



CONTACTING THE WORLDS OF EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

ERB'S FLAG DAY SPEECH, 1918

(An address given at Oak Park, June 14, 1918)

It is always an honor, my friends, to serve The Flag, however humble our service may be, and I consider it an especial honor to be permitted to speak here at the raising of The Flag upon this day that has been set apart in token of our love and reverence for this, our National Emblem.

This flag stands for the best and noblest ideals which we, as a Nation, cherish ...it is no better and no worse than these ideals — the flag is what we make it. If as individuals our ideals are unworthy so will our flag become unworthy in the eyes of the other peoples of the world, and thus it behooves us to foster in our own bosoms characteristics of honor and integrity, of chivalry and humanity, that our beloved flag may reflect only the highest. This is our duty.

A few years ago the yearly observance of Flag Day was almost a necessity lest we forget that we owned a flag or what it looked like. A few years ago it was something of a fad among so-called intellectuals to scoff at the puerile sentimentality of flag worship. I used to feel that there must be something wrong with me—some taint of mental weakness—when the tears came to my eyes as the colors passed under armed escort. I know better now—I know that the trouble was with the scoffers; but it was only skin deep—a veneer of affectation which the heat of the true patriotism in their hearts has at last consumed.

And so now the annual observance of Flag Day is no longer a necessity—it is merely an added honor to Old Glory—for today every day is Flag Day.

And this is just a superficial indication of one of the many blessings that are bound to come to us out of this just and glorious war we are waging to maintain the freedom that is our right and to help other good nations to maintain theirs.

Our eyes have been opened. We still acknowledge the marvels of efficiency; but we have learned that we possess many attributes that are too fine to be sacrificed upon the altar of efficiency. It is well to develop the mind; but the heart and soul must keep pace with the mind, or the result will be not a super-man but a super-brute. We must not, then, be ashamed to admit that we possess some of the softer characteristics of humanity, for these are the true measure of the heart and the soul.

We should be proud to openly acknowledge our love of country and of flag; we should be glad that we can choke up when the boys march past and we should doubly rejoice not only that we have such a country and such a flag, but that we have such boys to go forth across the seas and fight for them as we are fighting on the western front to-day...fighting, my friends, to keep that Flag at the top of this staff — forever.



Tarzan actor Denny Miller waves the flag as Uncle Sam

The Gridley Wave #309 🦋 June, 2008

Published monthly for the Burroughs Bibliophiles as a supplement to *The Burroughs Bulletin*. Edited by George T. McWhorter, The Edgar Rice Burroughs Memorial Collection, William F. Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292.
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Photo Memories of Danton Burroughs



Clockwise, from top:
Danton poses with five fanzine editors: In front row: Bill Ross (*Tar-zine*), Frank Westwood (*Fantastic Worlds of ERB*). Back row: Pete Ogden (*Erbania*), Danton, Mike Conran (*ERB News Dateline*), and George McWhorter (*Burroughs Bulletin*).

Danton cuts the ribbon for the dedication of a Burroughs room at the Braemar Country Club in Tarzana as Tarzan actor Gordon Scott looks on.



Danton brought ERB's derby hat to the Dum-Dum and put it on "Ye Editor's" head for a fun photo.

Danton holds the knife used by Johnny Weissmuller in the Tarzan films.

All photos taken by Frank Westwood at the 1989 ECOF convention in Tarzana.



NOTICE: The 2008 Board of Directors meeting of the Burroughs Bibliophiles will take place at 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 25, in Room 22 at Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center, Waterloo, Iowa, during the Dum-Dum weekend. All members are invited to attend.