



BUSTED RIBS AND BROKEN ENGLISH

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The ~~Whole~~ Wide World

After missing the (exceptionally brief) theatrical release of *The Whole Wide World* in the Pittsburgh area, I was fortunate enough to view a pre-release edit on videotape from an ex-REHupan. I loved it! I was told that there had been a few scenes cut for the theatrical release, though to what extent I didn't know at the time.

Later (1998) there was some correspondence on the REHFans list regarding what was cut and noting that the LaserDisc version restored the cut scenes, but not the pan&scan VHS version. So I picked up the LD version (despite not having an LD player) and had a coworker tape it for me. That became my "viewing" copy. Later I also picked up one of the VHS releases used on eBay for completeness' sake, and to see firsthand how much was cut.

Fast-forward to 2003. A question which has been asked every so often on the REHInnerCircle e-mail list (RIP REHFans) is "Is or was there a DVD release and where can I get one?" The answer turned out to be a bit more complicated than I first thought. I'd picked up a region-1 DVD version a year or so ago, noted with disappointment that it was the shorter version, and relegated it to the back of my shelf. And there were periodic claims by folks that the US DVD was out-of-print, but there were also web sites selling them new, so I just assumed the distribution was spotty.

But a recent note by Dale Rippke pointing out that there was to be a new US DVD release made

me take a closer look. After some exchanges on the list and looking through the descriptions of some eBay auctions (a surprisingly plentiful, if not always accurate, source of such trivia) I think I understand the story better now. What I had was the *Canadian* release, and a look at the fine print on the back of the box confirmed it. Apparently there has never been a US DVD release, only LD and VHS.

Just to make things as confusing as possible, the Internet Movie Database (imdb.com) only lists one version at 111 minutes. Likewise every version I've seen claims 111 minutes on the box. But it's not true. I've timed the US VHS and Canadian DVD releases at 106 minutes from the opening scene to the end of the credits. The US LD release clocks in at the documented 111 minutes. The version Dale found on the web (at DVDPlanet.com) claims to be a 106 minute version, the first time I've ever seen that acknowledged as the length for any release.

So here's what I know about where you can get or see which version:

- Shorter version (106 minutes):
 - US VHS (pan & scan)
 - Canadian DVD
 - US DVD (rerelease) (unconfirmed)
- Longer version (111 minutes):
 - US LD
 - Hong Kong bootleg DVD (info from Paul Herman & Bill MacGowan)

Some cable networks (such as WE) have been showing the longer version. I'm unsure what version was seen in other television airings or in international video and DVD releases.

Coll & REH: Two Artists

The first time I heard of Joseph Clement Coll was in Jon Bacon's interview with Don Grant in *Fantasy Crossroads* #10/11 way back in 1977. Grant raved about him, but at the time I had few means (and little inclination) to track down this rather obscure (at least to me) artist.

And that's where it sat until PulpCon in 1998 where I had the good fortune to meet Gary Gianni as he did his promo work for the Solomon Kane book. By interesting coincidence, his table was directly across from Chuck Miller's, and what did Chuck have on his table but a copy of *The Magic Pen of Joseph Clement Coll*, the excellent collection of the artist's amazing pen & ink work. Due to crowding around Gary's table, I spent about 5 minutes browsing the Coll book before looking over Gary's work. I was struck by the immediately evident Coll influence in Gary's work. And that's a strong compliment indeed. Money was tight at the time (partially due to saving for the SK book!) so I passed by the Coll book. A decision I've regretted since as it's a tough book to find for an affordable price.

But I finally found one for a reasonable price and it's better than I recalled. But what really sent me was how well some of these drawings would work for REH stories. Take the following:



Spitting and Gurgling at Us with Wide-Open Beak.

“Wings in the Night” anyone? Sure, it's not exact, multiple white men for example, but damned close. And more than a passing resemblance to Gary's illustrations for the same scene. This illo, by the way, is for Doyle's *The Lost World*. Coll's work for this story is incredible and there are many pieces which would fit REH.

Then there's this:



Note the similarity to Brundage's WT cover painting for “Shadows in Zamboula”, though this piece certainly has more life and movement than the rather static Brundage work. This is the right hand side of a two-page spread for Mundy's *King—of the Khyber Rifles*.

This is two of the best examples, but there are many more. If you come across a copy of this book, grab it. There is also a more recent collection: *Masters of the Pen Vol. 1: Joseph Clement Coll*. It's well worth the \$15 price, though the reproductions are not nearly so good.