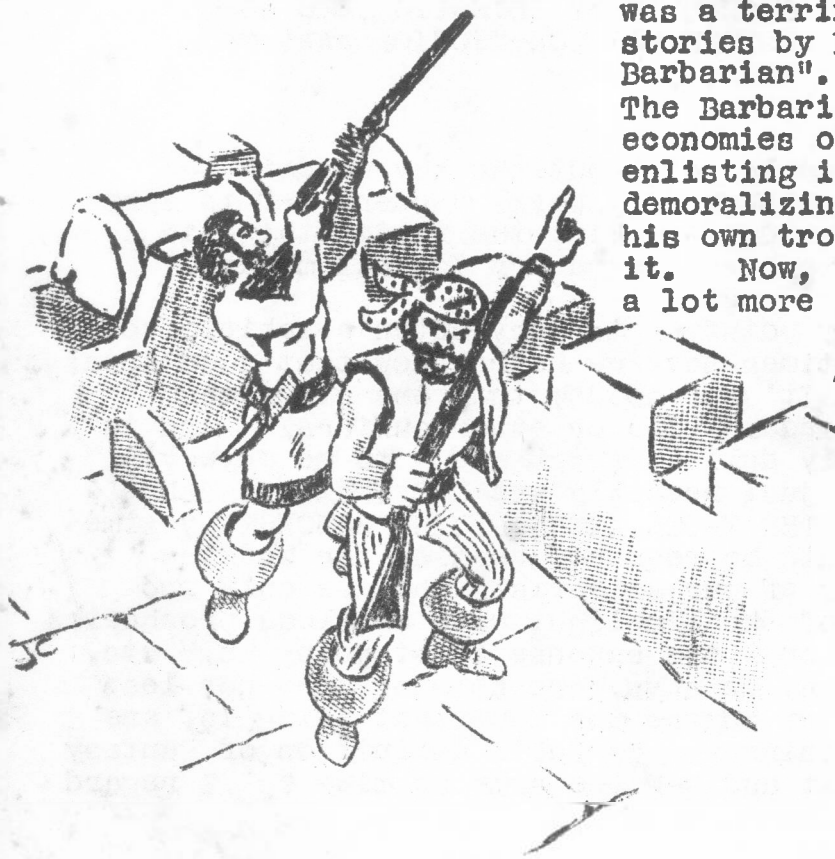
The essence of s-f is, to me, the attempt to forecast the future, it should deal with possibilities and probabilities but not with impossibilities. Fantasy deals with impossibilities. It takes liberties with history, science and even common-sense. Wells, Verne, and Clarke are good examples of s-f writers. E. R. Burroughs, Merritt, Haggard, Lovecraft, Dunsany, Howard and many more are fantasy writers. Hodgson, Stapledon are borderline cases. In view of the present trends of thought it ill becomes any of us to say what is impossible so maybe my definition will break down before it gets started. Anyway, I know it's not a new subject but I would like to read other views now that SF is supposed to have grown up.

Frank Lay.

((Well, Bob ? Or anyone else ? What are your opinions ?))

JIM CAWTHORN ((Quoting from an earlier letter which I forgot about until the previous letter was finished))

.... The PLUSBOOKS shop was a little goldmine of back issues - I came out with a case-full. Good prices, too. One was a terrific take-off on the Conan stories by Poul Anderson - "The Barbarian". It tells how Cronkheit The Barbarian totally ruined the economies of three countries by enlisting in their armies, besides demoralizing and practically killing his own troops. ((Would like to read it. Now, I'm certain there was a lot more Jim said in various letters. Burrowing through my letter ~~file~~ pile doesn't seem to help any - so if I come across it I'll have a look for it and publish it when I find it. Well, there's no more room for quoting more letters - but I would like to thank all the people who took the trouble to write. And remember to go on writing - please....



JC

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King Conan: 'The Phoenix on the Sword'