

The GOLDEN PERILS

38



---

---

# Golden Perils #30

---

---

Number 30

Fall 2003

---

---

## Contents

<b>Captain Future in the Comics...Almost</b> by John M. Burt	3
<b>The Golden Perils Newline</b> by Bill Thom	6
<b>The Wilder Curse: A Review</b> by Jeffrey T. Zverloff	54

Comments to: [Goldenperils@AOL.com](mailto:Goldenperils@AOL.com)

<p><b>Publisher/Editor:</b> Howard Hopkins <b>Cover:</b> Howard Hopkins <b>Layouts:</b> Howard Hopkins <b>Price:</b> \$2.95 PDF <b>Back Issues Disc:</b> \$15pp (#s 21-30 PDF)</p>	<p><b>Golden Perils #30</b> copyright September, 2003 by Howard Hopkins. Published by Golden Perils Press. All articles and artwork revert to contributor upon publication. Webpage: <a href="http://howardhopkins.com/page4.htm">http://howardhopkins.com/page4.htm</a></p>
--	--

## Captain Future in the Comics...Almost

by John M. Burt

### The Good Captain

Edmond Hamilton's science fiction hero, Captain Future, is an interesting character, somewhere in the borderland between space opera and superheroics. Premiering in 1940, he appeared in 17 issues of the SF pulp magazine *Captain Future* through 1944, and in 3 issues of *Startling Stories* in 1945-46. Then he returned for a series of shorter, more mature adventures in *Startling Stories* in 1950-51.

A scientist and the son of scientists, Curt Newton, known as Captain Future, roamed the Solar System and the Galaxy in his spaceship, the *Comet*, accompanied in the Doc Savage tradition by an oddly-assorted crew: the Brain (scientist Simon Wright, his brain kept alive artificially in a serum tank), his chastely-adored girlfriend Joan Randall, the metal robot Grag and the android Otho. Also in the Doc Savage tradition, Grag and Otho were constantly bickering and insulting one another, but were obviously inseparable friends. They also had extraterrestrial pets.

### Never Quite There, But Hitting All Around It

With his heroic good looks, skintight red spacesuit, snazzy equipment and colorful supporting characters, Captain Future seems like he'd have made a successful comic book character. Yet somehow,

he's never quite made it into the medium. He's come close, though, as we'll see.

The only comic book character ever to bear the name "Captain Future" in this country is something of a disappointment to fans of Edmond Hamilton's novels. Andrew Bryant, a 20th Century scientist, gained superhuman strength and the power to throw energy bolts by exposing himself to crossing beams of infrared and gamma rays (talk about benefiting from full-spectrum lighting). Not the coolest superhero, but he did manage to appear in *Startling Comics* #s 1-40 and in *America's Best Comics* #s 1-3, 5 and 22.

A spaceman called Major Mars made one appearance in *Exciting Comics* # 1, starring in a story which was basically a stripped-down version of the first Captain Future novel, *Captain Future and the Space Emperor*. Most likely, adaptations of other Captain Future stories to comics were planned for Major Mars, but none ever appeared.

Both these characters, the one Captain Future in name only, the other Captain Future in all but name, were published by a company variously called Standard, Better and Nedor. Under any name, it was the comic book arm of the publisher of the Captain Future pulp magazine, which makes a certain amount of sense. Why they didn't simply adapt Edmond Hamilton's Captain Future stories under the Captain Future name is another, less obvious matter, but it presumably made sense to the publisher at the time.

In DC comics' *Strange Adventure* # 9, 1951, we meet Adam Blake, a young

mutant raised by kindly old Professor Zackro, who estimates Blake's physical and mental powers make him roughly 100,000 years ahead of his time. Zackro is rather anachronistic himself, having built a small spaceship capable of reaching distant planets and an assortment of high-technology tools and weapons which Blake uses under the name Captain Comet.

Blake is a superior man in a red spacesuit, travelling in a ship called the *Cometeer*, assisted by the brilliant but frail Zackro. He doesn't have a bickering robot-android duo backing him up, but aside from Major Mars, he's as close as comics have ever come to Captain Future in this country.

British artist-writer Norman Light created a Captain Future in 1953. He appeared in 15 issues of *Spaceman, Comics of the Future*, published by Gould-Light Co. in London. He was an agent of The Star Rovers Patrol, a galactic police force created in 2020.

Admirers of Captain Future may be amused by a very obscure DC Comics hero, Colonel Future who appeared in two different incarnations, once in 1978 and again in 1982. The first appearance, written by Cary Bates and drawn by Curt Swan, was in *Action Comics* # 484, *Superman* # 327, 378 & 399 (first series). The Colonel was in fact a U.S. Air Force Colonel who happens to be named Edmond Hamilton (in keeping with the Silver Age tradition of naming characters after science fiction writers: Ray Palmer, Wallace West, "Eric and Fran Russell"). When he received a premonition of danger, he would misappropriate an experimental jetpack and other special equipment and go off

to do what always turned out to be the wrong thing (he kept misinterpreting his visions). He was last seen in *Who's Who '85* #5, which declared that after a series of failures, he gave up on the superhero business.

The second Colonel Future was written by Paul Kupperberg and drawn by Curt Swan. It was in *Superman Family* #s 198 and 200 (first series), and in *Who's Who '85*, # 5. Here, the not so good Colonel was named Edmond H. Future and was a scientific criminal leading a para-military robbery gang in the Earth-2 universe.

### **Do Any of These Captains Have A Future?**

Colonel Future is very unlikely to return under that name, since he has already been recycled, combined with DC science fiction hero Gardner Grayle into a new character called the Atomic Knight. Even the Atomic Knight has been revised as a one-shot hero called the Shining Knight, whose high-tech armor was destroyed during his first adventure. Clearly, DC has little interest in Sergeant Grayle, and even less in Colonel Hamilton.

Odd as it may seem, Andrew Bryant or Major Mars might yet reappear in a comic book because Alan Moore, in his *Tom Strong* series for America's Best Comics, has revived several Nedor heroes, "revealing" them to be inhabitants of the world known as Terra Obscura. The Captain and the Major did not appear in the two-issue story, but either might turn up in some future ABC publication.

Captain Comet is by far the most popular of the Captain Future “near misses”, and continues to appear in DC stories, including spectacular recent miniseries such as *The Golden Age* and *Kingdom Come*. It seems likely that he will be popping up in DC comics for a long time to come, and may even get his own title one of these days.

Will Curt Newton himself ever appear in a comic book under his own name? It could still happen. He has fans, after all, and a name and modus operandi that could still strike a chord with a new generation of readers. All it would take is a publisher interested in the project, and willing to pay licensing fees. Depending on legislation and Supreme Court rulings, Captain Future and his supporting cast will fall into the public domain sometime between 2024 and 2034, and then he’ll be fair game for anyone.

### Internet Notes

The best overall Captain Future web site is located at:

[http://pulpgen.com/pulp/captain\\_future/index.html](http://pulpgen.com/pulp/captain_future/index.html)

More information about Terra Obscura, the world apparently shared by Andrew Bryant and Major Mars, can be found at:

<http://blaklion.best.vwh.net/timelineBSN.html>

You can see a very different Major Mars at:

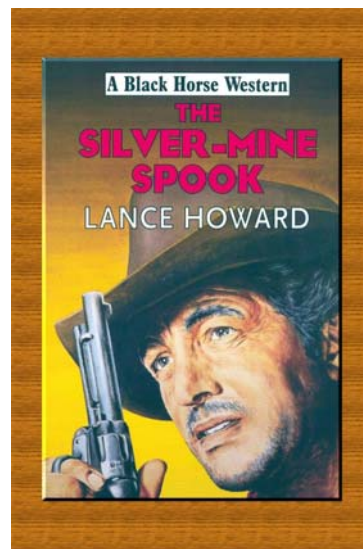
<http://www.mycottage.com/bobburns/MARSI.htm>

Bob Burns’ Major Mars bears no resemblance whatsoever to Captain Future, aside from having worn a red spacesuit at one time, but he is very funny!

A good bio of captain Comet is located at:

<http://www.toonopedia.com/capcomet.htm>

\* \* \*



## The Silver-Mine Spook

by  
**Lance Howard**

**Collectible hardcover from:**

[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and  
[www.whsmith.com](http://www.whsmith.com)

## The Golden Perils Newsline

by Bill Thom



**ADVENTURE HOUSE:** HIGH ADVENTURE #71 (July) featuring Ki-Gor in *The Beast-Gods of Atlantis* by John Peter Drummond is now available for \$7.95 plus shipping. G-8 AND HIS BATTLE ACES #9 (July) featuring *The Dynamite Squadron* is also now available for \$9.95 plus shipping. Shipping is \$2.50 Book Rate (1-3 books) or \$5.15 Priority Mail (1-2 books). Adventure House, 914 Laredo Road, Silver Springs, MD 20901. <http://www.adventurehouse.com>

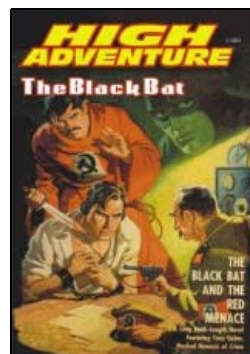


BELARSKI: PULP ART MASTERS is now available. A master at building suspense through figure, perspective, and color, Rudolph Belarski dazzled the newsstand browser with pictorial headlines of vital action scenes pertaining to the interior story. In doing so, he sold magazines and books to a drama-craving audience, and propelled publishing's mass markets, thus infiltrating American minds with the trends and fashions of pop culture. His remarkable versatility as an artist can be seen in the range of his published work in pulp magazines, his exciting paintings appearing on the covers of THRILLING MYSTERY, WINGS, and WAR BIRDS, as well as THE PHANTOM DETECTIVE, MYSTERY BOOK, ARGOSY, and WESTERN ROUND-UP. Boasting over 400 images, this tome takes us on a pulse-pounding, thrilling visual tour of this pulp icon's gallery of works. Softcover, 9"x12", Full Color, \$20. This is just the first book in an ongoing series. Future artists to be spotlighted include Walter Baumhofer, Tom Lovell, H. J. Ward, John Howitt, Jerome Rozen, and John Rozen. This book is highly recommended. UNCOVERED: THE HIDDEN ART OF THE GIRLIE PULPS by Doug Ellis is now available. The colorfully covered, cheaply printed pulp magazine of the 1920s and 30s were a staple of popular culture that offered every genre of readership the sensual thrills, adventures, and entertainments they craved. This tribute to the "bad girls" introduces a wealth of colorful cover art from the likes of PEP, SAUCY STORIES, SPICY ADVENTURE, and BEDTIME STORIES, capturing the provocative sense and taste of what the glory years of pulp magazines had to offer their enthusiastic readers. Hardcover, 12"x9",

200 pages, Full Color, \$40. This book is also highly recommended.



ROSCOES IN THE NIGHT is now available. This softcover collection of Dan Turner stories by Robert Leslie Bellem contains 13 stories, never before reprinted in a mass-market book. It also includes B&W images from movies, covers and information never before released. The Introduction is by John Wooley. Reprinted stories include: *Stock Shot*, *The Million Buck Snatch*, *Dead Man's Bed*, *Girl With Green Eyes*, *Silverscreen Shakedown*, *Witch Hunt*, *Crooner's Caress*, *Action! Camera! Drop-Dead!*, *Death Begins At Forty*, *Dan Turner Deals An Ace*, *Murder for Fame*, *Brunette Bump-Off*, and *Quickie Kill*. It is 7"x10" in size for a retail price of \$17.95 plus shipping.



Coming soon from Adventure House: HIGH ADVENTURE #72 (September) featuring Captain Hazzard in *Python Men of Lost City* by Chester Hawks; HIGH ADVENTURE #73 (November) featuring Secret Agent X in *Ambassador of Doom* by Brant House; HIGH ADVENTURE #74 (January 2004) featuring The Phantom Detective in *The Grim Shadow of Hate* by Robert Wallace. HIGH ADVENTURE #75 (March 2004) featuring The Green Lama in *Crosesus of Murder* by Kendell Foster Crossen. G-8 AND HIS BATTLE ACES #10 (October) featuring *The Dragon Patrol*. G-8 AND HIS BATTLE ACES #11 (January 2004) featuring *The Hurricane Patrol*.



Also coming soon from Adventure House is PULP FICTIONEERS, edited by John Locke. PULP FICTIONEERS

will be published in a 6"x9" softcover for \$20 and a limited edition hardcover \$35. This volume contains essays on the pulp industry by: Thomas Thursday, Arthur J. Burks, Hugh B. Cave, Hugo Gernsback, Wallace R. Bamber, Aron M. Mathieu, George C. Henderson, James W. Egan, Walter Gibson, Henry Kuttner, Chuck Martin, and more. It will be illustrated and 240 pages in length.

This collection is the result of combing through hundreds of issues of writing journals from the pulp era, mostly WRITER'S DIGEST and AUTHOR & JOURNALIST, but also a variety of lesser-known magazines: THE WRITER, THE EDITOR, WRITER'S REVIEW, and two magazines issued by correspondence schools, WRITERS' MARKETS AND METHODS and WRITER'S MONTHLY. One of the surprises of the project was in discovering how many magazines were devoted to the craft of writing at that time. This speaks, in some measure, to the opportunities presented by the pulps to the freelance writer. With hundreds of pulp magazines publishing thousands of stories, there may never have been a better time for making money-selling fiction.

Many of the pulp-related articles in these journals deal with storytelling technique, usually genre-specific, e.g. "Action in Westerns," "Live Your Love Story," or "Why Aren't Your Detective Stories Selling?" Others assess the markets and advise on slanting for specific titles. But another category of article presents behind-the-scenes looks into the pulp world, the rise and fall of the business, the experiences of writers, editors, and publishers. And it is the most interesting and informative of this latter group that PULP FICTIONEERS attempts to gather together.

In other Adventure House news, Darrell Richardson is putting together a book that will feature an issue-by-issue guide to many rare pulps and digests. It is currently entitled THOSE MACABRE PULPS. A new edition of THE ADVENTURE HOUSE GUIDE TO THE PULPS is in preparation.

**ALIAS:** ALIAS Season 1 will be release on DVD September 2nd. The 6-disc box set features: pilot production diary, deleted scenes, "A Mission Around the World," Marshall Finkman's gadget gallery, auditions, Gag reel, audio commentaries, PS2 game sneak peak, DVD-ROM web puzzle, script link, and a Season 3 preview link. The list price is \$69.99. ALIAS Season 2 will be release on DVD December 2nd. The 6-disc box set will include all 22-second season episodes of the series in anamorphic widescreen and Dolby Digital 5.1 audio. Extras will include *The Making of The Telling* documentary (on the season finale), the *Undercover: The Look of Alias* featurette, a season two gag reel, a Monday Night Football parody, a look at the making of the videogame, deleted scenes and audio commentary with members of the cast and crew. A few of these details may be subject to change. The suggested retail price is \$69.99.

**ALIEN:** *Alien* is making a big screen comeback when it gets re-released this Halloween. The film will be getting most, if not all, of the cut footage restored back into the narrative. Final details are still being worked out, but the film's soundtrack may also be remastered to take advantage of today's digital cinema sound formats, and will be positioned as a major fall release, to play on over 2,000 screens. Should this re-release become successful tentative

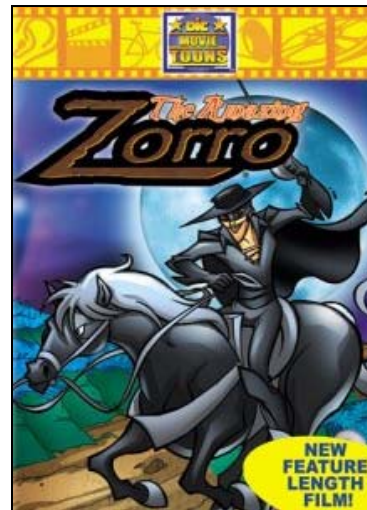


plans have already been set to release James Cameron's restored cut of *Aliens* into theatres next spring.

**ALIEN QUADRILOGY:** The new nine disc boxed set of the ALIEN QUADRILOGY will include the unreleased 170 minute version of *Alien 3*. That's nearly one hour of restored footage. *Alien: Resurrection* will include an alternate opening and ending that includes the crash landing on Earth. *Aliens* will allow viewers to choose between the Theatrical version, which has never been available on DVD before, and the Cameron Director's cut. The 9-disc set includes audio commentaries, documentaries and lots more. Each film will get 2-disc treatment (a disc for the film and a disc of extras), along with a 9th bonus disc of just supplementary material (including the *Alien Legacy* documentary, *Alien Evolution* BBC Documentary, Darkhorse Alien and Alien vs. Predator comics, and the complete collection of Laser Disc features which weren't on the previous DVD box-set. The set is tentatively due for a December 2003 release.

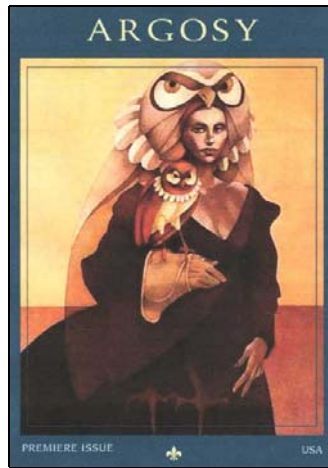
**ALIENS VS. PREDATOR:** The long rumored ALIENS VS. PREDATOR film has gotten a green light. Paul Anderson (RESIDENT EVIL, EVENT HORIZON) will be directing the picture and filming is to begin this October in the Czech capital of Prague. The story will take place on earth – in Antarctica – centering on a scientific expedition aimed at luring and capturing a Predator using Alien eggs as bait. Naturally, these plans go awfully awry, and the humans get caught in the crossfire between two combative alien species. The film will feature a whole new cast of characters, with no one returning from the previous

Alien and Predator movies. The film will have a female protagonist, Alexia "Lex" Homer, a smart, strong, and sexy scientist in her 20s. Joining her on the expedition is an American archaeologist, an Egyptologist, a wealthy industrialist, a drilling expert, and a few tag-alongs. With the exception of Alexia, Anderson is supposedly looking for an all-European cast, so the chances of seeing any popular Hollywood stars in the movie are small. Fox has scheduled the sci-fi project for release on August 6th, 2004.



**THE AMAZING ZORRO:** THE AMAZING ZORRO will be available on DVD September 2nd. This feature length animated film originally aired on Nickelodeon in Fall 2002. The retail price is \$14.95.





**ARGOSY:** Over the Halloween weekend of 2003, Coppervale International will be reviving the classic fiction magazine ARGOSY under Senior Editor Lou Anders. Contributors include Michael Moorcock, Harlan Ellison, Jeffrey Ford, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Andy Duncan, Kai Meyer, Ann Cummins, and Dr. Jean Houston. Acclaimed illustrators Leo and Diane Dillon will be the cover artists, and Steve Rude (of Nexus comics) will illustrate the interiors. Trade paperback-sized, each issue will be comprised of two volumes-the main magazine, and a separately-bound novella-and will be packaged in an illustrated slipcase. At 200 pages, ARGOSY will initially ship on a quarterly schedule, carries advertising, and will retail for \$12.00.

Contributors for the first issue include: Benjamin Rosenbaum - *The Valley of the Giants*; Ann Cummins - *Pyromaniac*; Caitlin R. Kiernan - *Riding the White Bull*; Barry Baldwin - *VE Knights*; Michael Moorcock - *The Mystery of the Texas Twister*; Adam Roberts interviewing Samuel R. Delany and one or two surprises. To be informed when ARGOSY is available to receive subscriptions, send an email to [subscriptions@argosymag.com](mailto:subscriptions@argosymag.com)

**ARKHAM HOUSE:** Arkham House has announced that SELECTED LETTERS OF CLARK ASHTON SMITH will be published in early November. Pre-orders are now being accepted on the Arkham House website at <http://www.arkhamhouse.com>

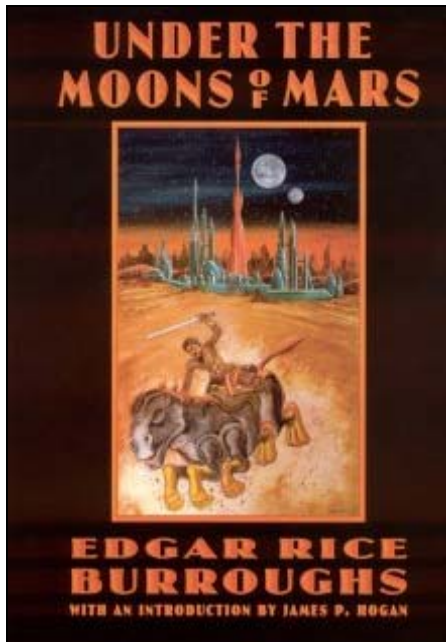
**ASH-TREE PRESS:** The following titles are scheduled for August 2003: NIGHT CREATURES by Seabury Quinn Edited and with an Introduction by Peter Ruber & Joe Wrzos; THE GHOST PIRATES by William Hope Hodgson with an Introduction by A. F. Kidd, and an Afterword by Douglas A. Anderson.

**BACK NUMBERS CAN BE EASILY PROCURED:** Warren Harris's apazine, BACK NUMBERS CAN BE EASILY PROCURED #6 (April 2003) and #7 (July 2003) are now available. Visit Bill Burns' eFanzines website at <http://efanzines.com/> and download #1 through #7.

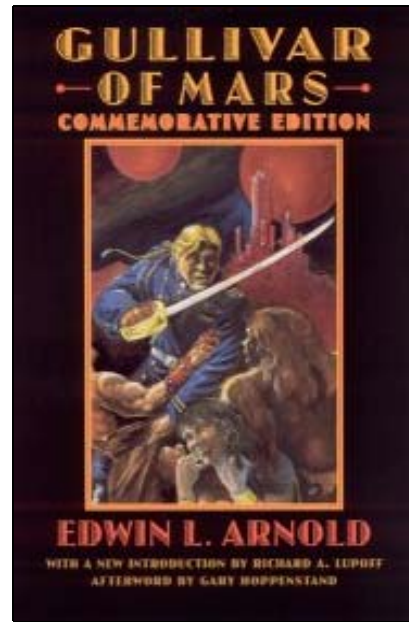
**BATTLESTAR GALACTICA:** The Sci-Fi channel's BATTLESTAR GALACTICA mini-series is set to premiere Sunday, December 7 at 9:00/8:00c with part two airing the following night, also at 9:00/8:00c.

Universal Studios Home Video is set to release the original on DVD. "Battlestar Galactica: The Complete Epic Series" will reach stores on October 21. The six-disc set includes all 24 episodes of the original series, fully remastered in 4:3 full screen and Dolby Digital 5.1 surround (the original mono tracks are also included). Among the plentiful extras are two "making of" featurettes ("Insight into the Making of Battlestar Galactica," "Creation of Battlestar Galactica: an Interview with

creator Glen A. Larson”), deleted scenes, commentary for selected episodes by the cast and crew, a visual effects featurette with John Dykstra, the “Sci-Fi Special: Making of the Show,” “Composing the Music: Stu Phillips and Glen A. Larson,” production notes, a sneak preview of the new Sci-Fi Channel mini-series and a trailer for the forthcoming video game. Retail is set at \$119.95. The studio will also re-issue its single-disc **BATTLESTAR GALACTICA: THE ORIGINAL MOVIE** on the same date to tie-in with the promotion.



**BISON BOOKS:** Now available in Bison Book’s Frontiers of Imagination series are: **SKYLARK THREE** By E. E. "Doc" Smith, **GULLIVAR OF MARS** By Edwin L. Arnold, and **UNDER THE MOONS OF MARS** By Edgar Rice Burroughs. **UNDER THE MOONS OF MARS** collects the first three books of Edgar Rice Burroughs’s brilliantly conceived Barsoom series, *A Princess of Mars*, *The Gods of Mars*, and *The Warlord of Mars*.

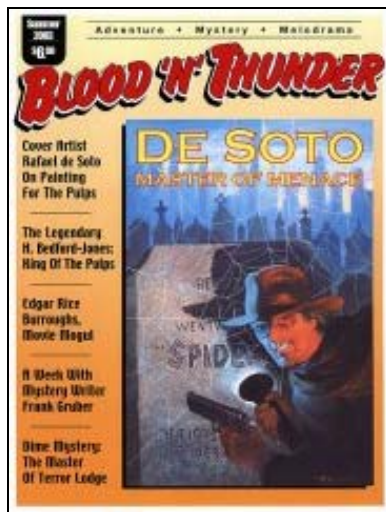


Arriving in fall/winter 2003 are: **THE ETERNAL SAVAGE** By Edgar Rice Burroughs and **A JOURNEY IN OTHER WORLDS** By John Jacob Astor.

**BLACK DOG BOOKS:** Tom Roberts’ two latest additions to his Black Dog Books reprint line are now available. **CORPSE ON ICE** by Robert Leslie Bellem contains four more tales from the case files of Dan Turner, P.I. Included are *Corpse in Ice* from **HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVE MAGAZINE** (09/43); *Death’s Passport* from **SPICY DETECTIVE STORIES** (12/40); *Homicide Hunch* from **HOLLYWOOD DETECTIVE MAGAZINE** (02/43); *Death’s Bright Halo* from **SPICY DETECTIVE STORIES** (10/35).

The second new title is **JEWELS OF JAVA** by H. Bedford-Jones. Black Dog Books presents yet another volume of previously uncollected or reprinted works from the prolific typewriter of Henry Bedford-Jones. This volume brings together four adventures of how man’s greed and lust for riches leads to murder in the classic Bedford-Jones

manner! These are the same format as previous Black Dog Book publications, 5.5 X 8.5 inches in size. These books are priced at \$9 each. Black Dog Books are available from Adventure House. Black Dog Books are also available from Mike Chomko where individually, each of the above titles is \$11 postage paid. Orders over \$25 are discounted 10% and shipped postpaid. Contact Mike at [chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net). Michael Chomko, 2217 W. Fairview Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6542



**BLOOD 'N' THUNDER: BLOOD 'N' THUNDER #5** is now available! The fifth big issue (Summer 2003) is packed end to end with articles and reviews.

The cover story is *De Soto, Master of Menace*, a tribute to the great pulp painter Rafael de Soto. The front cover features a heretofore-unpublished de Soto painting of the Spider—not a pulp-cover recreation, but an original composition commissioned by a fan in the late '80s. Inside, de Soto candidly reminisces about his career in a first-person essay pieced together from several videotaped conversations. Accompanying de Soto's recollections are a choice selection of his pulp covers and a brace of previously unpublished

pencil sketches for covers (including a SPIDER) that were rejected by Popular Publications back in the '40s.

Peter Ruber's KING OF THE PULPS, a comprehensive overview of the career of the legendary H. Bedford-Jones, is taken from the book Peter recently co-authored with Darrell Richardson and Victor Berch. It's a substantial essay that discusses HB-J's writing habits and style, and identifies the long-running series he did for such pulps as ARGOSY and BLUE BOOK. Peter's article is a great primer for those who are familiar with the name but not the work, and it too is accompanied by numerous cover reprints.

The "Tricks of the Trade" department features a fascinating piece by prolific mystery novelist Frank Gruber. *For This is the Way I Make My Bread*, originally published in a 1941 issue of WRITER'S DIGEST, Gruber describes an average week—during which he finds innumerable ways to avoid sitting down in front of a typewriter. Loaded with references to the era's top writers and editors of pulps, this delightful article paints a fascinating picture of a writer's life during the heyday of fiction magazines.

In this issue's "From the Top Shelf," BnT editor Ed Hulse reviews the March 1933 issue of DIME MYSTERY BOOK—the one issue not covered in Shawn Danowski's excellent survey of the magazine in Mike Chomko's PURPLE PROSE. And it's a good issue, too, featuring a full-length novel in the Sax Rohmer tradition.

"Cliffhanger Classics" takes a lengthy look at NEW ADVENTURES OF TARZAN, the 1935 serial produced in part by Edgar Rice Burroughs himself. While this film has been covered before—especially in the ERB

fanzines—our piece includes previously undisclosed information about the production, along with extensive quotes from Tarzan himself, 96-year-old Herman Brix (aka Bruce Bennett), who recently granted BnT an exclusive interview. In this lengthy article we debunk several of the oft-reported myths surrounding the NAOt serial.

BLOOD 'N' THUNDER #5 is 36 pages and sports a full-color cover for \$6.00 (postpaid). Contact: Ed Hulse, 2467 Route 10 East, Mountain Club, Bldg. 15, Apt. 4B, Morris Plains, NJ 07950.

**BLUE MUSHROOM BOOKS:**

GUNS IN THE SHADOWS, a softcover collection of stories from the gangster pulps, is now available. This volume includes stories from such pulps as DOUBLE-ACTION GANG, RACKETEER STORIES, TRUE GANG LIFE, TRUE GANGSTER STORIES, UNDERWORLD MAGAZINE, ALL STAR DETECTIVE, GANGLAND STORIES, and GANGSTER STORIES. Authors included will be Robert Leslie Bellem, Edwin Burkholder, Hugh B. Cave, Norman Daniels, J. Allan Dunn, Alexander Faust, G. T. Fleming-Roberts, D. B. McCandless, Norvell Page, Cyril Plunkett, and E. Hoffmann Price. 5.25" x 8.25", 224 pages, full color cover. GUNS IN THE SHADOWS retails for \$16 plus \$4 shipping and handling. Order from: Blue Mushroom Books, POBox 383, Morehead KY 40351-0383.

The following publications are in the works from Blue Mushroom Books. No publications dates have been set yet.

THE WEIRD DETECTIVE ADVENTURES OF WADE HAMMOND by Paul Chadwick. This book collects 10 of the best Wade Hammond from DETECTIVE-

DRAGNET and TEN DETECTIVE ACES. \$16.00, 5.25 x 8.25, 224 pages, full color cover, interior art from the original appearance of the stories.

GUNS OF THE GRIFFON by Arch Whitehouse. This collects the first eight Griffon stories from FLYING ACES. \$16.00, 5.25" x 8.25", 240 pages, full color cover, interior art from the original appearance of the stories.

A Dan Turner collection is also possible next year.

**BOLD VENTURE PRESS:** Coming in the Fall is the trade paperback collection COMPLIMENTS OF THE DOMINO LADY. The world of pulp magazine crime fighters was largely a (men's only) Club, but there were exceptions. One of them, THE DOMINO LADY, is targeted in a new trade paperback from Bold Venture Press, with a sensational, new cover by JIM STERANKO.

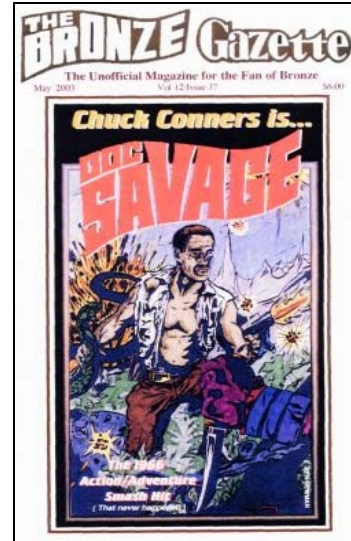
"We'll revive the Domino Lady in the beauty and style with which she was created," Steranko says. "When I accepted the assignment, I already had most of the image composed on the canvas of my imagination: dangerous, elegant, mysterious and sexy! She's the quintessential '30s pulp vixen, a masked manhunter in a noir deco world, right out of a Warner Bros. thriller." The Steranko portfolio is a virtual Who's Who of classic fictional icons. For Marvel comics, he set the pace for Captain America, the X-Men, and Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D. In other media, he redefined such characters as The Green Hornet, Sherlock Holmes, James Bond, Philip Marlowe, Indiana Jones, Mike Hammer, and The Phantom, plus a phalanx of pulp heroes, including Conan, Doc Savage, G-8 and his Battle Aces, Norgil the Magician, Buck Rogers, and The Shadow, for which he

painted 30 covers and created the definitive paperback version of the character. Now, he'll add another credit to his lineup. The Domino Lady incorporates four Steranko favorites: pulp fiction, mystery, art deco, and beautiful women. One of a handful of series femme fatales depicted on pulp covers, she starred in six stories, originally published in SAUCY ROMANTIC STORIES and MYSTERY ADVENTURE STORIES—two of the infamous “spicy” pulps from Fiction Magazines Inc.

Author Lars Anderson pitted the Domino Lady against vicious gangsters and secret societies, while maintaining the breezy, lighthearted style of a romantic cinematic comedy. As the Domino Lady, socialite Ellen Patrick devoted her life to fighting the politicians and criminals responsible for her father's murder—but still makes time for penthouse parties, bubble baths, ballroom dances, and romantic evenings with handsome playboys on both sides of the law.

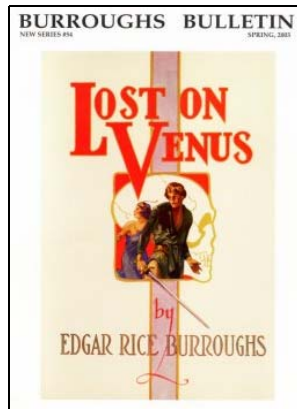
COMPLIMENTS OF THE DOMINO LADY marks the first time that her lethal adventures have been collected in a single volume. The new 96-page edition will retail for \$12.95.

THE SPIDER: #5 *Empire of Doom* and #6 *Citadel of Hell* are both ready for the printer! On-sale dates are not yet firm. Future issues of the Spider will feature one small change. The type-size will be reduced slightly to bring the page count down to 96 pages (from 112 pages) per issue. This will reduce the expense of producing each issue without compromising the quality of the books and should result in an increase in the publication schedule.



**BRONZE GAZETTE: THE BRONZE GAZETTE #37** is now available. This issue is a “what if” movie issue that speculates on who should play Doc Savage and his aides in various time periods. Articles include: *If the Doc Savage Movie Were Being Cast in 1960* by Sam Pepper; *Selling Doc Savage* by Rick Huey; *Review: The Adventures of Doc Savage - A Definitive Chronology*; *Savage Seek-A-Word* by Jon S. Aiken; *Doc Savage Comic Reprint: The Wig Thief*; *Editors Corner*, *News Update*, and *Letters to the Editor*. Full Color front and back covers.

Subscriptions to THE BRONZE GAZETTE are available for issues 38, 39 and 40 at this time. Subscriptions are \$16.50/3 issues in USA; \$18.00/3 issues Canada; \$22.00/3 issues Foreign. Make checks or money orders payable to Green Eagle Publications. U.S. currency only. Individual issues are available for \$6 (U.S.), \$6.50 (Canada) and \$8 (Foreign) each (includes postage). Contact Green Eagle Publications, 2900 Standiford Ave 16B/PMB #136, Modesto, Ca 95350.



**BURROUGHS BULLETIN:** The Spring 2003 issue of THE BURROUGHS BULLETIN is now available. This issue features articles on Burroughs' fifty-third story, *Lost on Venus*. Articles include: *Tarzan and the River II* by R. E. Prindle and Dr. Anton Polarion; *Dell Tarzan #1* by Duane Adams; Picture Gallery: William Stout; Tarzan 90th Birthday Panel at the San Diego Comic-Con; *Pirate Blood a First Draft? Not Likely!* By Robert L. Barrett; Letters to the Editor and Bibliographer's Corner.

Subscriptions are \$28 for four quarterly issues from: The Burroughs Bibliophiles, University of Louisville Library, Louisville, KY 40292. Single issues are available from The Stars Our Destination (847-570-5919) for \$7 each plus shipping.

**THE CHRONICLES OF CONAN VOLUME ONE TPB:** In the early 1970s, Robert E. Howard's Conan the Barbarian exploded on to the comics scene. Writer Roy Thomas teamed with a young artist named Barry Smith, and together the two mapped out some of the most stirring and memorable Conan adventures to come along since those written by Howard himself. Over the course of their 24 issues run together, Thomas and Smith defined Conan for a

generation of comic's readers, and now those stories are collected here in a series of trade paperbacks. Featuring completely remastered color and text corrections, and containing material not available for nearly thirty years, these books are the perfect companions to the upcoming all-new Conan series from Dark Horse. Volume One will reprint issues #1-8. Soft Cover, 144 pages, Full Color, and retails for \$15.95. The on sale date is September 17, 2003.



**THE CHRONICLES OF CONAN VOLUME TWO TPB: THE CHRONICLES OF CONAN VOL. 2: TOWER OF THE ELEPHANT & OTHER STORIES** will be available on November 26. Compiling the early Conan the Barbarian stories by writer Roy Thomas and artist Barry Windsor-Smith, this collection contains some of the most powerful and compelling comic stories ever created. Following Robert E. Howard's pulp hero Conan through the early part of his life, Thomas and Windsor-Smith (then going by the name "Barry Smith") wove together pieces of the fantasy, horror, and science fiction genres, all built around the framework of Howard's original fiction. Featuring completely remastered color and text

corrections, these stories have been unavailable in color since their original publication, nearly thirty years ago. Volume Two will reprint issues #9-15. Soft Cover, 144 pages, Full Color, and retails for \$15.95.

**CLARK ASHTON SMITH:** The Eldritch Dark Monthly Newsletter announced that they found copies of the typescripts of two, stories written by Clark Ashton Smith that were believed to be lost. The first of these is *The Red World of Polaris*, a story written for WONDER STORIES in August 1930. A sequel to *Marooned in Andromeda*, this 13,000 word adventure of Captain Volmar features some fine poetic and atmospheric writing, and was rejected by editor David Lasser for “not enough action.” The second story, *The Face by the River*, is a 2500 word psychological ghost story dating from October 1930.

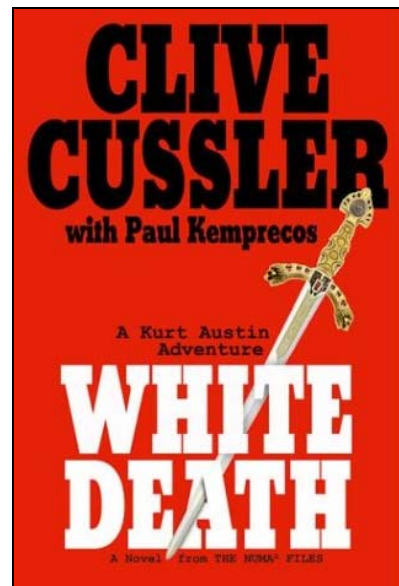
Night Shade Books will publish RED WORLD OF POLARIS by Clark Ashton Smith in September 2003. The Limited edition (500 copies) will contain all of the stories, edited by Smith scholars Scott Connors and Ron Hilgar, as well as an introduction. Night Shade is also working on artwork and a celebrity afterword, to be announced as soon as it is nailed down. The retail price is \$35 plus shipping. Both editions of this book are sold out at the publisher. Copies may still be available from Shocklines at

<http://www.store.yahoo.com/shocklines/redwoofpobyc.html>

A publisher has been found for *The Face by the River*, but they aren't quite ready to make an announcement just yet. Visit the Eldritch Dark website at <http://www.eldritchdark.com/>



**CLAYGUY:** Clayguy.com has added a new Johnny Littlejohn figure to the line of Doc Savage figures. Already available are Doc Savage, Monk Mayfair, Ham Brooks, Renny Renwick, and Pat Savage. Long Tom Roberts and a rogues' gallery of villains are coming soon. All of the figures are hand finished resin castings from original sculptures. You can purchase painted figures (\$39 for Doc, \$35 for Doc's aids) or unpainted kits (\$20). Visit Clayguy.com at <http://clayguy.com/id9.html>





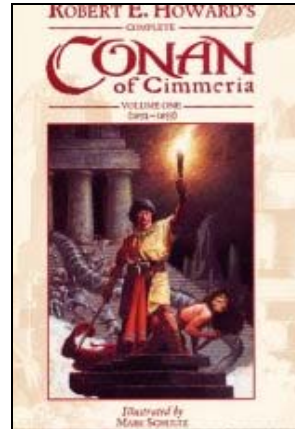
**CLIVE CUSSLER:** The new Clive Cussler novel, *WHITE DEATH*, is now available in bookstores. *WHITE DEATH* is the next book in the “Tales from the NUMA Files” series featuring Kurt Austin. Austin and his partner, Joe Zavala, are called in to free survivors trapped inside a Danish warship sunk after a collision with the flagship of the radical environmentalist group Sentinels of the Sea. After a successful rescue, Austin's investigations lead him from the environmentalists to the Oceanus Corporation, a shadowy fish farming organization. Austin and Zavala discover that Oceanus Corporation wants control of the seas, and will kill anyone who stands in the way of its total rule. Hardcover, 448 pages, ISBN: 0399150412, \$26.95.

The new Dirk Pitt novel, *Trojan Odyssey*, is due in December. This will reportedly be Cussler’s last novel.

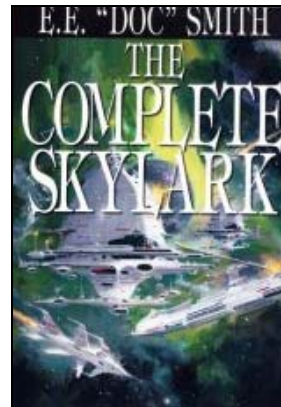


**COMIC BOOK MARKETPLACE:** COMIC BOOK MARKETPLACE #101 is now available and features one pulp-related article. *The Shadow* (The Archie Version) is by Paul Castiglia and runs 5 pages. COMIC BOOK MARKETPLACE #101 is 84-pages for \$5.95. COMIC BOOK

MARKETPLACE is available in comic shops or direct from Gemstone Publishing. MasterCard or VISA orders call 800-322-7978. CBM #101 is \$8 postpaid.



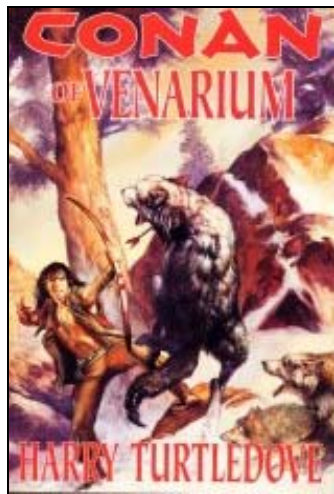
**COMPLETE CONAN OF CIMMERIA:** Wandering Star has announced that THE COMPLETE CONAN OF CIMMERIA Volume 3 will be illustrated by Gregory Manchess.



**THE COMPLETE SKYLARK:** THE COMPLETE SKYLARK by E. E. “Doc” Smith is now available in an omnibus hardcover edition from the Science Fiction Book Club. The omnibus edition includes *The Skylark of Space*, *Skylark Three*, *Skylark of Valeron*, and *Skylark Duquesne* and clocks in at 672 pages. The cover is by Vincent DiFate. The price for this

members only edition is \$14.99 plus shipping. <http://www.sfbc.com/>

**CONAN AND THE SPIDER GOD:** CONAN AND THE SPIDER GOD is now available. Conan returns in a reprint of the late L. Sprague de Camp's Conan and the Spider God, a "Conan pastiche" (originally published in 1980). When Conan is accused of abducting a queen, he follows her kidnappers to the temple of Zath, the spider-god of Yezud, where an epic battle ensues. This is a mass-market paperback from TOR Books for \$6.99.



**CONAN OF VENARIUM:** CONAN OF VENARIUM by Harry Turtledove is now available in bookstores. Harry Turtledove contributes his first novel to the Conan saga. It is a tale of Conan in his youth, in the year or so before he becomes the wandering adventurer we know from the tales of Robert E. Howard and others. On the verge of adulthood, he lives in a Cimmerian hamlet, caring for his ailing mother, working in his father's smithy, and casting his eye on the weaver's daughter next door. Then war comes: an invasion by the Aquilonian Empire. Conan burns to join the fight, but he's deemed too

young. Then, from the border country, comes an unbelievable report: The Aquilonians have smashed the Cimmerian defending forces, and can rule as they please. Soon their heavily garrisoned forts dot the countryside. Their settlers follow after, carving homesteads out of other men's land. Every Cimmerian longs to drive the intruders out with fire and sword, but they must stay their hands, for the Aquilonians have promised savage reprisals. Then, intolerably, the Aquilonian commander takes a wholly dishonorable interest in the weaver's daughter - and he's not a man to wait, or even ask permission. It's not a recipe for a peaceable outcome. Published by Tor Books. Hardcover, 256 pages, \$24.95.

**CONAN:** Todd McFarlane productions will be releasing a series of Conan toys, including figures based on the classic Frank Frazetta covers. Del Rey will be publishing the first of their Robert E. Howard books this December when THE COMING OF CONAN is released in trade paperback format.



### **CONAN - NEW COMIC SERIES:**

Dark Horse Comics has announced that Cary Nord has been chosen as the artist for their upcoming, new, ongoing Conan the Barbarian comic series. Kurt Busiek will act as writer on the project. Nord has previously worked for Marvel, DC, WildStorm, and Dark Horse. His credits include DAREDEVIL, MUTANT X, CATWOMAN, RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT, and more. The first issue of the new Conan series is slated to debut in the first quarter of 2004.

Busiek offered up a few details of what readers will find in the new ongoing series. "We're starting off with the young Conan, just after he leaves Cimmeria and heads out to explore the civilized lands. We'll be following him through his varied and violent career, as a thief, a mercenary, a soldier, a pirate and more. With any luck, I'll be writing the series all the way until he becomes King of Aquilonia, and beyond. "We'll be staying very faithful to Conan's 'history' as depicted by Robert E. Howard—adapting the Howard stories as we come to them in the progression of events, and building on the hints and references dropped in those stories to flesh out the adventures he has in between." How much will Busiek draw from Robert E. Howard's original Conan canon? "As much as humanly possible. What I've been told by both the editors and the CEO of Conan Properties is, 'Be faithful, faithful, faithful. We want this to be as much like the real Conan, the true Conan, the original Conan as possible.' And since that's exactly what I want to do, we have no trouble there."

**CONAN ON DVD:** The two-disc DVD set of CONAN THE BARBARIAN (Special Edition) & CONAN THE DESTROYER is now available. Special

Features include Audio Commentary; Special Effects footage; Deleted Footage; Making Of; Parental Lock; Trailer; Production stills "The Conan Archives"; Production Notes; Trailer. The retail price is \$29.99.

**CONAN THE LEGEND:** Coming in November from Dark Horse Comics is CONAN THE LEGEND. This is a one-shot 32-page comic book prologue to the new ongoing series set to debut in early 2004! CONAN THE LEGEND will be available on 12 November and is bargain-priced at only 25¢. Here is what Dark Horse has to say: Stoke the primeval fires of your mind with this bargain-priced introductory one-shot! CONAN THE LEGEND features a 16-page prelude story introducing readers to the sprawling, lusty, battle-filled legend of Conan, establishing characters and situations important to the series, and setting the stage for the adventures to come. Plus a sketchbook gallery of artist Cary Nord's stunning work and a mini-interview with writer Kurt Busiek.

CONAN THE LEGEND is designed to serve as the perfect introduction to Conan and the new Conan series, and as such is bargain-priced at 25¢ — the same price as the very first appearance of Conan, in the classic pulp magazine WEIRD TALES, back in 1932. An ideal way for anyone to get a taste of the action and thrills to come, before the ongoing series begins in 2004.





**CONAN THE SLAYER MINI-BUST:**

Coming this September from Dark Horse Comics is the Conan the Barbarian Mini-Bust. One of the strongest characters of heroic fiction is back with a vengeance - Conan! The brooding Cimmerian is a seething dynamo of savagery and power. Unfettered by the conventions of society, he cuts a swath of action and adventure across the landscape of author Robert E. Howard's imagination, locked in mortal combat with the fantastic denizens of his undreamed of world. Sculptor Jeffery Scott, well-known for his long tenure at Gentle Giant Studios, has captured the true essence of Conan. Exacting in its details, this piece brings forward a sculptural interpretation of Conan that delivers the goods. The mini-bust is 7" high, packaged in a deluxe full-color box, a limited edition, and retails for \$49.99. The on sale date is September 17, 2003. This item can be preordered from Things From Another World at <http://www.darkhorse.com/products/profile.html?sku=12708>



**CONAN MINI-BUST #2:** Dark Horse Comics second mini-bust in their Conan series will be available in December.

This bust is another masterpiece of savagery from sculptor Jeffery Scott and the painting and production team at Gentle Giant Studios. This piece features Robert E. Howard's immortal warrior intertwined in a fearsome death struggle with a gigantic snake. In a piece that burns with the bloody fury of hell, the hard-to-define but obvious-when-seen quality that is Conan burns brightly. The bust is approximately 7" high, packaged in deluxe full-color box, includes certificate of authenticity signed by the sculptor, limited, numbered edition of 3,500 pieces, and will retail for \$49.99. The on-sale date is December 17. This item can be preordered from Things From Another World at [http://www.darkhorse.com/products/pg\\_profile/sku\\_12812/sec\\_search/index.html](http://www.darkhorse.com/products/pg_profile/sku_12812/sec_search/index.html)

**COVER UPS:** Cover Ups is a new Internet mailing list that is devoted to sharing, trading, and discussing pulp covers. Anyone interested in joining should go to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cover\\_Ups/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Cover_Ups/)



**CTHULHU LIVES! STATUE:** From the fertile and demented imagination of H.P. Lovecraft sprang forth the ultimate embodiment of xenomorphic evil, the Great Cthulhu! Now, Sam Greenwell presents this icon of the Great Old One, sculpted as if it were an ancient relic dating back to the dawn of pre-history. This pre-painted statue of Cthulhu measures 4.5" tall and is limited to 1,500 pieces. Scheduled to ship in September 2003. The retail price is \$34.95. The Cthulhu Lives! Statue can be pre-ordered at your local comic shop. The Diamond Item Code is JUN033354.

**CTHULHU PLUSH HAND PUPPET:** Dark Elder God that devours men's souls... or a cute hand puppet?! Give your next puppet show that extra special touch with a monster that wants to devour the Earth! Your hand fits into both arms and his tentacles, so you can grab with all. Measures 12" tall by 12" wide by 6" deep. Scheduled to ship in September 2003. The retail price is \$19.95. The Cthulhu Plush Hand Puppet can be pre-ordered at your local comic shop. The Diamond Item Code is JUN033305.

**DARK ANGEL:** The first season DVD boxed set of James Cameron's Dark Angel is now available. The retail price

is \$59.98. The second and final season is slated for an October 2003 release. **DEVIL'S CREW:** With PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN doing well at the box office, it looks like Hollywood wants to make more of the same. It was announced that MGM has bought the spec script DEVIL'S CREW to develop as a feature film. Written by Ravi Bains and Alex Harakis, the script is set in 1718 and follows the adventures of one Lt. Robert Maynard, an officer in the Royal Navy. Maynard has volunteered for the unenviable mission of bringing to justice the infamous pirate captain known as Blackbeard, a task that the Navy considers a suicide mission.



**DOC SAVAGE NAMEPLATE:** Michael Bare has produced a Doc Savage nameplate. It is approximately 2"x4" but can be cut down to any size up to the name itself. The price is \$8.00, postage paid. Money Orders sent to Michael Bare, 11870 Mansa Court, Fountain Valley, CA 92708. Visit Michael's website at <http://home.cshore.com/bucwheat/repl.htm> to view the nameplate.



**DUCK DOGERS:** Daffy Duck returns to play Duck Dodgers in an all-new, half-hour action/comedy animated series for Cartoon Network. **DUCK DODGERS** showcases classic Looney Tunes characters Daffy Duck and Porky Pig in the 24th 1/2 century as they attempt to protect the planet Earth from its enemies. Also appearing will be Marvin the Martian as The Martian Commander. Cartoon Network will premiere the original series from Warner Bros on 23 August at 11:30AM.

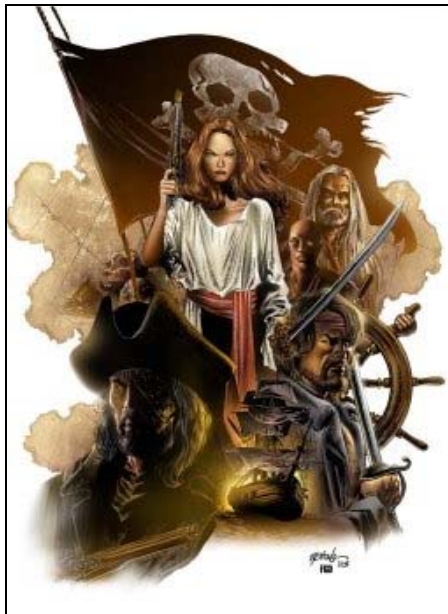
**DUM-DUM 2003:** DUM-DUM 2003 will be held on August 28-31, 2003 in Louisville, Kentucky. **Hotel:** The Galt House, 4th Avenue & Main Street at the Ohio River, Louisville, Kentucky 40202. **Registration:** \$75 per person. Please make checks payable to "Burroughs Bibliophiles" and mail to Burroughs Memorial Collection, University of Louisville, Elkstrom Library, Louisville KY 40292. **Reservations:** 800-626-1814 **Rates:** Single and Double rooms - \$89, Triple Rooms - \$99, Quads - \$109. Be sure to mention the Burroughs Bibliophiles to get the convention rates. **Huckster Room:** Open from Thursday through Saturday evening. Twenty

tables with one white tablecloth and two chairs have been reserved for \$35 each. More tables will be supplied as needed. **Celebrity Guests:** Danton Burroughs (grandson of ERB), Boris Vallejo (Tarzan artist), Max Allan Collins (author of ERB mystery, The Pearl Harbor Mystery), Denny Miller (Tarzan actor #12), Miles O'Keeffe (Tarzan actor #16). **Activities:** ERB Film Festival, Wine and cheese social, tours of the Burroughs Memorial Collection and ERB exhibit on the ground floor of the library at the University of Louisville, huckster room, annual Burroughs Bibliophiles auction, Annual Banquet and Awards Program, Sunday Farewell Brunch.

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS AND THE SILVER SCREEN:** EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS AND THE SILVER SCREEN VOLUME 4 - THE LOCATIONS by Jerry L. Schneider is now available. ERB AND THE SILVER SCREEN is an exhaustive illustrated multi-volume history of the fifty-six feature length films and serials, the television films, and over 185 television episodes that have been created based on the works of Edgar Rice Burroughs. It is the FIRST book to deal with all the authorized American films and television shows based on his writings. The author has gone to original sources for much of the material in the book: the films, the filming scripts, the media trade papers, the newspapers, and other sources.

Volume 4 - THE LOCATIONS is a hardbound book with an illustrated color cover, and contains over 300 pages and over 350 illustrations. You will find histories and information (including driving directions to many of the locations) on over 85 locations utilized

in the films and television shows including the movie ranches and the studios and their backlots. Illustrated with then and now photos, 10 maps, and 10 pages of color photographs. The book will retail for \$75 plus shipping/handling.



**EL CAZADOR:** EL CAZADOR, the new pirate comic series from Crossgen Entertainment, will debut in September. It is written by Chuck Dixon and illustrated by Steve Epting. Writer Chuck Dixon had the following to say at Megacon in Florida.

“EL CAZADOR is set in the 1600s, and is a period pirate adventure set on earth in the past – so we’ll be seeing the Caribbean, the African Coast, the pirate rounds – all of that,” Dixon said. “We’re in the middle ground between strict historical accuracy and an Errol Flynn movie. We’ll be buckling many swashes.” Given the slight confusion that can arise when seeing the name El Cazador (with the male-referring El) in front of the Spanish word for ‘hunter,’ Dixon explained

**ERBVILLE PRESS:** ERBville Press announced the forthcoming publication of the SEVENTH volume in the Edgar Rice Burroughs’ Uniform Edition Hardcover Collection: TARZAN AND THE HUNS. This is the original magazine version of TARZAN THE UNTAMED. Illustrated with the original book artwork by J. Allen St. John; new color frontispiece by David Burton. The price: \$40.95 postpaid in the United States; \$51.95 postpaid for the rest of the world. The pre-publication order deadline is September 15, 2003. The publication date is October 15, 2003.

ERBville Press announced the forthcoming publication of the EIGHTH volume in the Edgar Rice Burroughs’ Uniform Edition Hardcover Collection: TARZAN AND THE VALLEY OF LUNA. Illustrated with the original book artwork by J. Allen St. John and a color frontispiece of the original magazine cover. The price: \$40.95 postpaid in the United States; \$51.95 postpaid for the rest of the world. The pre-publication order deadline is October 15, 2003. The publication date is November 15, 2003.

You can order online at the ERBville Press website at <http://www.angelfire.com/film/locationbooks/uniform.htm>



**FADING SHADOWS:** Now available is ACTION ADVENTURE STORIES #126 featuring The Lone Eagle in *Warriors Wings* by Lt. Scott Morgan and *Six Gun Scorn* by Arch Whitehouse from FLYING ACES November 1939; ACTION ADVENTURE STORIES #127 featuring The Phantom Detective in *Murder Cracks Down*, and ACTION ADVENTURE STORIES #128 featuring The Lone Eagle in *High Ramparts* by Lt. Scott Morgan and *North Sea Nightmare* by George Bruce, from SKY FIGHTERS, August 1937. Also available is BEHIND THE MASK #65 featuring *Kwa of the Jungle* by Paul Regard from THRILLING ADVENTURES, August 1937 and *Fangs of the Jungle* by Capt. Walt R. Bethel from WORLD ADVENTURER, February 1934.

Coming soon in ACTION ADVENTURE STORIES are: #129 September 2003: *Murder Rides The Skies* (Phantom Detective); #130 October 2003: *Champion of Destiny* (Lone Eagle); #131 November 2003: *Curse of the Crimson Horde* (Secret Agent X) originally was written as the 2nd Captain Hazzard story; #132 December 2003: *Outlaws of the Moccasins* (Masked Rider); #133 January 2004: *The Medieval Murders* (Phantom Detective); #134 February 2004: *Winged Peril* (Lone Eagle); #135 March 2004: *Brand of the Quanahy Clan* (Masked Rider); #136 April 2004: *The Case of the Poison Formula* (Phantom Detective); #137 May 2004: *Hell Over America* (Lone Eagle); #138 June 2004: *Wide Open Town* (Masked Rider); and #139 July 2004: *Death In The Desert* (Phantom Detective).

Each issue is 5.5 by 8.5 inches in size and runs approximately 80 pages. One issue is \$6.30 postpaid. Two or

more issues are \$6 each postpaid. Not responsible for packages lost in the mail. Insurance is \$1.10 per \$50.00 value and highly recommended. Order from: Fading Shadows, Inc., 504 E. Morris Street, Seymour, TX 76380-2212. Visit the Fading Shadows website at <http://www.geocities.com/fadingshadow1/index.html>

#### **FAFH RD AND THE GRAY**

**MOUSER:** SWORDS IN THE MIST by Fritz Leiber is volume three of the chronicles of the adventures of Fafhrd and The Grey Mouser. This is a mass-market paperback to be published by Pocket Books in August. SWORDS AGAINST WIZARDRY by Fritz Leiber is volume four of the chronicles of the adventures of Fafhrd and The Grey Mouser. This is a mass-market paperback to be published by Pocket Books in November. Both titles will feature cover illustrations by Jim Steranko and run 240 pages for \$6.99.

**FEARLESS:** The WB has announced that FEARLESS has been pushed back to mid-season. FEARLESS will air on Tuesday evening at 9:00 PM following GILMORE GIRLS.

**FIREFLY:** Talking to SciFi Wire, actor Nathan Fillion spilled the beans on a possible FIREFLY movie. "Right now, our hopes and dreams are pinned on a FIREFLY movie, which TV can't cancel us out of," Fillion said in an interview at the May 18 Saturn Awards, where he was honored with Cinescape's Face of the Future Award. "We're talking silver screen, wide release, big old deal. So everything's looking very positive, so we're going to keep our fingers crossed." Series creator Joss Whedon would write and direct the movie, Fillion



added. Meantime, the show will also gain new life on DVD, which Fillon is currently working on. "I just finished commentary with Alan Tudyk [Wash] on 'War Stories,' an episode where he and I got tortured. And then, Monday, I go in to do audio commentary with Joss Whedon for 'Serenity,' the two-hour pilot." Fox has announced a street date of December 9th for the 13 episode DVD boxed set of FIREFLY. This set will include the three unaired episodes.

### FLASH GORDON BY MAC

**RABOY:** Continuing Dark Horse Comics' tradition of finer reprint books, the fourth volume in the archival collection of Mac Raboy's lengthy Flash Gordon run was announced to be available on 19 October. This is a 256 page, black and white, trade paperback for a retail price of \$19.95. Volume 2 was previously announced with an on sale date of June 25<sup>th</sup> and Volume 3 was announced with an on sale date of 30 July. Both Volume 2 and Volume 3 are behind schedule and not yet available.



### FLASH GORDON ORNAMENTS:

Coming this October are two Flash Gordon ornaments. The first is a miniature version of Flash Gordon's raygun and the second is a miniature version of Flash Gordon's spaceship. The retail price is \$14.99 each. The raygun ornament can be pre-ordered from Things From Another World at [http://www.darkhorse.com/products/pg\\_profile/sku\\_12289/sec\\_search/index.html](http://www.darkhorse.com/products/pg_profile/sku_12289/sec_search/index.html) The spaceship ornament can be pre-ordered from Things From Another World at [http://www.darkhorse.com/products/pg\\_profile/sku\\_12290/sec\\_search/index.html](http://www.darkhorse.com/products/pg_profile/sku_12290/sec_search/index.html)



### FLASH GORDON & MING THE MERCILESS MINI-BUST SET:

Classic comic strip spaceman Flash Gordon, and his arch-nemesis Ming the Merciless, Emperor of Mongo, leap from the funny pages and onto your mantle or shelf as this set of beautifully sculpted mini-busts. Designed and sculpted by Randy Bowen, the vibrantly decorated Flash and Ming mini-busts each stand approximately 6" tall and are only available as a set! Scheduled to ship in September 2003. The retail price is \$60.00. The Flash Gordon & Ming Mini-bust Set can be pre-ordered Bowen Designs at

[http://www.bowendesigns.com/Flash\\_Gordon\\_Ming\\_Set.html](http://www.bowendesigns.com/Flash_Gordon_Ming_Set.html)

**GREEN HORNET:** According to VARIETY, Miramax is laying the financial groundwork for a significant increase in the production of tentpole pictures. Miramax is expected to up its ante to produce two to three tentpoles a year and seek a further two or three a year from its sister company Dimension for its slate of 25 pictures a year. One of the films identified as looking for studio or equity partners is THE GREEN HORNET for which scribe Scott Smith has recently been hired.

**GREEN HORNET:** The complete Green Hornet series is heading to Starz Encore beginning in October.



**GREEN HORNET:** Radio Spirits just came out with a new set of Green Hornet radio adventures. This is a three-hour set on two cassettes or three CDs, digitally remastered and restored. Here is what Radios Spirits has to say: Like all great crime fighters, the Green Hornet hid his identity behind alter-ego Britt Reid and was often a suspect in the very crimes he ultimately solved. Adoring audiences knew better, though, that the buzzing hum of the hornet meant justice was about to be served. Join the Green

Hornet and his faithful sidekick Kato as they “hunt the biggest of all game, public enemies who try to destroy our America” in six nail-biting adventures. *Axford Makes a Deal* (08-10-45), *One Too Many Frame-ups* (08-17-46), *Oliver Perry Tries Again* (09-07-46), *When Time Stood Still* (09-28-46), *Courageous Mrs. Richland* (11-03-46), and *Giuseppe's Secret* (11-24-46). The set is available on cassette for \$17.98 or CD for \$19.98. Visit Radio Spirits on the web at <http://www.radiospirits.com/>

**GRAPHIC CLASSICS VOLUME 7: BRAM STOKER:** Coming this September is GRAPHIC CLASSICS VOLUME 7: BRAM STOKER featuring *Lair of the White Worm* and five more tales of terror, fantasy, and humor by Bram Stoker. Plus, two excerpts from *Dracula*, and a bonus *Dracula Gallery* illustrated by 15 great artists. Softcover, 7”x10”, 144 pages, b&w, \$9.95. This title can be ordered from Eureka Productions at <http://www.graphicclassics.com/index.htm> after publication.

**HAFFNER PRESS:** Stephen Haffner reports that Alex Ebel has now delivered 4 of the 7 interior plates for STARK AND THE STAR KINGS and that they are absolutely beautiful! The working cover is available for viewing on the Haffner Press website.

STARK AND THE STAR KINGS by Edmond Hamilton and Leigh Brackett is available in two editions. A 1000 copy trade hardcover edition for \$40.00 (U.S.) and a 100-copy slipcased limited hardcover edition signed by John Jakes and Alex Ebel for \$150.00. Visit the Haffner Press website at <http://www.haffnerpress.com>

**HALLMARK ENTERTAINMENT:** VARIETY reports that Hallmark Entertainment has given the go-ahead for two four-hour mini-series remaking the classic tales. *Frankenstein* would feature *Dune* star Alec Newman, Julie Delpy and *Blade 2* baddie Luke Goss as the monster. *Solomon* has set Patrick Swayze to play Allan Quatermain whilst shooting is set to begin late July in South Africa. Steve Boyum is the director.

**HEROES AND MONSTERS:** HEROES AND MONSTERS: THE UNOFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN by Jess Nevins is now available. This book length celebration and analysis of The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen features an exclusive interview and introduction by creator/writer Alan Moore, commentary by co-author and illustrator Kevin O'Neill, detailed panel-by-panel annotations of the comic series, plus numerous essays on the literary and historical origins of the various members of the League and their creators. Paperback, 232 pages, 6.14" x 9.21", ISBN: 1-932265-04-X, List Price: \$18.95

The book can also be purchased through Amazon.com, Bud Plant (800-242-6642) or via the publisher's web site at: [http://www.monkeybrainbooks.com/Heroes\\_and\\_Monsters.html](http://www.monkeybrainbooks.com/Heroes_and_Monsters.html)

Future books by Jess Nevins include (1) An encyclopedia of characters from Victorian genre (sf, fantasy, detective, horror, Gothics, story papers, dime novels) fiction. That'll be out fall/winter 2004 and (2) An encyclopedia of genre heroes who appeared from 1902-1944 (including sf, fantasy, and detective fiction but

focusing primarily on the pulps, including international pulps). That'll be out in winter 2005.

Jess Nevins has a great website that provides information on hundreds of Pulp and Adventure Heroes of the Pre-War Years. The website is located at <http://www.geocities.com/jjnevins/pulpsintro.html>.

**THE HIDDEN KINGDOM:** Screenwriter Richard Outten (PET SEMATARY II) has sold a movie pitch to Hyde Park Entertainment. Outten's story follows the exploits of a modern day Indiana Jones meets Robin Hood from Hong Kong, traveling to the far reaches of the globe to return artifacts and return them to their proper owners. When the hero's father steals one of these artifacts he goes after dear old Dad, chasing him into a legendary land called Shambhala located on the India sub-continent.

**HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE:** Hidden Knowledge is publishing an Adventure series of e-book reissues. They're re-designed, corrected, book-like in PDF, Microsoft Reader, and Palm Reader; sold via Amazon, eBooks.com, Palm Digital Media, Fictionwise etc. The latest publications are:

**CAPTAIN BLOOD** by Rafael Sabatini: Pick one book that exemplifies Sabatini's mastery of the dashing adventure of derring-do with swashbuckling romance, personal struggle against the Fates, vast sweep of narrative panorama, historical accuracy with a you-are-there immediacy. Captain Blood is the odyssey of an innocent gentleman physician of Jacobean England. Condemned to indentured slavery in the Caribbean, he escapes to become the most feared pirate of the

17th century. But there is much more to his story!

THE OUTLAWS OF FALKENSTEIG by Rafael Sabatini: This is the first in a series of collections of "New" stories by Sabatini! Unavailable since their original magazine publication, these are stories of dashing and romantic outlaws in a 1600's Germany that never was. Thrills! Betrayal! Trickery! and/or Romance! These are wonderful tales, twisty pathways all different, and all great fun.

Also available by Rafael Sabatini are: BARDELYS THE MAGNIFICENT, LOVE-AT-ARMS, and THE SEA-HAWK. Visit Hidden Knowledge on the web at <http://www.hidden-knowledge.com>

#### **HIPPOCAMPUS PRESS:**

Hippocampus Press has announced an exciting new addition to their 2003 publishing schedule. Orders are now being taken at the Hippocampus Press website for the limited first edition of THE PLEASURES OF A FUTUROSCOPE By Lord Dunsany and Edited by S. T. Joshi. It is a \$32.95 hardcover that is scheduled for October 2003.

Lord Dunsany, Irish master of fantasy, was the author of more than a dozen novels, hundreds of short stories, poems, and essays, and dozens of plays. And yet, his last major work, The Pleasures of a Futuroscope, has remained unpublished until this edition. In this powerful and moving novel, written in 1955, a futuroscope—a device that allows a viewer to see into the near or distant future—reveals an awful fate for humanity: a nuclear holocaust has destroyed nearly all human life on the planet. The great city of London is now merely an immense crater, filled in with

water from the Thames. The pitiful remnants of humanity have been reduced to a Stone Age existence. The narrator, obsessively looking through the futuroscope, focuses upon the plight of a single family in their struggles to survive and fend off the many enemies, both animal and human, which surround them. When one of their numbers is kidnapped by a band of gypsies, we can only wonder at her fate in this brave new world of the distant future. Gripping, horrifying, touching, and fascinating, The Pleasures of a Futuroscope show that Lord Dunsany had retained his literary powers undiminished to the end of his life.

Contact Hippocampus Press, P.O. Box 641, New York, NY 10156, Phone: 212-681-9120, Fax: 212-681-9126. Visit the Hippocampus Press website at <http://www.hippocampuspress.com/>



**H. P. LOVECRAFT'S MAGAZINE OF HORROR:** Coming in Spring 2004 is a new quarterly magazine from Wildside Press, H.P. LOVECRAFT'S MAGAZINE OF HORROR. Authors featured in the first issue include H. P. Lovecraft, Brian Lumley, Ramsey Campbell, Tanith Lee, Holly Phillips,

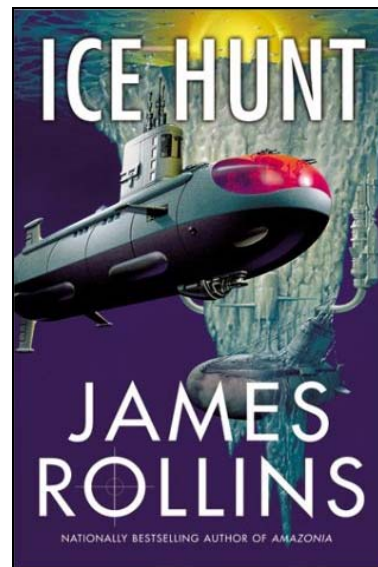
Tim Pratt, Michael Jasper, and Darrell Schweitzer. The magazine is edited by Marvin Kaye. The first issue cover is by Bob Eggleton. A four-issue (one year) subscription (U.S. only) is \$19.95. An eight-issue (two years) subscription (U.S. only) is \$36. Contact Wildside Press, P.O. Box 301, Holicong, PA 18928-0301, Phone: 215-345-5645, or visit their website at <http://www.wildsidepress.com/index2fr.htm>

The first issue has been published in a special book paper edition for distributors. The price of this special book paper edition is \$15. It can be ordered from Wildside Press at <http://www.wildsidepress.com/index2fr.htm>. Copies may also be available from Mike Chomko. Contact Mike Chomko at [chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net)

**HUGH B. CAVE: CEMETERY DANCE MAGAZINE #43** featuring a story by Hugh Cave, *Clarissa*, is now available. Other fiction includes: *Met a Pilgrim Shadow* by Tim Waggoner; *The Loneliest Night of the Week* by Ed Gorman; *Yesterday, Upon the Stair* by Tony Richards; *Darkness Closing* by Greg Kishbaugh; *Willpower* by Gary Raiser. CEMETERY DANCE MAGAZINE is available in some upscale bookstores or from Cemetery Dance Publications. The retail price is \$5. The price direct from Cemetery Dance is \$6 postpaid. Contact Cemetery Dance Publications, 132-B Industry Lane, Unit 7, Forest Hill, Maryland 21050, Phone: (410) 588\_5901 - 10am to 6pm E.S.T. (Mon.-Fri.), <http://www.cemeterydance.com/>

**I, ROBOT:** I, ROBOT will be filmed in New Westminster; part of Greater Vancouver, in July and August, 2003.

Two city blocks are being shut down to accommodate the building of a futuristic set over the existing structures in the city's downtown waterfront area. Two new actors have come onboard I, ROBOT, 20th Century Fox's adaptation of Isaac Asimov's science fiction classic. According to VARIETY, James Cromwell and Bruce Greenwood will both star. The duo joins Will Smith, Bridget Moynahan and Chi McBride in the film. Alex Proyas (THE CROW, DARK CITY) is directing. *Variety* reports that Cromwell (L.A. CONFIDENTIAL, STAR TREK: FIRST CONTACT) plays Dr. Lanning, "the eccentric creator of the most advanced robot ever built." Greenwood (THIRTEEN DAYS, DOUBLE JEOPARDY), portrays Lance Robertson, "the bullish top exec at U.S. Robotics who tries to impede a murder investigation." Fox currently has the film set for a Summer 2004 release.



**ICE HUNT:** ICE HUNT, the latest thriller by James Rollins is now available in bookstores. If you have not read Rollins previous novels, this is a great place to start!

Buried deep in the earth's polar ice cap - carved into a moving island of ice twice the size of the United States - is a secret place, the site of a remarkable abandoned experiment that could have frightening ramifications for the planet. The brain trust of the former Soviet Union who created the seventy-year-old Ice Station Grendel would like it simply to melt from human memory. But that becomes impossible when an American undersea research vessel, the Polar Sentinel, inadvertently pulls too close to the hollowed-out iceberg ... and one of the crew sees something alive inside. Something that never should have survived.

It is a discovery that sends shock waves through the intelligence communities of two powerful nations, as American and Russian scientists, soldiers, and unsuspecting civilians are pulled into Grendel's lethal vortex of secrets, violence, and betrayal. To preserve the silence - to prevent others from uncovering the terrible mysteries locked behind submerged walls of ice and steel - no measures will be too extreme. For within the station, experiments have blurred the line between life and death. It was a place never meant to be found. One man already knows too much: Matthew Pike, a former American Special Forces operative, living in seclusion in Alaska on the edge of the Arctic Circle. On the run after rescuing the survivor of a plane crash no one was meant to observe, Pike is relentlessly drawn into the eye of the gathering storm - even as a Russian nuclear attack submarine draws silently nearer to the men and women on the Polar Sentinel. The covert battle over Grendel is spinning out of control, and the future of all human life on Earth will be altered - or destroyed - once its

nightmarish truths are revealed. Hardcover, 416 pages, \$24.95. This novel is great fun and recommended.

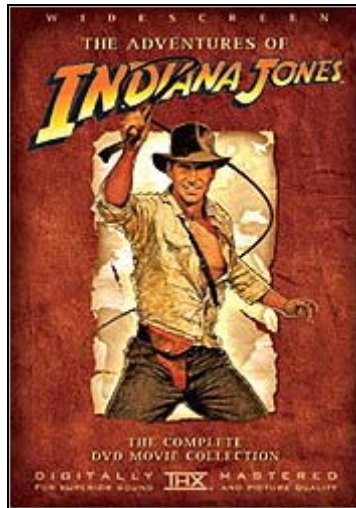


**ILLUSTRATION MAGAZINE:** ILLUSTRATION MAGAZINE #7 is now available. ILLUSTRATION MAGAZINE #7 contains features on *The Art of Reynold Brown, The Artists of the Revell Model Kit Boxes, The Art of Frank E. Schoonover, The Art of Turn-of-the-century Sheet Music*, and more!

ILLUSTRATION MAGAZINE #8 will contain features on *The Art of Ernest Chiriacka, The Art of William George, The Artists of the Aurora Model*

*Kit Boxes, The Art of Gerald Gregg* and the Dell Mapbacks, and much more! This issue will be available in October.

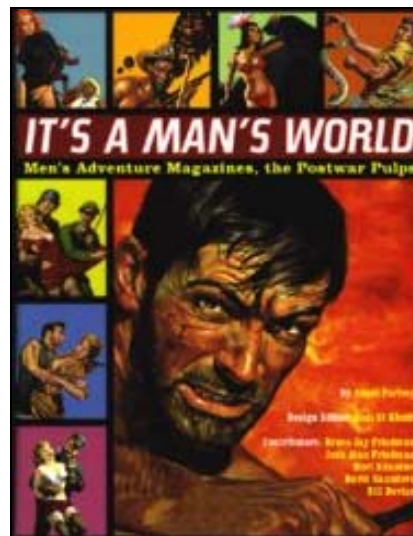
Contact Illustration Magazine, 540 Wooddell Court, Kirkwood, MO 63122, <http://www.illustration-magazine.com/>



**INDIANA JONES DVD:** The release date for the Indiana Jones DVD Box Set has been moved up from 11/4 to 10/21. This is a four-disk box set. Disc 1: The completely remastered **INDIANA JONES AND THE RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK**; Disc 2: **INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM**; Disc 3: **INDIANA JONES AND THE LAST CRUSADE**; Disc 4: Bonus Disk with **THE MAKING OF THE INDIANA JONES TRILOGY - PART 1: RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK (51 mins)**; **THE MAKING OF THE INDIANA JONES TRILOGY - PART 2: THE TEMPLE OF DOOM (41 mins)**; **THE MAKING OF THE INDIANA JONES TRILOGY - PART 3: THE LAST CRUSADE (35 mins)** **THE STUNTS OF INDIANA JONES (11 mins)**; **THE LIGHT AND MAGIC OF INDIANA JONES (12 mins)**; **THE**

**MUSIC OF INDIANA JONES (12 mins).**

**INDIANA JONES IV:** Harrison Ford told SCI FI Wire that Frank Darabont has completed his script for a proposed fourth Indiana Jones movie. “Steven [Spielberg]’s quite happy with it,” Ford said in an interview. “I’m expecting to see it in a couple of weeks.” Ford added that he worked closely with director Spielberg, Darabont and executive producer George Lucas on the story. “The way the process works is that George and Frank work together, then Steven gets the script, then I get the script, and we all work together. We all met together and talked about it before they started writing.” Ford said that he remains eager to reprise his most famous role because of fans’ demands for a fourth installment in the franchise. “It pleases me to play a character that audiences want to see,” he said. “I know that it’s eagerly anticipated, and I want us to do a good job, make a film at least as good as the ones we’ve made before.” The fourth as-yet-untitled Indy movie is slated to begin filming in the summer of 2004, with an eye to a July 2005 release.

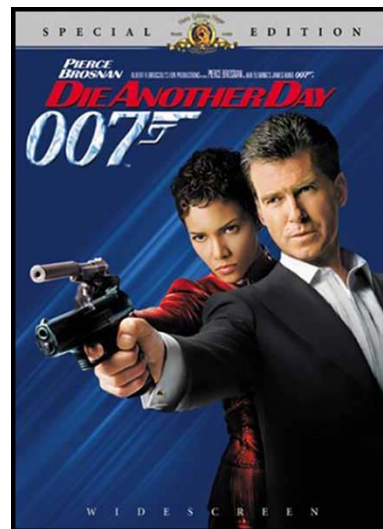


**IT'S A MAN'S WORLD: IT'S A MAN'S WORLD: MEN'S ADVENTURE MAGAZINES-THE POSTWAR PULPS** by Adam Parfey is now available. The first major book ever on this wild and sexy sub-genre of men's magazines! These magazines appeared during the years following WWII, and gained popularity during the Cold War. Lots of outstanding (albeit lurid) art by many top names from the pulp and 1950s paperback days, and a riveting history of the times. The real meat here is the reproductions: hundreds of covers and illustrations are shown in full color, often full page, from publications like ARGOSY, TRUE, SAGA, STAG, FOR MEN ONLY and others. Major illustrators Mort Künstler and Norman Saunders helped produce the book and are profiled; their work is featured throughout, along with George Gross, Mel Crair, Norm Eastman and numerous others, many uncredited. Saunders also shares a how-to article. Hardcover, Glossy, Full Color Interior, 8x11, 288 pages, \$29.95. This title is available from Bud Plant (800-242-6642) and Mike Chomko ([chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net)).

**JACK WILLIAMSON:** Kevin Anderson has delivered to DC Comics all six scripts of a 1940's-era Justice Society of America series, LORD DYNAMO, which features the Golden Age incarnations of the Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman, Dr. Fate, and others. The team's mascot and historian Johnny Thunder, who wants to become a writer for the pulp magazines, teams up with real-life science fiction author Jack Williamson to develop superhero tales for AMAZING STORIES magazine. Anderson obtained permission from Jack Williamson and AMAZING STORIES to create this thrilling and heartwarming

miniseries. Barry Kitson is the artist assigned to the project. I would not expect to see LORD DYNAMO until late 2004.

**JAMES BOND:** MGM Home Entertainment is releasing all 20 of the James Bond films together in three special-edition gift sets on November 18. Volume 1, which includes seven titles, was previously released in October 2002 and will be re-promoted and released together with Volumes 2 and 3 in November. The gift sets are priced at \$124.96 each (preorder Oct. 21), and each title gets the full features treatment, including commentaries, documentaries and various featurettes, music videos, theatrical trailers, storyboards and other material. MGM said all Bond titles, except DIE ANOTHER DAY, are scheduled to go into moratorium January 19 for an indefinite period.



Volume 1 includes DR. NO, GOLDENEYE, GOLDFINGER, LICENSE TO KILL, THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN, THE SPY WHO LOVED ME and TOMORROW NEVER DIES.



Volume 2 includes FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE, YOU ONLY LIVE TWICE, DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER, MOONRAKER, FOR YOUR EYES ONLY, THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS and THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH.

Volume 3 includes THUNDERBALL, OCTOPUSSY, ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE, DIE ANOTHER DAY, LIVE AND LET DIE and A VIEW TO A KILL.

**JAMES BOND:** James Bond in DIE ANOTHER DAY is now available on DVD. The retail price is \$29.98.

**JAMES BOND:** Clive Owen [THE BOURNE IDENTITY] was thought to have been the frontrunner to take on the role of 007 when Pierce Brosnan hands in his keys to the Aston Martin. But according to THE DAILY EXPRESS, the British actor no longer wants the role. He told a pal, "I think it's too formulaic, too tried and tested and a little past it's sell by date. I would not consider it to be a challenge. I've just come back from Los Angeles where I had a meeting with Francis Ford Coppola who wants to cast me in an exciting new project, which will be Bond-like but more challenging and relevant today. I'm really excited about it."

**JOSEPH CLEMENT COLL:** JOSEPH CLEMENT COLL: THE ART OF ADVENTURE by John Fleskes, with an introduction by Al Williamson & Mark Schultz is now available. With pen lines of varied thickness-from the finest hair to bold and distinctive blacks-Joseph Clement Coll created dynamic visual images that exude a totality of the romantic and exotic. Selected from a

near complete run-from 1904 to 1917-over 220 of Coll's finest drawings for Associated Sunday Magazines are reproduced here, many for the first time since their original publication, complete with corresponding source information and a bibliography. 168 pages, 8.5"x 11", over 220 illustrations. There are two editions: the \$19.95 softbound trade edition, or the \$39.95 hardbound limited edition.

This book is published by Flesk Publications. Visit the Flesk Publications website at

<http://www.fleskpublications.com> The book can be ordered from Flesk Publications, P.O. Box 3174 / Santa Cruz, CA 95063. Shipping add \$3.50 for USPS Media Mail (4-10 days) or \$6.00 for USPS Priority Mail (2 to 3 days for most areas). Add \$1.00 for each additional book included in the same order. California residents add 7.25% sales tax. It can also be ordered from Bud Plant (800-242-6642) and Mike Chomko ([chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net)).

**KING CONAN - CROWN OF IRON:** The third Conan film is still based at Warner Brothers with writer/director John Milius onboard and the Wachowski brothers (THE MATRIX) set to produce. John Milius met recently with star Arnold Schwarzenegger who reaffirmed his commitment to King Conan (although he has not yet signed a contract for it). Although Schwarzenegger is willing to make King Conan his next film, the project remains in a holding pattern over at Warner Brothers. This is because the studio apparently wants to see how the Wachowskis' MATRIX REVOLUTIONS fares (and because the Wachowskis themselves refuse to work on King Conan until they're done with

their Matrix trilogy). Apparently there is a power struggle between the Arnold/Milius camp and the Wachowskis. Each faction is said to have a different vision for King Conan. Should *Matrix Revolutions* be deemed a box office disappointment like MATRIX RELOADED, then the Wachowskis would lose clout and, thus, control over the development of King Conan. Arnold is apparently eager to cast Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson as Conan’s estranged son, Kon. The Rock has long been rumored for that role but now Schwarzenegger himself is keen on landing the wrestler-turned-actor.

**KING KONG:** According to VARIETY, Universal has announced that director Peter Jackson’s KING KONG is now officially set for a December 14th, 2005 release date.

**LARRY ESTEP ON-LINE PULPS:** Larry Estep’s On-line Pulp now has over 250 stories available for free download in PDF format. New stories are added every weekend. Visit <http://pulpgen.com/pulp/downloads/>

**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN:** DC Comics *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* Volume II #6 is scheduled for a 19 September release.

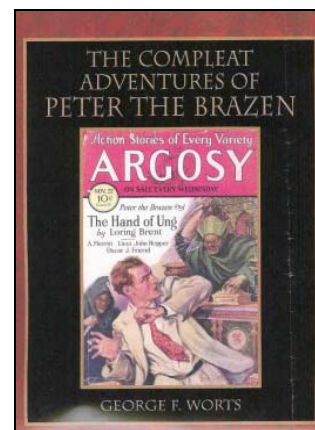
In June, DC Comics released *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen: The Absolute Edition* Volume One. This is a massive, two book, oversized (8.25" X 12.25") hardcover edition that comes in a slipcase. The 224-page Book One contains the original 6-issue miniseries featuring the introduction of the League and its first epic adventure by Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill. The 192-page Book Two presents Moore’s

complete scripts for the miniseries plus a series of previously unpublished spot illustrations by O’Neill to accompany the text. This collection is scheduled to be in comic shops on 04 June. The retail price is \$75.

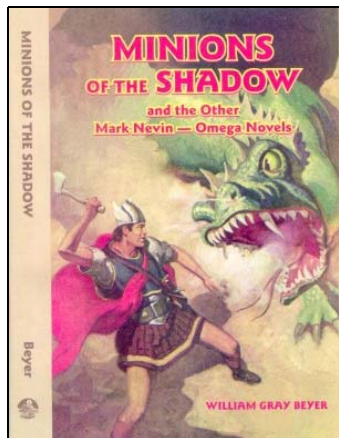
*The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* mass-market paperback by K.J. Anderson is now available. This is the novelization of the 20th Century Fox feature film. It runs 288 pages for \$6.99.

**LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN:** At Comicon International in San Diego, it was announced that *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* Volume 3 is a go. Artist Kevin O’Neil said that the third volume will jump to the year 1920 and will feature new League members, although Mina will still be around. “We’ll also go back and jump forward as well, around the 1950s,” O’Neill said. “Alan has some dazzling ideas. It’s going to be sexier than earlier volumes.” *League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* Volume 3 will begin after O’Neil and Moore take a short break.

**LONE RANGER:** The Lone Ranger will kick off with an all-day marathon on The Hallmark Channel, Saturday, Sept. 6 before settling into its regularly scheduled 1-2 p.m. ET time period.



**LOST TREASURES FROM THE PULPS:** LOST TREASURES FROM THE PULPS Collections One and Two are now available. THE COMPLETE PETER THE BRAZEN by George F. Worts is a two-volume hardcover set reprinting the entire Peter the Brazen saga from the pages of ARGOSY magazine. Each volume is 9x12, in full color jacket, and contains over 300,000 words of high adventure fiction. Book One is 388 double-column pages, while Book Two is 402 double-column pages. Cost per two-volume set is \$150.00 (the two books are only sold as a set). Postage is \$10 due to the weight of these immense volumes.



MINIONS OF THE SHADOW – THE COLLECTED MARK NEVIN-OMEGA NOVELS by William Gray Beyer. This stand-alone 6x9 hardcover volume, with color jacket by Rudolph Belarski, reprints the four Minions novels – *Minions of the Moon*, *Minions of Mars*, *Minions of Mercury*, and *Minions of the Shadow*, from ARGOSY in the late 1930's and early 1940's. *Minions of the Moon* was reprinted in hardcover over fifty years ago, and the other three novels have never been reprinted. Newly typeset, 481 pages. Cost for this very thick hardcover is \$50. Postage is \$5.

Payment in US Funds, please. Sorry but charge card orders are not accepted at present. Order from: The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, PO Box 204, Shelburne, Ontario Canada L0N 1S0. LOST TREASURES FROM THE PULPS is also available from Mike Chomko. Email Mike at [chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net) to check availability.

**LOST TREASURES FROM THE PULPS:** Coming in November is the third collection of LOST TREASURES FROM THE PULPS featuring THE MEMOIRS OF HORATIO HUBERTON by J. Paul Suter, introduction by Robert Weinberg. A total of ten adventure novelettes appeared in DIME DETECTIVE MAGAZINE between July 1932 and January 1937 featuring the Necrologist Sleuth, Horatio Humberton. These stories feature elements of the supernatural, and the outrageous, and are collected here for the first time. Unfortunately only one featured a cover illustration for the magazine. You will not be disappointed with these hard-boiled escapades, bordering on humorous escapist detective fiction. The ten stories are: *The Angel of the Damned*, *Eyes of the Dead*, *The Werewolf Horrors*, *The Mill of Horror*, *Seconds of Doom*, *Shoes for the Dead*, *Post Mortem*, *Dead and Buried*, *The Hairy Death*, and *The Corpse the Cat Dragged In*.

Writing in THE DIME DETECTIVES (The Mysterious Press, 1988), Ron Goulart said: "Horatio Humberton was a part-time dick and a full-time undertaker. "Though Horatio Humberton earned the principal part of his living by the direction of funerals," it was explained "another science, the study of crime, was much nearer his

heart. When it came to embalming a murdered man, he could do a good job; but he would be far more enthusiastic in the task of finding the murderer.”

**LOST TREASURES FROM THE PULPS** Volume 3 will retail for \$50. Mike Chomko is now accepting pre-orders for this volume. Michael Chomko, 2217 W. Fairview Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6542, [chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net). Mike carries many of the new, pulp-related books listed in this column, generally at a 10% discount with free shipping on orders over \$25. Paper catalogs are available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

#### **LOST TREASURES FROM THE**

**PULPS:** The next two **DIME DETECTIVE** releases in the “Lost Treasures” series will appear as follows: **Windy City 2004 --THE DEAN** by Merle Constiner; **Pulpcon 2004 -- BILL BRENT** by Frederick C. Davis. Also, it has been reported that Garyn Roberts is working with George Vanderburgh on putting together a full collection of the Moon Man stories by Frederick C. Davis.

**LOVECRAFT:** **LOVECRAFT** is a new graphic novel by Keith Giffen, Hans Rodionoff, and Enrique Breccia that will be published by DC Comics Vertigo imprint. **LOVECRAFT** examines the answer to this question: What if H.P. Lovecraft’s tales of slithering terrors and otherworldly beasts were not fiction, but were in fact real? No on-sale date has been announced.

**MODERN PULP:** For the first time, two characters from the pulp era, **DOCTOR SATAN** and **THE MOON MAN**, will meet face to face in a single adventure, as they go toe-to-toe against

one another. When the canine population of Great City suddenly turns into an army of fanged killers, the Moon Man goes into action to solve the mystery. Thus begins his most dangerous mission pitting him against the merciless, evil mastermind known as Doctor Satan! **HOUNDS OF HELL** by Ron Fortier & Gordon Linzner with spot illustrations provided by Jim Schumaker and Bradley Walton is a classic pulp tale in 29 chapters. Chapter 10: *A Battle of Wills* is now available on the Modern Pulp website. Visit the Modern Pulp website at <http://www.modernpulp.com/index.htm> to read this new adventure.

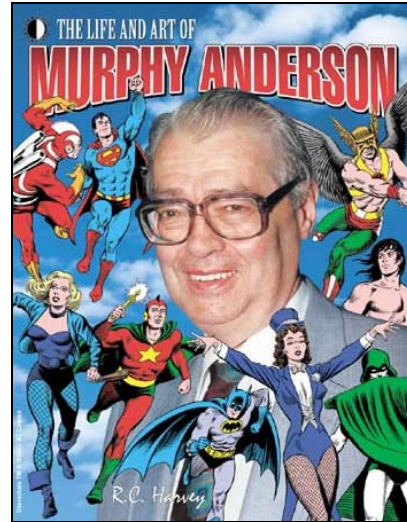
**MOONSTONE BOOKS:** **KOLCHAK THE NIGHT STALKER: DEVIL IN THE DETAILS** is now available. Stefan Petrucha writes the book with art by Trevor Von Eeden, colors by Ken Wolak, and a cover by Doug Klauba. Another all new original Kolchak story. Carl is sent to investigate the disappearance of business owner Chester Fredersen. On the surface it looks like an open and shut case of embezzlement, with Chester taking off with the company’s loot while his brother, and business partner, Barry lies dying in a hospital bed. Kolchak, however, tumbles headlong into a hi-tech horror story, as other members of the Fredersen family begin to vanish, and Barry’s case of Lou Gherig’s Disease goes into an impossible state of remission. Visit Moonstone Books website at <http://www.moonstonebooks.com/> to order.

**MURDER IN MACAO:** **MURDER IN MACAO** by Peter Ruber is now available from Renaissance E-Books. This is the first novel in a new series in

the pulp tradition. The time is September 1935. The place is Macao (a Portuguese possession) near Hong Kong on the South China Sea. When adventurer Edgar Savage's ship *The Black Poppy* is attacked by pirates, his quick thinking saves his boat and crew when he tosses a gasoline barrel overboard and explodes it with a bullet from a high-powered rifle. Later he examines a shipment he is carrying for a Dutch cannery owner named Kappie, and discovers false bottoms containing heroin. Determined to smoke the drug-runner out, Savage sets fire to the warehouse where the heroin is stored. Almost immediately, Kappie pressures Savage to pick up another shipment for him. When Savage refuses, he is shot twice by an unknown assassin. Soon Savage and his girlfriend, Amelia De Gama, have devised a plan to take Kappie down – then Amelia is kidnapped. The drug-runner doesn't realize it – but he is about to discover that Savage isn't just a name! The first of a thrilling new series in the blazing tradition of the pulp adventure magazines!

Duane Spurlock of *The Pulp Rack* says: "Peter has gotten the pulp style down just right - the story is set in 1935, and it reads just like a serial that would have fit comfortably in the pages of *ARGOSY* or *BLUE BOOK*. In fact, it has a flavor that reminds me favorably of the Peter the Brazen stories written by Loring Brent for *ARGOSY* in the 1930s."

*MURDER IN MACAO* is 350 pages for \$4. The first chapter is posted online to give you a taste of the novel. Visit Renaissance Books online at <http://66.216.113.14/eb.php3?ebookid=15891>



**MURPHY ANDERSON: THE LIFE AND ART OF MURPHY ANDERSON** is a lavishly illustrated autobiographical memoir of the man whose style defined the DC look for a generation of fans. Beginning in comics in the Golden Age of the 1940s, Anderson went on to produce a syndicated comic strip (*Buck Rogers*) and educational comics (*PS Magazine* for the military) in addition to the science fiction comic books that his fans know and love. Now for the first time, comics historian R.C. Harvey has compiled an exhaustive look at the varied career of this cartooning legend, best known for his groundbreaking work at DC Comics in the 1960s on such characters as Superman, Hawkman, Adam Strange, the Atomic Knights, and others! Murphy's recollections are peppered with comments and insights about the state of the art and behind-the-scenes stories and anecdotes about other artists he encountered (Lou Fine, Will Eisner, Curt Swan, Gil Kane, and others), and illustrated with a generous sampling of work from every phase of his career, particularly at Fiction House, Ziff-Davis, and DC Comics, all direct from his personal archives. It's the ultimate look at the career of one of

comics' top talents! The 160-page, 8.5" by 11" square bound trade paperback with full color covers and black & white interiors retails for \$17.95 in the U.S. and ships 26 June 2003. TwoMorrrows Publishing, 1812 Park Drive Raleigh, NC 27605, Phone: 919-833-8092, <http://www.twomorrrows.com/>

**NECRONAUTS:** NECRONAUTS is an intelligent and genuinely creepy horror tale by prolific 2000 AD writer Gordon Rennie (*Judge Dredd*) with stunning artwork by breakthrough artist Frazer Irving (*Judge Death, The Authority*). Harry Houdini must join three famous aficionados of the uncanny - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Charles Fort and H.P. Lovecraft - to defeat an evil force which wants to enslave humanity. But this intrepid group must not only face the enemy's terrifying agents on Earth, but also a traitor in their midst. Necronauts will be released in a high quality European-format paperback edition with a brand new cover image by Frazer Irving, plus a six-page sketchbook, script and covers gallery. The publication date is 28 August 2003. Price: \$12.95. Format: Black and white paperback, 64 pages. NECRONAUTS can be pre-ordered at your local comic shop. The Diamond Item Code is JUN032472.

**THE "NEW" HOWARD READER:** After a lengthy hiatus THE NEW HOWARD READER is back and due out in August 2003! A special pre-order offer is available for \$13.50 (post paid -- please add \$5 for international postage). Send money orders only. Order from: Joe Marek, 542 S 30 Street, Omaha, NE 68105-2701. Visit THE NEW HOWARD READER website at <http://www.barbariankeep.com/nhr.html>

**NIGHT SHADE BOOKS:** BOATS OF THE "GLEN CARRIG" AND OTHER NAUTICAL ADVENTURES, the first volume of the William Hope Hodgson series, is now available. The Trade Hardcover retails for \$35 plus shipping.

Shipping is \$6.00 for the first book and \$1.50 for each additional book. Contact: Night Shade Books, 3623 SW Baird St., Portland, OR 97219, 503- 452-0761, Fax: 603-590-2754, <http://www.nightshadebooks.com/>

**NIGHT SHADE BOOKS:** MIDNIGHT SUN: THE COLLECTED STORIES AND POETRY OF KANE is at the printer, and is expected to start shipping around the 12th of September.

MIDNIGHT SUN is the companion volume to GODS IN DARKNESS, and collects all of the Kane short stories and poetry. The Ken Kelly cover was just posted on the Night Shade Book website. The Trade Hardcover will retail for \$35. The Limited Edition will retail for \$75. The limited edition is VERY close to being sold out, so if you want one, get it now.

**NORM SAUNDERS:** The July 2003 issue of ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE featured a cover by Norm Saunders originally published in DETECTIVE TALES, October 1952.

**OPERATOR 5:** The first book in Wildside Press's Operator 5 reprint series should be released in September. Wildside Press is licensed to reprint from issue 12 through the end of the series. The plan is to release two books per month (hopefully!). These will be 6x9 trade paperbacks, completely retypeset and with the original covers and art in place. The anticipated retail

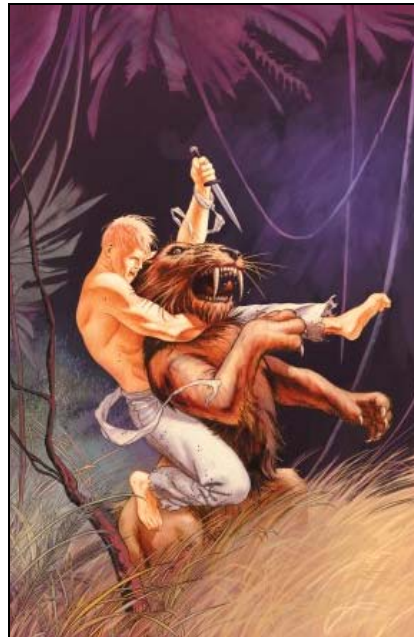
price is \$16. This series has been delayed due to problems with the editor, who has been let go from Wildside Press.

**THE PHANTOM:** Steven DeSouza has finally handed in his first draft script for the new Phantom film to Crusader & Hype Park Entertainment. CBE Radio reports that “Young, Hard & Solo” actor Simon Rex is the first rumored contender for the role. Friends of Phantom recently talked with Steven De Souza about how the new film incarnation is progressing. “My story was turned in at the end of last year and the script was finished in May 2003. The script has only been read by the Producers so far. I have finished my contract with them...The fictional film takes place in New York, and in Bengalla, in both Mawitaan and the jungle. I've tried to write a modern, smart and arrogant villain in the spirit of Hans Gruber. Circumstances force him to work with the Sengh, who he views as a particularly superstitious lot. The Sengh in my script are more than pirates - they are a globe-spanning, ancient order making a comeback in the 21st century via an uneasy alliance with an American industrialist who is seemingly above reproach.” De Souza reveals he also keeps the costume with the same dark purple colouring and mask which covers his eyes, in regards to weapons – “My approach is that the hero should always be the underdog. So while there will be gadgets and weaponry galore, most of this should be in the hands of the villains. On the other hand, certainly in an exotic, mysterious land like Bengalla, there could be all sorts of unique, unusual and very deadly local weaponry of which the famous Bandar poison dart

is only the tip of the iceberg ... there's much more to be seen in this arena.”

**THE PHANTOM:** The Phantom mini-bust is now available. Sculpted by Randy Bowen, this bust stands 6” tall. The bust retails for \$45. The Phantom mini-bust can be ordered from Bowen Designs at [http://www.bowendesigns.com/Phantom\\_Bust.html](http://www.bowendesigns.com/Phantom_Bust.html)

**PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN:** According to THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER, Disney has begun development of a sequel to PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN. Director Gore Verbinski, producer Jerry Bruckheimer and cast members Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley are all signed to return.



**PLANETARY:** Coming in October is PLANETARY #17 by Warren Ellis with art and cover by John Cassaday. In this issue, a major revelation from Elijah Snow's past! It's 1933 and Snow floats

down-river towards a golden city shrouded by the immense jungle. After encountering a dashing figure, a man raised by animals, Snow meets a brilliant and harmonious people - and one of the great loves of his life. Full Color, 32 pages, \$2.95, and scheduled to be in comic shops on 22 October.

**PRINTED POISON:** Issue 2 of Printed Poison is finally here! This webzine of free two-fisted fiction is crammed full of pure, unpasturized, pulse\_pounding, pulp. Inside you'll find Chapter 2 of *Demon-Haunted City*, *Devil on My Stomach*, *Real Tough*, *20 Ghosts on Haunted Avenue*, and much, much more! Download it today at <http://members.lycos.co.uk/printedpoison/> Also, check out the Doc Savage section where you will find weekly episodes of the Doc Savage radio adventure FEAR CAY in mp3 format.

**PULPDOM:** PULPDOM #34 (June 2003) is now available. The contents include: *Joel T. Rogers, Air War Writing Ace* by Bill Garwood; *Epic Pulps - COMET* by Mike Taylor; *H. Bedford-Jones in Adventure & paperback* by Caz; *The Ingrahams, "Dime Novel" Kings* by Caz; *Morning Star* by HRH; *Mystery Thrillers, The Untold Story of British Post War Pulps* by Steven Holland; *More on George F. Worts* by Al Lybeck & Virgil Utter; *The History of Pulp Fandom* by Caz; *CAVALIER CLASSICS Index* by Caz; Front cover by Craig Black / Back cover by Ray Capella. This issue has full color front and back covers and is profusely illustrated with full color and black & white illustrations throughout.

Copies are \$6 each (postpaid) anywhere in USA. Six issue subscriptions are \$30. Contact C.

Cazedessus II, P.O. Box 2340, Pagosa Springs, Colorado 81147.

**PULP ART:** PULP ART by Bob Lesser is back in print! The first and best book on the art of the pulps - all from original paintings of Bob Lesser. Bob owns one of the finest collections of pulp art in existence. Not only is this book back in print, but it's priced like a remainder at just \$16.95. More than 100 color illustrations, many full-page. Hardcover, 8x11, 184 pages, Full Color. PULP ART is available from Bud Plant at <http://www.budplant.com/prod.itml/icOid/9221>

**PULP COVER WEBSITE:** John Martin has been collecting the published work of Ellis Parker Butler for several years now. Butler was the author of more than 2,200 stories, books and poems from the 1890s to his death in 1937. Not only a pulp author, his work also appeared in women's magazines, children's magazines and as political commentary. As a pulp author he appeared in AMAZING STORIES, ARGOSY, BLUE BOOK, and others. John has posted 300+ covers (most in both low-res ~30k and higher-res ~100k versions) on the Ellis Parker Butler website at <http://www.ellisarkerbutler.info/epb/coverart.asp>

**PULP FIGURES:** Pulp Figures has release Doc Thompson and his Fabulous Four. Visit the Pulp Figures website at <http://www.pulpfigures.com>

**PULP RACK:** The Pulp Rack website has been updated with the following new additions:



The biggest addition is a 5,000-word article on the historical context for a Talbot Mundy story, *The Soul of a Regiment*. This story first appeared in *ADVENTURE* magazine and was voted one of the most popular ever to appear in the publication by its readers. It may be Talbot Mundy's most-reprinted tale. Duane Spurlock researched and wrote this essay over the past few months.

There are three articles about author William Makin from the pages of *BLUE BOOK*. These contributions come from Peter Ruber.

The Max Brand Photo-Bibliography was updated. This is a work in progress and Frederick Faust was so prolific, this project might never be complete. If you have cover scans for issues that are missing and that you would be willing to contribute, they will be gladly accepted with gratitude.

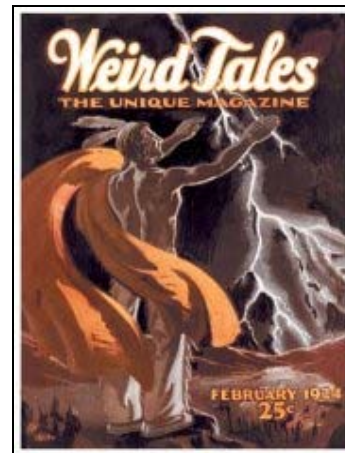
The C.H. New bibliography has also been updated, thanks to Victor Berch.



**PULP REPLICAS:** Girasol Collectables announce seven more issues in its ongoing series of Pulp Replicas. The first new Replica is the January 15 1942 issue of *THE SHADOW MAGAZINE*, *The Book of Death* (01/15/42). The second Replica is issue

#1 of *Dan Turner, Hollywood Detective*. The third Replica features *The Shadow* in *The Romanoff Jewels* from December 01, 1932. The fourth Replica is *SPICY MYSTERY* #3 from July 1935, with a nice Parkhurst cover, the first of the Spicy Replicas not to feature Ward art. The fifth Replica is the June 1, 1933 issue of the *Shadow*, *The Red Blot*. The sixth Replica is the March 1932 issue of *STRANGE TALES* (#4). The final Replica is another early *WEIRD TALES* issue... #10! The February 1924 bedsheet issue is reproduced at full 9"x12" size.

Coming soon – *TERROR TALES!*



These reprints are exact copies including the illustrations, ads and back-up stories and have been printed on off-white paper, staple bound and finished off with a high quality reproduction of the original cover. These Pulp Replicas are \$25 postpaid except *WEIRD TALES*, which is \$35 postpaid. All payments must be made in \$US payable to Girasol Collectables and mailed to: Neil Mechem c/o Girasol Collectables, 3501 Glen Erin Drive, Apt. 1409, Mississauga, ON, Canada L5L 2E9. You can also contact Girasol Collectables at 905-820-7572, 905-820-3435 (FAX), email:

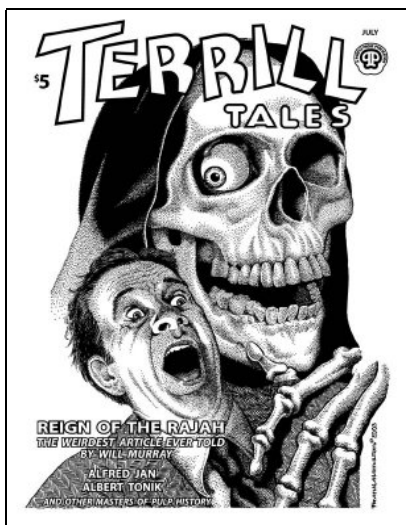
[girasol@interlog.com](mailto:girasol@interlog.com) to order. Visit the Girasol Collectables website at <http://www.girasolcollectables.com/>

**PULPS 1<sup>ST</sup>:** Now available from Pulps 1st is Volume 3 of their pulp cover CD collection. This CD has over 16,500 pulp covers, arranged alphabetically and by date, making the images easy to look up. It's great for researching covers, just to look at covers, and even printing them out. A lot of the images are approximately 1/2 size, but many are smaller, and many are larger. Also included is shareware graphic viewing software for Linux, OS/2, and Windows. The software allows the user to view the covers, displays thumbnails of each title, and create slideshows.

The previous pulp cover CD versions are now on sale. Version 2 has over 13,000 pulp covers and is now \$35. Version 1 is now \$25. The CD is available for \$49.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

Order from: Mark Halegua c/o Pulps 1st, 66-15 Fresh Pond Road, Ridgewood, NY 11385.

If you have questions concerning this product, contact Mark at [pulpsfirst@mindspring.com](mailto:pulpsfirst@mindspring.com)



**PURPLE PROSE:** PURPLE PROSE 17 is now available. Its lead article, written by Will Murray, examines the editorial evolution of Popular Publications during the editorial reign of Rogers Terrill. Alfred Jan contributes a history of the confession pulps, suggesting that Popular's CANDID CONFESSIONS was the cream of the crop. Albert Tonik offers an interview with Agatha Reed, the widow of pulp author G. T. Fleming-Roberts. Ms. Reed discusses the home life of the working pulp author. The interview is introduced by a biography and appreciation of Fleming-Roberts, written by Monte Herridge. Closing out the issue are letters from readers, most of them suggesting further corrections to "Notes and Name Droppings from an Editor's Chair," Harry Steeger's pulp history, which ran in issue #16. There's also the usual gallery of pulp cover reproductions plus interior illustrations from a wide variety of pulps. The cover is contributed by the great Frank Hamilton, through a design provided by Neil Mechem.

Single issues cost \$5.50, postage paid. Send your check or money order to: Michael Chomko, 2217 W. Fairview Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6542. Payments can also be made via Paypal-CASH ONLY-to [chomko@enter.net](mailto:chomko@enter.net). Sorry, but no credit card payments can be accepted. Mike Chomko carries many of the new, pulp-related books listed in this column, generally at a 10% discount with free shipping on orders over \$25. Paper catalogs are available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

**REH'S CONAN: DRAWINGS & SKETCHES:** ROBERT E. HOWARD'S CONAN: DRAWINGS & SKETCHES by Gary Gianni is now

available. Gianni is illustrating the second volume in Wandering Star's Robert E. Howard set, **THE COMPLETE CONAN OF CIMMERIA**. Gary Gianni, the Spectrum and Eisner Award-winning illustrator, has previously illustrated Wandering Star's **SOLOMAN KANE** and **BRAN MAK MORN** volumes. Get behind-the-scenes look at preliminary designs, oil paintings, and illustrations created for the upcoming set, **THE COMPLETE CONAN OF CIMMERIA**. Softcover, 8" x 7", 36 pages, black & white, \$9.95. Contact Bud Plant at <http://www.budplant.com/prod.itml/icOid/12155>

**RENAISSANCE E-BOOKS:** Now available from Renaissance E-Books is *Madame Storey, Private Detective* by Hulbert Footner. Madame Rosika Storey was one of the most celebrated fictional female private investigators during the Golden Age of the mystery (1920-40). *The Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* calls her, "a stunningly beautiful young woman who describes herself as 'a practical psychologist – specializing in the feminine.'" *Madame Storey, Private Detective*, reprints the very first Madame Storey novel and a bonus Madame Storey mystery short – both from the early-1920s.

Also available is **THROUGH THE DRAGON GLASS & OTHER MASTERPIECES OF FANTASY, HORROR AND THE UNCANNY** by A. Merritt. This is Volume II of the first ever collection of the complete short stories of A. Merritt, the supreme genius of fantasy, terror and speculation. Includes, for the first time ever, Merritt's lost story, *Pool of the Stone God*. **THROUGH THE DRAGON GLASS & OTHER MASTERPIECES OF**

**FANTASY, HORROR AND THE UNCANNY** contains the complete text of five of A. Merritt's greatest tales. Included are the title story, *The Fox Woman*, *Three Lines of Old French*, *Music of the Spheres*, and *The Pool of the Stone God*. It also includes the rare *Merritt on Magic* and *Merritt on Merritt*. The companion volume is **THE WOMEN OF THE WOOD AND OTHER STORIES**.

Visit Renaissance Books online at <http://66.216.113.14/eb.php3?ebookid=15891>

**ROBERT MULLEN'S SHADOW PDF:** Dozens of new Shadow stories in PDF format have been added to Robert Mullen's Shadow PDF website at <http://www.theshadowmagazine.com/RMullenPDF.htm> These stories are complete with the original illustrations.

**ROBERT E. HOWARD - THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD:** Columbia TriStar released **THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD** on DVD July 29th. Based on her acclaimed autobiographical book, **THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD** tells the story of Novalyne Price, an attractive feisty West Texas schoolteacher and her bittersweet, romantic and turbulent relationship with Robert E. Howard. Price's intense desire to become a writer initially drew her to Howard. Their brief two-year relationship met with many obstacles, including Howard's offbeat eccentric ways. But theirs was a romance like no other, deeply passionate, intellectually stimulating, and always challenging. This is an unforgettable love story that ultimately changed the course of their lives. **THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD** stars Renee Zellweger and Vincent D'Onofrio.

**ROBERT WEINBERG:** Each year, the Horror Writer’s Association presents the Bram Stoker Awards for Superior Achievement, named in honor of Bram Stoker, author of the seminal horror work, *Dracula*. The 2002 Bram Stoker Awards were presented on 07 June 2003. Robert Weinberg was named a Bram Stoker Award winner for his script for *Nightside* # 1-4, published in 2001-2002 by Marvel Comics. The story was a nominee in the Graphic Novel/Illustrated Narrative Category. This was the second nomination in that category for Weinberg in the past three years. His Cable story, *The Undying*, was a nominee for the 2000 award. This is Bob’s second Bram Stoker Award. He previously won as Best Editor in 1999 for his anthology, *HORRORS*, 365 SCARY STORIES.



**ROBERT WEINBERG:** *EXTINCTION EVENT* #1 and #2 are now available in comic shops from DC Comics. Robert Weinberg writes the series, with art by Brett Booth and Sal Regla. Here’s how DC describes the first issue: “What if humans weren’t the

first intelligent species on Earth? Since the dawn of time, man has believed himself to be the most advanced species to ever inhabit the planet. We were wrong. When a Texas earthquake unearths evidence of an advanced civilization thousands of years old, a team of specialists is dispatched to investigate. But what they find will turn this mission into an adventure of Jurassic proportions.” Here’s how DC describes the second issue: The modern-day prehistoric saga continues! As the research team works to uncover the secrets of an ancient, advanced dinosaur civilization, it stumbles across an even greater discovery: thousands of the prehistoric beasts in cryogenic sleep! What happens when they inadvertently activate the waking mechanism? Will the dinosaurs be civilized enough to seek a peaceful resolution, or will they be driven by animal instinct? Each issue of *EXTINCTION EVENT* is 32 pages for \$2.95.

**ROMANCING THE STONE:**

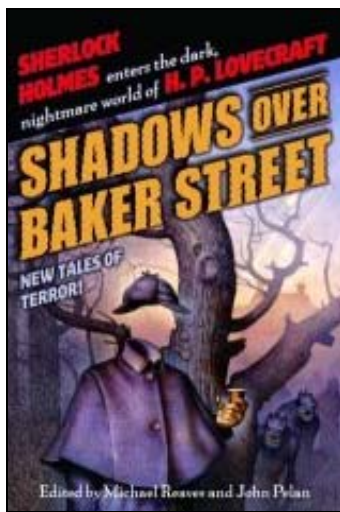
Michael Douglas announced the news that he’s interested in doing a second sequel to “Romancing the Stone” [the first being 1986’s *JEWEL OF THE NILE*] to Radio Station MIX 98.5 in Boston. He failed to say whether Kathleen Turner and Danny De Vito would be returning for the sequel, simply stating “he is looking to get a third installment” off the ground.

**SAHARA:** *SAHARA* is the upcoming film featuring Clive Cussler’s Dirk Pitt. Steve Zahn [National Security] has nabbed a role in the upcoming film *SAHARA* starring Matthew McConaughey as Dirk Pitt. Zahn will play Al Giordino, the wisecracking

sidekick to McConaughey's Dirk Pitt character.

### **SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY**

**HALL OF FAME:** The Board of Directors of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame announced the 2003 inductees at ConQuest 34 in Kansas City. The inductees will be Wilson Tucker and Kate Wilhelm. Posthumous inductees will be Damon Knight and Edgar Rice Burroughs.



### **SHADOWS OVER BAKER**

**STREET:** Coming in October is SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET by Michael Reaves (Editor) and John Pelan (Editor). SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET is an anthology of Sherlock Holmes stories set in the Lovecraftian worlds. Contributors include Neil Gaiman, Brian Stableford, Poppy Z. Brite, and Barbara Hambly. Hardcover, 464 pages, Published by Del Rey, \$23.95.

**SHADOW PDF:** Now available is Doc Savage in THE FIERY MENACE (September 1942) in PDF format complete with interior artwork! At least five more Doc Savage tales are planned. Also available is the first in a new series

of stories about an exciting new character, Amazon Anne! Amazon Anne is an adventuress who charges across the globe in search of adventure. Her adventures are cut from the same cloth as the thrilling heroes of yesteryear! Amazon Anne faces mystical foes, strange beings, and criminal madmen. Read her first adventure today at <http://www.shadowpdf.net>, free and formatted in PDF.

**SHADOW PDF:** ShadowPDF is looking for a few good artists! While The Shadow knows most things, he doesn't know any artists to help out with new pulp stories for <http://www.shadowpdf.net> Artists interested in doing either color covers or pen-and-ink interior artwork can contact ShadowPDF at [shadowpdf@comcast.net](mailto:shadowpdf@comcast.net)

While ShadowPDF cannot offer payment, ShadowPDF is an excellent venue for emerging artists to be seen. The ShadowPDF website averages 30,000 hits per month. That means a lot of eyes see their webpages. ShadowPDF's original Shadow novel has been downloaded more than 6,000 times; the first installment of Amazon Anne has been downloaded nearly 2,000 times. Your artwork will be seen!

**THE SHADOW STRIKES:** THE SHADOW STRIKES starring Rod La Rocque will be available on DVD on August 19th. The owner of a large estate is mysteriously shot and killed and leaves an 11 million dollar fortune. The heirs begin fighting over the inheritance and soon underworld figures move in to steal the prize. The only hope for the innocent heir to the fortune is The Shadow. The retail price is \$9.99.

**SHELDON JAFFERY:** Sheldon Jaffery was diagnosed with lung cancer in June. He died, quite suddenly and unexpectedly on July 10. Sheldon was a regular at Pulpcon, a past member of PEAPS, and a member of PulpMags. He won the Lamont Award in 2001.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER** indicates New Line has picked up Mark DiStefano's untitled script about an NYC cop who learns Holmes was his great-great grandfather. The story has a green New York City detective finding out he's the great-great-grandson of the master detective. As the officer solves case after case, the media pick up and play on what appears to be the Holmes' family skill of deduction and scientific reason. With his prestige and celebrity status growing, the detective suddenly is issued a challenge by an unknown criminal who copycats the crimes Sherlock Holmes faced in his literary adventures.

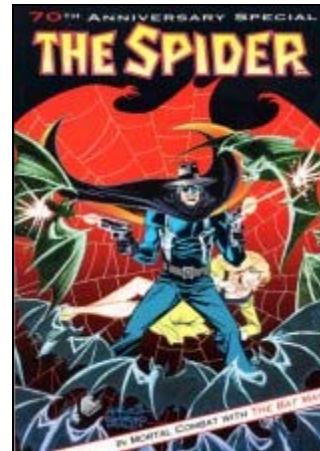


**SHOGGOTH PLUSH:** "There was a dream in which I saw a shoggoth for the first time, and the sight set me awake in a frenzy of screaming." The words of H.P. Lovecraft, creator of Cthulhu, comes to life in this plush version of another Cthulhu companion. Scheduled to ship in November 2003. The retail

price is \$24.95. The Shoggoth plush can be pre-ordered from your local comic shop. The Diamond Order Code is AUG033194.

**SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE PULP ART COVER:** The August 2003 issue of SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE features a cover article about pulp art. Rafael de Soto's cover painting for the August 1947 DETECTIVE TALES is featured on the cover, with the blurb "Deadbeats! Dames! Dirtbags! Pulp Art Gets a Little Respect". The featured article is titled *Guys and Molls* by Doug Stewart, with six color illustrations. The article is available from the Smithsonian website at:

<http://www.smithsonianmag.si.edu/smithsonian/issues03/aug03/pulpart.html>



**THE SPIDER 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL:** Argosy Communication's THE SPIDER 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL is now available. This is a trade paperback facsimile reprint of The Spider #26: *Death Reign of the Vampire King*. This book features a new front cover by Carmine Infantino and Dick Giordano, plus a back cover reproducing John Newton Howitt's cover to the November 1935 issue of THE SPIDER. The book also reproduces various Spider

covers from the pulps and paperbacks, early ads for the pulp magazine, including one for the first issue, and interior art by John Fleming Gould. Only the lead Spider story is being reprinted, no backup stories. The trade paperback is 7x10, 112 pages, and black & white for \$10.00. **THE SPIDER 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL** is available from Mike Chomko. The cost is \$11 postage paid. Send check or money order to: Michael Chomko, 2217 W. Fairview Street, Allentown, PA 18104-6542. **THE SPIDER 70TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL** is also available from Vintage Library at <http://www.vintagelibrary.com/pd.cfm?pcode=sp026>

**SOLOMON KANE:** **VARIETY** reports that French producer/distributor Samuel Hadida's Davis Films (Brotherhood of the Wolf) and Wandering Star have come aboard to develop the live-action, feature film version of Solomon Kane. The \$55 million adaptation of the Robert E. Howard character is now looking for "an A-list director and star ready to put the picture into production next year. Hadida's distribution company Metropolitan will release it in France in 2005." The screen rights to Kane are held by Paul and Michael Berrows, the former managers of Duran Duran, who will produce the film along with Hadida.

Solomon Kane will be scripted by David Jung and Steve Dandois. **VARIETY** claims "Solomon takes place in North America in the 1700s. Kane takes on deadly human forces as he seeks revenge against the sorcerer who destroyed his family." "We want to make this a rip roaring, epic story," Hadida advised the trade paper. "Solomon Kane, an avenger who fights

the forces of evil, fits in with this world."

#### **SUBTERRANEAN PRESS:**

Subterranean Press has announced two new titles of interest.

**SKELETON IN THE CLOSET AND OTHER DARK SECRETS: THE READER'S BLOCH, Volume One** by Robert Bloch. **THE READER'S BLOCH** is a two-volume set, which will collect roughly 50 stories (25 per volume) that have never reprinted since their original appearance, or have not previously appeared in a Bloch collection. The collection is edited by Stefan R. Dziemianowicz and is available in two editions: Limited: 750 numbered hardcover copies signed by the editor: \$40; Lettered: 26 deluxe tray cased copies signed by the editor: \$150

**RETRO PULP TALES** Edited by Joe R. Lansdale. These stories are all pulp-inspired, hoping to capture the story-telling ability and fast pace of tales from 30, 40, 50 years ago and more. In **RETRO PULP TALES**, the hunt for a serial killer plays out in a pulp-magazine letters column (Chet Williamson), mishaps haunt a helicopter crash simulator (Stephen Gallagher), and a real-life "Gidget" sees things in space alien terms (Melissa Mia Hall). Joe Lansdale hasn't weighed in with a story yet, and many more are expected soon. The collection is available in three editions: Trade: Sewn hardcover bound in full-cloth: \$40; Limited: 250 numbered copies, signed by all contributors: \$65; Lettered: 26 signed copies, bound in full leather, housed in a handcrafted tray case: \$150.

Subterranean Press, P.O. Box 190106, Burton, MI 48519, Phone: 810-232-1489,

<http://www.subterraneanpress.com/>



### **SUPER-HERO CTHULHU PLUSH:**

Just when you thought you had seen them all, here's one super-hero yet to make his debut! More intimidating than a speeding bullet! Eats tall buildings in a single bite! It's a Mi-Go! It's a Shoggoth! It's... Superhero Cthulhu! Strange visitor from another dimension, this large-size Cthulhu measures 18" tall, and comes dressed in a super-hero costume. The retail price is \$29.95. This item can be ordered from your local comic shop. The Diamond Item Code is JUL033172. Superhero Cthulhu is scheduled to be in comic shops on 29 October.

**TARZAN:** According to VARIETY, John August, screenwriter of Charlie's Angels, has been hired to write the latest live-action version of the Edgar Rice Burroughs classic, Tarzan of the Apes. Jerry Weintraub will produce this "big-budget" adaptation for Warner Brothers, which Variety promises will be "a big summer actioner." August advised *Variety* that he's a fan of Burroughs' book and of the 1970s cartoon, calling Tarzan "an enduring cultural myth like Hercules or Robin Hood ... The movie versions of Tarzan always portray him as a sort of jungle hippie. Burroughs' Tarzan is a much different character. He's more ferocious and wild, like Wolverine without the claws. That's the version we want to use."

**TARZAN AND JANE:** The WB has abbreviated the title of its new series TARZAN AND JANE to simply TARZAN. Jordan Levin, the network's president of entertainment, told reporters at the TV Critics Association press tour that the change, while it makes the title shorter, actually reflects a broadening in the scope of the show. *Tarzan* is a 21<sup>st</sup>-century retelling of the classic Edgar Rice Burroughs tale, in which the title character (Travis Fimmel), who survived in the African jungle after his parents died in a plane crash, is brought to New York by his uncle (Mitch Pileggi, "The X-Files"), now the head of powerful Greystoke Industries. Jane (Sarah Wayne Callies) is a detective investigating why the uncle is keeping Tarzan locked away. TARZAN premieres on the WB 05 October at 9PM.

### **TARZAN BIG LITTLE BOOKS:**

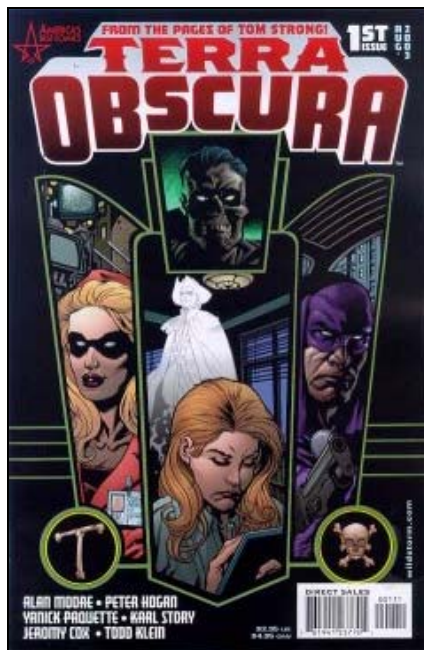
Coming in September from Mad Kings Publishing is TARZAN BIG LITTLE BOOKS. This volume contains the detailed history of the Tarzan Big Little Books. Profusely illustrated with over 100 photos, including scarce premium booklets. Discover the unpublished Tarzan Big Little Book, Tarzan and Tantor. Sporting a full-color cover, this book also features a 4-page insert featuring rare, never-before-published preliminary cover sketches by John Coleman Burroughs! Published with the cooperation and assistance of Danton Burroughs (grandson of ERB), and Robert R. Barrett (TARZAN OF THE FUNNIES). This is a limited edition publication. The price is \$20 plus \$4 shipping for the first book. Add \$1 extra shipping for each additional book. Send check or money order to: Mad Kings



Publishing, 1909 Chestnut Street, Holt, MI 48842.

**TARZAN CHRONO-LOG:** Now available from Waziri Publications is an expanded and updated version of the original Tarzan Chrono-log by Alan Hanson. The Chrono-log includes detailed charts listing and dating all the events in the Tarzan stories penned by Edgar Rice Burroughs. In addition, it includes two extended essays. The first offers a unique solution to “The Great Korak Time Discrepancy” problem, which has plagued Tarzan chronologists for over 50 years. The second essay reveals what Tarzan was doing during the two-thirds of his life not covered by Burroughs in his novels. The Chrono-log includes 10 full-page illustrations by Dave Hoover. The Chrono-log retails for \$19.95 postpaid. International orders should add \$5.

Order from: Alan Hanson, N. 12007 Atlantic, Spokane, WA 99218. Please make checks payable to Alan Hanson.

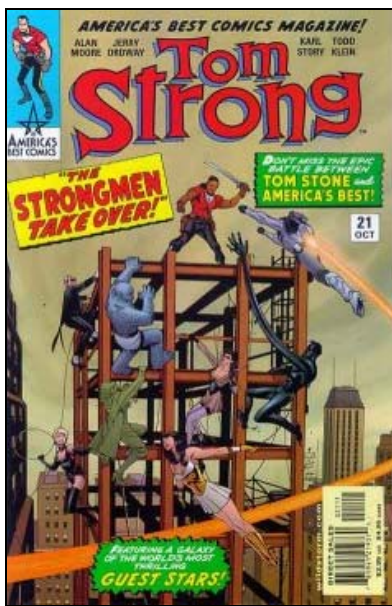


**TERRA OBSCURA:** TERRA OBSCURA #1, #2 and #3 are now available in comic shops from DC Comics. The characters who appear in the story (Pyroman, Miss Masque, The American Crusader, The Black Terror, the Fighting Yank, and Doc Strange) are real comic characters that were published in the 1940s by Ned Pines under the Standard/Better/Nedor imprint(s). TERRA OBSCURA is 32 pages for \$2.95. This is a six issue miniseries.



**THRILLERUK:** A new issue of THRILLERUK (#14) is now available. This issue features: *The Mind of Edgar Wallace* – Mr. J G Reeder & The Just Men (their how, when, where & why); *The Devil's Breath* - A Netherby Chase WWI adventure; *The Saint Files: The Man Who Liked Ants*; *The Dwellers Below* - A John Shade, Consulting Detective mystery; *Peter Pan and the Samurai* - Robert Crais' greatest creations: Elvis Cole and Joe Pike; *The Last Convention* - Crime fiction by John L French. Price: £3.95 + 0.55p P&P (overseas shipping + £1.55). Subscriptions: £15.00 (overseas£20.00).

Please make cheques, postal orders or international money orders payable to: T. Fountain and send to:  
 THRILLERUK, 130 Sackville Road,  
 Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7AA, United Kingdom. Cash can be sent at your own risk (and in your own currency!)  
 THRILLERUK now accepts credit cards via Paypal.  
 Visit the THRILLERUK website at <http://www.thrilleruk.fsnet.co.uk/index.htm>

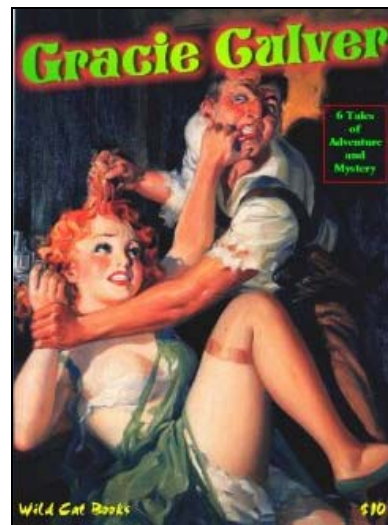


**TOM STRONG:** TOM STRONG #21 is now available from DC Comics.

**V:** Science fiction drama V, which began as an NBC miniseries in May 1983 and aired in a weekly format in 1984-85, has received a script commitment from NBC for a three-hour follow-up movie called V: THE SECOND GENERATION. Original creator Kenneth Johnson will return to write, direct and serve as the executive producer for the sequel. The new telefilm will pick up the story 20 years later. The characters played by Marc Singer, Faye Grant, Jane Badler and

Robert Englund may return, but there will be plenty of new faces.

**WEIRD TALES:** The July-August issue of WEIRD TALES (#332) is now available. Fiction this issue includes: *Shatter* by Kelly McCullough; *Five Sisters: A Fable* by David J. Schow; *The Archpriest's Potion* by Keith Taylor; *The Tales of Zanthias* by Robert Sheckley; *The Assassin's Retirement Party* by Robert E. Waters. Single copies are \$5.95 in better bookstores. Individual issues can also be purchased from The Stars Our Destination/Weinberg Books (773-338-1650).



**WILD CAT BOOKS:** The following are now available from Wild Cat Books:

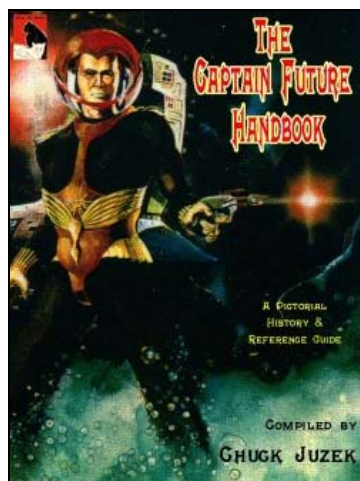
**GRACIE CULVER** features six short stories by Jean Francis Webb. Gracie Culver is one of the early female private eyes from the pulps. She is a sometime-operative and secretary for Big Tim, who runs the Noonan Detective Agency. These stories originally appeared in the back pages of THE SHADOW. 82 pages, Color Cover, \$13 postpaid.

**THE LEGEND OF SPRINGHEELED JACK** collects the

first 10 short stories that originally appeared in SECRET SANCTUM and STRANGE WORLDS. In addition, it features the never before released 11th tale - The Origin Of Springheeled Jack. 100 pages of text, 13 black & white art plates, and three full-color art plates with a color cover for \$23 postpaid.



WORLDS OF WONDER is a Pictorial Guide of Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Pulp by Ron Hanna. 82 pages, over 100 SF&F Pulp Covers with Publishing Info, Selected Story, Cover Artist, plus some Favorite Covers, Interior Art, etc. Color Cover, B&W Interior Art, Nicely bound, 8.5"x11". The retail price is \$16 postpaid U.S.



The New and Updated CAPTAIN FUTURE HANDBOOK by Chuck Juzek contains 14 pages of new material and artwork never previously published in earlier editions! The price is \$30 postpaid.

Contact: Wild Cat Books, 6664 Valley Pike, Middletown, VA 22645-1720. Please make all checks payable to Ron Hanna and not Wild Cat Books. Visit the Wild Cat Books website at <http://www.cpu-net.com/host/wildcatbooks>

**WILDSIDE PRESS:** Wildside Press will be reprinting most of Abraham Merritt's work over the next few years.

**WORLD OF TOMORROW:** VARIETY reports that Paramount Pictures has picked up distribution rights to THE WORLD OF TOMORROW, a period action-adventure film currently in post-production. The picture should be ready for a summer 2004 release. WORLD OF TOMORROW stars Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie. The film is set in 1939 (the title comes from the New York World's Fair of that year) and owes much to the Saturday-morning serials. It is split into seven "chapters," with titles like "Winged Terror" and "Shadow of Tomorrow." The story begins in New York City, where Polly Perkins (Paltrow), crack reporter for the Chronicle newspaper, wonders why so many world-famous scientists are missing. Around this time, strange flying machines threaten Manhattan, and gigantic walking robots tramp down the city's streets, crushing everything in their path. Polly joins forces with her old flame and sometime adversary Capt. Joseph Sullivan (Law), also known as

Sky Captain. He commands the Flying Legion, battling bad guys in his Warhawk P-40. He and Polly fly to a remote part of Nepal (think Shangri-La) to track down the crazed mastermind Dr. Totenkopf, who seems to want to destroy the world.

**ZORRO:** While talking to the press about his upcoming HBO movie, AND STARRING PANCHO VILLA AS HIMSELF, about the Mexican revolutionary, Antonio Banderas revealed that he would begin filming on the sequel to 1998's *The Mask of Zorro* in February. It is unclear whether Catherine Zeta-Jones will reprise her role or not. The Columbia Pictures sequel has been referred to as ZORRO UNMASKED, though it seems that title is still up in the air. Director Martin Campbell is reportedly aboard the sequel written by Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, co-writers of the first film.

**ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION:** ZORRO'S FIGHTING LEGION: THE GOLDEN GOD was released on DVD July 29th. Mexico is under siege from the nefarious Don Del Oro, who's passing himself off as an ancient sun god intent on oppressing the people. The only hope lies with everyone's favorite masked crusader for western justice, the one and only Zorro! A rip-roaring serial packed with swashbuckling, stunts and high-flying action, this whip-cracking classic remains a captivating yarn for Zorro fans of all ages.



**ZORRO MINI-BUST:** The masked avenger to the rescue! This bust features Zorro, known for leaving behind only his trademark Z, and never his identity! Sculpted by Randy Bowen, this bust stands 6" tall, and 8" from the tip of the sword. Scheduled to ship in November 2003. The bust retails for \$45. The Zorro bust can be pre-ordered from Bowen Designs at [http://www.bowendesigns.com/Zorro\\_Bust.html](http://www.bowendesigns.com/Zorro_Bust.html)

If you have questions or comments on any of the news items mentioned herein, please contact me at [bthom1@cox.net](mailto:bthom1@cox.net)

\* \* \*

Editor's note: Thanks to Bill for supplying last issue's Avenger graphics.



## A Review of the Avenger #23: The Wilder Curse

by Jeffrey T. Zverloff

*This article originally appeared in Echoes # 99, June 1998, and has since been altered.*

“The Avenger #23: The Wilder Curse” was published with a cover date of July 1942 by Street and Smith Publications. It featured three stories that spanned one hundred and fourteen pages of exciting adventure for only a dime. The contents of the adventure pulp were as follows:

### Editor’s Notes

The Wilder Curse- Kenneth Robeson.

The Dead Don’t Talk- Robert C. Blackman.

Two Girls Missing- Ronald Oliphant.  
Prize Letters

The cover art was by A. Leslie Ross that depicted the Avenger saving a woman from falling off a ledge. The interior art for “The Wilder Curse” was by Paul Orban. The art for the title page for “The Dead Don’t Talk” was drawn by Van. “Two Girls Missing” art was by M. W. Kierale.

The “Editor Notes” started out by explaining the premise behind “The Wilder Curse”. The backdrop of the story was a series of gruesome murders in a new high-rise apartment building where the residents never really know who their neighbors are. It is interesting to note that the paranoia of who your

neighbors are is still with us almost sixty years later.

The column goes on to inform the readers that if they had enjoyed The Avenger’s stories then they should investigate it’s sister book, “Doc Savage”, that was in it’s eighth year of publication and was also written by Kenneth Robeson.

The “Editor’s Notes” included a blurb for the next issue of “The Avenger”, “Midnight Murder” There also was a reminder to the readers that they could listen to the adventures of the Avenger on the radio station WHN on Tuesday nights at 9:00-9:30 timeslot.

The last point in the column was an interesting request to the readers. If they had to write a paper for their English classes, they should write about their favorite Street and Smith character. This would help expose their friends and classmates to their wonderful publications and maybe create discussion groups about their common interests. The editors wanted people to write them and inform them of their results of their discussion groups. This was a shameless marketing ploy on the editor’s part to increase their readership.

“Prize Letters” was a forum that let the readers comment on their views on crime and law enforcement. The writer of any letter that was published would receive a check for two dollars.

“The Wilder Curse” was one of the New York City bound adventures of Justice, Inc. that was written by Paul Ernst as Kenneth Robeson. Ernst originally turned in the story under the title, “The Thornton Heights Murders” on January 22, 1942. (Howard Hopkins,

“The Grey Nemesis”, A Golden Perils Publication, September, 1992, p45)

The story started out in Thornton Heights, a rich neighborhood, of New York City. The Thornton Heights apartment complex engulfed seven city blocks that even sported exclusive parks for its wealthy inhabitants.

One of Thornton Heights owners, Carl Foley, had been torn apart in the basement of the administrative building. The complex’s assistant engineer thought he knew what had killed Foley. He tried calling Justice Inc. but he was murdered before he could finish the phone call.

Myra Horton showed up at the Justice Inc.’s Bleek Street headquarters trying to enlist the aid of the Avenger to solve the murders at Thornton Heights. Her boyfriend, Dan Moran, a junior bookkeeper at Thornton Heights, thought that one of the three surviving owners was guilty of the murders. Since the Avenger was not available, Smitty and Nellie escort Myra back to the apartment complex. Richard Henry Benson, the Avenger, had already heard about the murders and met them there. While they were discussing the case in Moran’s office, someone tried to kill Benson.

One of the surviving owners, Andrew Sillers, Thomas Mardsen, or Amos Jones, had been embezzling money from the building complex. All of the surviving partners thought that the Avenger was blackmailing them, so they had hired bodyguards to protect themselves from the vigilante.

Fergus MacMurdie and Cole Wilson had visited the home of the first victim, Carl Foley. They were introduced to the victim’s nephew, Clarence Beck who had invited himself along on the investigation. Beck avoided being

captured with Mac and Cole. He then ingrained himself into the company of Benson and Smitty as they rescued their teammates.

Andrew Sillers a partner and the building engineer was killed in the main building’s basement. Then Myra disappeared from Moran’s office as Mac stepped out to check in with Bleek Street.

While back at Justice Inc.’s headquarters, Nellie received a mysterious phone call from Cole asking her to meet him at Thornton Height’s Park. Smitty and Nellie investigated the park trying to find Cole. When Smitty’s back was turned Nellie also disappeared.

Nellie woke up and tied up in a cave. She slipped her bounds and escaped into a subterranean cavern system. Nellie was soon recaptured and put into another cave with a bound Cole.

Benson and Clarence visited the local library to look up the history of Thornton Heights and its vicinity. Clarence then pulled a gun on Benson and emptied his vest pockets of its crime fighting tools. Suddenly, two competing gangs showed up to kill the Avenger.

Benson escaped from the gangs and disguised himself as the late Andrew Sillers. He visited Jones and explained the Wilder Curse to him. Years earlier, Jeb Wilder, a farmer, had cheated one of his neighbors out of their prized pig. One night while he was drunk, Wilder fell into the pigpen and was eaten alive by his prized boar. Shortly before his death, Wilder had sold his farm to Sam Kepper. A few years later, Kepper lost his farm to the Thornton Heights company in some type of legal maneuvering. Hence the Wilder Curse on the current owners.

Later Benson and Clarence had met up with a frantic Smitty and investigated the basement that Sillers had died in.

They discovered a way amongst secret passages and maintenance tunnels that interconnected the buildings of the Thornton Heights complex.

Clarence tried to kill them before he disappeared among the tunnels.

They rescued Myra from a cistern that also contained the killer: a starving wild boar! The Avenger did not replace the board across the pit. They discovered Mac, Nellie, Cole, and Moran tied up in a cave. Benson deduced that Moran was really the son of Sam Kepper, who had wanted revenge.

Moran's gang showed up and he tried to drown Justice, Inc. by flooding the tunnels. They managed to escape because the Avenger had memorized the map of the cave system at the library. Moran in his haste to escape assumed that the board was still over the cistern and fell into it. He became the final victim of the Wilder Curse.

Here are some interesting tidbits from "The Wilder Curse". Josh and Rosabel Newton are mentioned, but they do not appear in the story. Benson recognizes Mac in a fight in pitch-blackness by the size of his Adam's apple. Throughout the story everybody refers to Benson as "the Avenger".

On page 70, Benson injects his face with an anaesthetic based drug to deaden the nerves in his face as before when his face was deadened from the shock of losing his wife and daughter. In "Murder on Wheels", Benson's face and complexion had returned normal. This drug enables the Avenger to reshape his face in a disguise to resemble the late Andrew Sillers. Later on it states that Benson was one of the world's best sculptures and had some of his works on display at the Metropolitan Museum. This was how he learned to sculpt his

face. I never made the connection before I reread this adventure.

The last point that I want to bring up on "The Wilder Curse" was the Avenger's decision to leave Moran's boar recordings in the homes of Jones and Mardsen. This recording would go off every half-hour until it was removed or it malfunctioned. "Their swindle was legal,' Benson reminded him, voice cold and calm. 'And they have already paid heavily for it. They can pay some more by listening to the sounds that now terrify them, and the sound of the beasts of the Wilder's curse. We'll leave Kepper's hidden mechanisms where they are in Jones' and Mardsen's homes.'"(Kenneth Robeson, "The Avenger #23: The Wilder Curse", Street and Smith Publications, New York, July 1942 p87) On page 81, Benson states "Mardsen and Jones will probably either commit suicide or die of fright if those noises keep on in their homes much longer."(IBID.) I think that this shows the Avenger's idea of justice is a moral issue than the idea of justice defined by law.

Robert C. Blackman wrote "The Dead Don't Talk". The main character was an east City police detective Lee Benton, who was trying to clear his brother's name. The story started with Benton following restaurant owner Morris Weir, who had framed Dick Benton for the theft of \$70,000 in bearer bonds. The detective had less than a week to clear his brother before the case went to trial.

Dick Benton had been on his way to deliver the bearer bonds to an office across town when he accidentally stepped into the middle of a fight. He was knocked around between the two struggling men. Morris Weir arrived



during the fight and helped Dick Benton out of the conflict. During the foray, Dick had lost hold of the bonds and they disappeared with the fighters as the police arrived.

The theft of the bonds pointed to Dick Benton, a well-known drinker and gambler. He was the perfect fall guy for Morris Weir. Lee Benton had a gut feeling that Weir had been the mastermind behind his brother's troubles.

Benton followed Weir as he picked up a man, who fit the description of one of the fighters. Weir killed the man and dumped his body outside of the city's limits. Then he followed him to an apartment building.

Since it was raining Benton could follow Weir's wet footprints to an apartment, where he listened at the door. Weir was talking to the last figure connected to his brother's troubles. Suddenly Weir jerked the door open and the startled detective fell to the apartment's floor where Weir had a gun pointed at him. Weir explained the crime to Benton. The detective told the third man that Weir had killed their partner for his share of the bonds. A fight ensued where Benton got the drop on the thieves and arrested them.

This was a typical detective story for its time. It had all the classic elements: a frame up, a double cross, and a gun battle. What else could a reader ask for? I liked this story better than the following one.

"Two Girls Missing" was a nine page short story by Ronald Oliphant. This was a tale of an unnamed private investigator that was told in first person narrative. The private investigator had been investigating the disappearance of a

couple of hostesses at a local Italian roadhouse. He had been waiting for a female private detective named Shirley Smith to arrive. The dick noticed that the waiter had been acting nervously and decided to follow him into the kitchen for some questioning.

He discovered Shirley tied up with the owner of the roadhouse holding a gun on her as his frightened wife looked on. Shirley loosened her bonds and pulled out a hideout gun and shot the owner, then disarmed him. But the owner pulled out his hideout gun and shot the detective as he joined the fray.

The dick woke up in a bedroom above the restaurant with a furrow across his forehead where he had been shot. He left the roadhouse and noticed the Burton Mansion overlooking the restaurant for the first time. Paul Burton had made his fortunes in the beef and timber industries. About twenty years earlier, his granddaughter had been kidnapped and she was never seen again. Burton eventually became a recluse in his mansion.

The private investigator saw a light heading towards the mansion and decided to follow it. He discovered an Indian fakir carrying Shirley into the mansion. The dick sneaked into the ruin down home and watched a bizarre scene unfold before him.

Burton was lying on a couch declared that Shirley was his long lost granddaughter after he felt her face. He then wrote a check to the Indian fakir for finding his beloved granddaughter. Burton's housekeeper, who had also been in on the scam and she wanted to get rid of Shirley before they were caught.

The dick rescued Shirley and discovered that the fakir had been the waiter at the restaurant. The waiter and

the housekeeper had pulled the scam on Burton twice before with the two missing hostesses, who had been killed and disposed in the mansion's furnace. This solved the case for the unnamed detective.

"Two Girls Missing" was an average pulp story. Almost any pulp hero could have been inserted into the story without any real changes. I liked the first person narrative because it was a change of pace from most pulp stories.

The first letter to the "Prize Letters" column was titled, "Blame the Public" by John M. Lynch. He thought that the lack of community based activities for teenagers were what led them to a life of crime. Mrs. B. R. Herbert wrote a letter entitled "Your Tires". She thought that people should walk whenever possible to save wear and tear on their car's tires because new tires diverted materials from the war effort.

The next letter "Causes of Crime" had the writer's name withheld due to the nature of its content. A middle-aged man, who thought that the world was against him wrote the following: nothing that had happened to him in his life was ever his fault and other people caused all of his problems that led to his outbursts and bad luck. His life story would make a good episode on one of the various tabloids TV shows today.

The fourth letter was written by Mrs. Allen Odell and was entitled "Democracy". Her advise was if you wanted our children to be good citizens, we should be better role models for them. B. D. Chiles, a guard at a boy's reformatory, wrote the next letter "Reform Crooks". He felt that not every boy could be reformed and that some of them 'were born to be hanged.' He goes

on to say that the juvenile justice system needed to be revamped before it could reform some boys. The last letter "Crime and Children" was about children needing good role models in their lives. I do not know who wrote this letter because my pulp copy was missing the bottom part of the page.

"Prize Letters" was an interesting column that let the modern reader glimpse the lives and beliefs of people almost sixty years ago. It showed that people's concerns about their families and crime had not really changed in the intervening years.

"The Wilder Curse" was a good solid adventure for Justice Inc. The two short stories were average for their purpose of filling out the issue to one hundred-fourteen pages to give the reader's their money's worth.

\* \* \*



## **The Polar Terror**

by  
**Howard Hopkins**

**A Doc Savage Tribute Novel in PDF  
Download it today from**

[www.howardhopkins.com/page4.htm](http://www.howardhopkins.com/page4.htm)