



BUSTED RIBS AND BROKEN ENGLISH

Published irregularly by
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Who Drew Dat?

The picture featured at the top of this 'zine is lifted from *Fantasy Crossroads* #15. The picture is credited only to "Roldo". Can anyone give any further information on this artist?

Where's the Beef?

Much to my chagrin, I have suddenly been forced to take a two week business trip just as I am beginning to prepare this issue. That means that it will certainly be much shorter than I had intended or hoped. In particular, I have no time to type in my mailing comments (drat).

Breckinridge's Picks

Following up to the last issue, Poul Anderson's "The Barbarian" was reprinted in *The Best from Fantasy and Science Fiction, Sixth Series*, edited by Anthony Boucher, Doubleday & Company, 1957.

I recently noticed the story "My Sword Is Quick" in *REH: Lone Star Fictioneer* #4. It is credited to M. M. Moamrath. The sparse editorial material suggests that this is part of a series. Does anyone have more info on this? Here is a small excerpt:

"Ho, Northerner," cried the *other* Nibian, "though you have vanquished my brother, you shall not escape the vengeance of my blade *S'Trait-R'Hazor!*" Once again, the

swords wove glistening webs of death through the torn, tumbled tavern. Finally, a powerful thrust by McCrom severed cartilagenous connections in the thorax of the Nibian, resulting in massive hemhorraging and sudden shock, penultimately causing the necrotic termination of the Nibro in a pool of florid fluid.

I ran across the following recently:

I was particularly amused to find none other than Justin Case himself on the loose as a character in "Brides of the Blood-Fiend from Hell" (*Shudder Stories* #2). Next I suppose he'll team up with Sam Walser in "Six-Gun Hell-Cat from Black River." I can't wait.

Karl Edward Wagner
Shudder Stories #3 (Menacing Mail)

The following post appeared on the Internet recently:

Subject: Top Ten List of Rejected Howard Stories
From: dmurphy364@aol.com
Date: Late March 1997
Newsgroups: alt.fantasy.conan

10: Prom-Queen of the Black Coast
9: Black Colostrum
8: Pool of the Bhagwan
7: Tower of the Bandicoot
6: The Devil in Plaid
5: The Frost Giant's Lawyer
4: The Vale of Lost Luggage
3: The Penis on the Sword
2: The Turd in the Bowl
AND THE NUMBER 1 REJECTED ROBERT E. HOWARD STORY:
1: Bite My Ass... I Rule!

Hope this settles any arguments.

As some of these stories were unfamiliar to me, I consulted famed Howard scholar Lord Glenn. It appears that the following stories and poems were also recently unearthed in a shoebox underneath the floorboards of the Howard house in Plane Cross, Texas:

A Rip Shall Be Torn
The Right Hand of Pee-Wee
The Castle of the Devil in Iron Shadows in the Moon of Skulls in the Stars
(Solomon Kane/Conan crossover)
The Return of Sir Richard Dawson
Buffalo Wings in the Night
Lines Written in the Realization That I Must Dine (28 lines)
(lines 1-27 virtually identical to "Lines Written in the Realization That I Must Drive")
Knife, Bullet and Burnoose
The Shadow of the Breast (by Sam Walser)
Kelly the Conjure Wife (with Fritz Leiber)
Exile of Atlanta
"For the Love of Barbara Eden"
The Grey God Passes Gas
Three-Bladed Doom II (coming soon from id Software)

The Good Stuff...

As I was rearranging some of my books recently, an odd thing struck me. Perhaps some other REH fans have fallen into the same trap.

When I first began reading Howard some 20-25 years ago, the quantity of quality material in print or about to see print was truly amazing. Grant, FAX, Fictioneer, Zebra, and later Ace, Bantam, and Berkley were all putting out volumes of truly top drawer Howard fiction (along with some curiosities and duds). The only limiting factor was finding the time (and money) to keep up with it all.

Then the well ran dry.

The eighties were truly a dismal decade for How-

ard fans. Grant's output slowed to a trickle, Ace occasionally issued a new printing, but the shelves were pretty bare.

Of course, as I covered last issue, I was basically out of collecting during this time so this didn't really affect me. In fact it was the issuing of the new series by Baen a few years back (coupled with the coincidental moving of many boxes of books from my parent's house) which started me back on the road to Howard collecting. And I have been spending the past couple of years catching up on the stuff I missed during my absence.

But back to my original issue. It suddenly hit me, as I was going through some of the Cryptic Publications volumes, that I had allowed the collector and completist in me to turn the appreciation of Howard upside-down. While I applaud Bob Price and Cryptic for keeping the spirit of small press Howard publishing going during the eighties, anyone would have to admit that most of the stories stunk... and that is the Howard I had been reading of late.

I had read most of the great Howard material during my initial fan days of the seventies. And I hadn't reread many of them since! These are the stories that made Howard great. The stories which made all of us fans. The stories which kept Howard from sinking into obscurity.

So I have begun going through the "classic" Howard. Starting with the Berkley Conan series (tragically incomplete) and then the Baen volumes. To this point, I've reread *Red Nails* and *The People of the Black Circle*.

My greatest surprise so far? I had forgotten just how **GREAT** "Beyond the Black River" is! I was reading this on a recent plane trip and found myself thoroughly engrossed. Great pacing, great character development, great **GREAT GREAT!** (Okay, so I'm gushing.)

My greatest disappointment? "A Witch Shall Be

Born” is really a very ordinary (almost boring) story with a couple of classic pages (you know the ones). Were it not for the crucifixion scene, this would be on the bottom of the Conan barrel. I find Karl Wagner’s praise for it undeserved. And some of the elements Wagner likes (the use of the letter to compress time) simply serve to destroy any sense of pacing or drive.

On the trip I have coming up just after I finish this issue, I should get through *The Hour of the Dragon* and the Baen Kull and Solomon Kane volumes. This is going to be fun.

Desperately Seeking...

Despite my comments above regarding the poor quality of much of the Howard material published during the eighties, I still need some of it! I’m still a collector and completist, after all.

If anyone has spare copies of the following, please contact me for possible purchase or trade:

Cromlech 1

Fantasy Crossroads 1, 4/5

The Howard Collector 3-6, 8, 10, 15

Amra 1-16, 19-29, 31-43

Cross Plains 1-3, 5-7

REH: Two-Gun Raconteur 1

An REH Memorial; June 13-15, 1986

Ghost Ocean

Ein Traumer Aus Texas

The Conan Companion

Risque Stories 5

Weird Tales #4 (edited by Lin Carter)

Fantome 1

Is 6 (September 1972)

Trumpet May 1968 (number unknown, < 9)

Fantastic Stories July 1975

Also, I have spare copies of a fair number of Howard and related books and magazines listed at my web site. And although I don’t mention it there, I will discount significantly from the asking price for fellow REHupans.