

# The GRIDLEY WAVE

CONTACTING THE WORLDS OF EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

## Tarzan Artist Paul Norris Passes

Paul Norris passed away at the age of 93 on November 5, 2007. He was born in Chicago in 1914. Like most artists, he grew up with a love of drawing. He attended the Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Nebraska in 1934-1935, but gave up further college education to work for an Ohio newspaper syndicate. When the syndicate folded, he attended the Dayton Art Institute where he met his future wife, Ann.

He soon found himself drawing his own comic strip, "Scoop Lens," for the *Dayton Daily News*. He moved to New York in 1940 where he found work with various comic book publishers, such as DC Comics, Prize Comics, Fox Comics, Standard, Dell, and Gold Key. With Mort Wesinger, he co-created the popular underwater hero, "Aquaman." He also drew several newspaper comic strips:

"Brick Bradford" (which he drew until 1987 when he retired), "Jungle Jim" and "Secret Agent X-9."



Paul Norris holding a bound volume of some of his comic book stories, ca. 2002.



From 1948-1949 Paul Norris drew four issues of the Dell four-color "Flash Gordon" and, later, "Jungle Jim" from 1956-1957. For Gold Key, Norris took over "Magnus" and "Robot Fighter" as well as that book's backup feature "Aliens" when Russ Manning left the book, and "Jungle Twins." He replaced Doug Wildey, who had been drawing the comic adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan novels, with issue number 188, October, 1969, "Tarzan's Quest." He continued drawing the Tarzan adaptations through issue number 206, February, 1972, "Tarzan and the Lion Man," although issue number 202 was a reprint of issue number 154 drawn by Russ Manning, and issues 197-201 and 203-205 were new stories, not adaptations, written by Gaylord Du Bois. Mike Royer initially inked Paul Norris' pencils, but eventually left to ink for Jack Kirby, after which he began doing his own inking.

While Paul Norris' art was not flamboyant, he had a very pleasant, crisp, clean style that was enjoyable. It was said of him that he never uttered an unkind word against anyone, and all who met him came away with the impression that here, indeed, was a gentle man.

...Robert R. Barrett

Left: Gold Key #190, February, 1970

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# Lupoff Interview

Reproduced on this page are the magazine cover (left) and first page of a six-page Filmfax interview with Richard A. Lupoff, author of the celebrated critical analysis, *Edgar Rice Burroughs: Master of Adventure*. The interview was conducted by Ed Gorman and contains 23 black & white photos neatly covering the highlights of ERB's publishing career. This issue (No.116, Oct/Dec 2007) should still be on newsstands, or you can order by phone (847-866-7155) or online at [www.filmfax.com](http://www.filmfax.com). They accept Visa, Mastercard or American Express orders. ... "Ye Editor"



**OUTRÉ** Presents  
**How the Master of Adventure Brought Inspiration & Authorship to an Avid Reader!**  
 Interview by ED GORMAN

**MASTER OF ADVENTURE**  
 THE WORLDS OF EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS  
 RICHARD A. LUPOFF  
 FOREWORD BY MICHAEL MOORCOCK  
 WITH AN ESSAY BY PHILLIP R. BURGER

**OUTRÉ:** What have you always found so compelling in the work of Edgar Rice Burroughs?  
**LUPOFF:** I have to quote something that Theodore Sturgeon used to say about his childhood experiences reading the old Argosy pulp magazine: "You could curl up with it and say, 'Tell me a story,' and it would." Sturgeon didn't mention the names of his favorite pulp writers—I wish to heaven I'd asked him when I had the chance. I could kick myself for not taking advantage of that opportunity! —but I'd bet that Burroughs was one of them. I even had an exchange of letters with the great J.R.R. Tolkien, in which he mentioned that he'd read Burroughs in his youth. You can curl up with a Burroughs book and say, "Tell me a story," and Burroughs will tell you one. Of course, his works were uneven and a few of them are pretty drab, but more often than not, he was on target and, at his best, those stories were humdinger!

**OUTRÉ:** Do you have a personal preference for any of his various worlds? Tarzan as compared to John Carter, for instance?  
**LUPOFF:** I'm fondest of the John Carter books. The first of that series, *A Princess of Mars*, has to be given special status as Burroughs's apprentice novel, and toward the end—for instance, with *Synthetic Men* or *Liana of Goth*—he was pretty well played out, but the middle books of that series—*Gods of Mars*, *Warlord of Mars*, *Fighting Man of Mars* (which intro-

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**  
 His works include cultural history (*Master of Adventure: The Worlds of Edgar Rice Burroughs*, The Great American Paperback), science fiction (*Space War Blues*, *Crematorium*), Sam's End, mysteries (*The Radio Red Killer*, *One Murder of a Travel*, *fantasy (like Kane, Sourd of the Demons)*, and mainstream fiction. His short story "12:01 P.M." has been filmed repeatedly, and he would be happy if Hollywood would pick another of his books or stories next time.

His most recent books are *Marblehead: A Novel of H.P. Lovecraft*, *The Universal Holmes*, and *The Complete Oca Hamlet*. His next book will be *Quintet: The Cases of Chase and Detective*, published by Croppen and Landru.

Lupoff lives in northern California with his wife, Patricia, and their children, grandchildren, dogs, cats, goldfish, and an out-of-control collection of books, CDs, and DVDs.

**76 FRANK+**

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**  
**A FIGHTING MAN OF MARS**  
 Hidden within a red hot planet

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**  
**THE MASTERMIND OF MARS**  
 An American leads the expedition of Burroughs's greatest servant

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**  
**THUVIA**  
 MARCH OF MARS

**EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS**  
**AT THE EARTH'S CORE**  
 Adventure in a Stone Age land underground

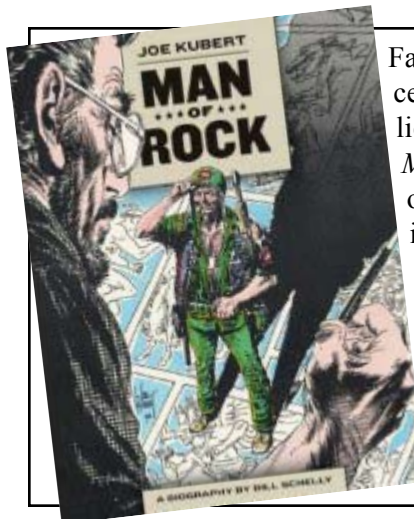
**FRANK+ 77**

**TIGER GIRL**  
 by EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS  
 John the Blue of Borneo called Blue and his mother. He was the son of a noble of Borneo...

**THROUGH THE EYES OF RICHARD A. LUPOFF**

dures a surrogate hero), *Mastermind of Mars*, even as late a book as *Swords of Mars*—are terrific reads, one and all. I'm a big fan of *The Moon Maid*, which is connected, at least peripherally, to the end, but *At the Earth's Core*, *Pellucidar*, *Tarzan of Pellucidar*, and *Tarzan at the Earth's Core* are wonderful fun. =>

I also think Burroughs's hollow Earth books are great fun, at least the first three or four in the series. There were seven of these, and once more Burroughs was running down toward the end, but *At the Earth's Core*, *Pellucidar*, *Tarzan of Pellucidar*, and *Tarzan at the Earth's Core* are wonderful fun. =>



Fantagraphics Books recently announced the publication of *Joe Kubert: Man of Rock*, a biography of the comic book artist by Bill Schelly. Due in July, 2008, it will be a 220-page paperback original with many illustrations, and sell for \$19.99 (ISBN: 978-1-56097-928-9).

**CORRECTION TO GRIDLEY WAVE #304, January, 2008**

In the article about the first movie Tarzan, Stellan Windrow, we mistakenly reported that Gabe Essoe and Jerry Schneider had misidentified him as "Winslow Wilson" in their respective books on Tarzan filmography. Jerry is innocent of the charge; it was Dave Fury who was the guilty party, along with Gabe Essoe. Our sincere apologies. ... "Ye Editor"