



BUSTED RIBS AND BROKEN ENGLISH

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Questions, Questions

Fantasy Magazine #38 (September, 1936) contains several items of interest to REH scholars. As you might guess from the date of publication, it contains several memorials to Howard, by far the best known being H. P. Lovecraft's "In Memoriam", reprinted in both the various editions of *Skull-Face and Others* and in *The Last Celt*. There are several other, much shorter pieces by other Howard acquaintances: Otis Adelbert Kline, E. Hoffmann Price, and Jack Byrne. It also includes a photograph of REH, as indexed in my last mailing.

While rereading these pieces recently, several things jumped out at me which had escaped my notice on prior readings:

- 1 What is the source of the photograph reproduced here? In a letter from HPL to E. Hoffman Price (quoted in from Rusty's excellent article "The Lovecraft/Howard Correspondence" printed in Van Hise's *The Fantastic Worlds of H. P. Lovecraft*), HPL comments:

"...supplementing his descriptions with generous batches of pictorial matter (all now in my files) whenever he made a trip to any place of historical or scenic interest."

Now we do know that the photo of Howard at Fort McKavett came from HPL. There is also the photo of Howard at an unspecified location which was printed in *Marginalia*. Is

the photo from *Fantasy Magazine* also from the HPL files? And what is the current home of these photos? Like many of the Howard photographs, we have only a secondary source for this picture, and that not the greatest printing in the world. If a stash of the original photos were to be acknowledged, I would be very grateful to be able to make much higher quality copies than had previously been available. There is also a very good chance that there are unpublished REH photos from his HPL correspondence.

- 2 OAK's recount of Howard's final hours is almost comically melodramatic. For instance:

"He wrote his last story for **Weird Tales**, which magazine bought his first story. He took it in to his mother and said, 'Mother, it is finished.'"

He is likely to have gotten his impressions of this time from Dr. Howard, but is there a grain of truth in this over the top presentation, or is it the pure embellishment of a man of fiction?

- 3 Jack Byrne (at that time editor of *Argosy*) notes

"...he sold me six [stories] in a row within the last six weeks for *Argosy*."

However, only five Howard stories appeared in *Argosy* under Byrne, and all within the last

few months of 1936. Hmm... So what's the missing story? Three of these five stories were Pike Bearfield tales, and there was a completed Pike story which was later rewritten under the direction of the OAK agency as a Breckinridge Elkins story ("While Smoke Rolled"). Is there any evidence that any Howard stories were accepted by *Argosy* but never printed there? I believe that the financial records for *Argosy* are intact, and this may warrant an inquiry.

Photo Followup

Thanks, to Glenn, I'm reproducing here two of the unpublished photos mentioned in my photo index in REHupa #156. There are still two more of which I have not yet obtained copies.



The sign here reads:

"The House from Which
Billy the Kid
made his last Escape
After Killing His Two Guards
Bell and Derringer
April ? 1881
Being Killed Later By
Sheriff Pat Garrett
Visitors Welcome"

And sadly, that all...

Short 'zine this time around. Pulpcon and the search for a new job have taken a serious toll on my time for this mailing. My humorous western research continues, albeit slowly. Perhaps four months will be enough to have it done for #160. Until next time, REHupan brethren.