



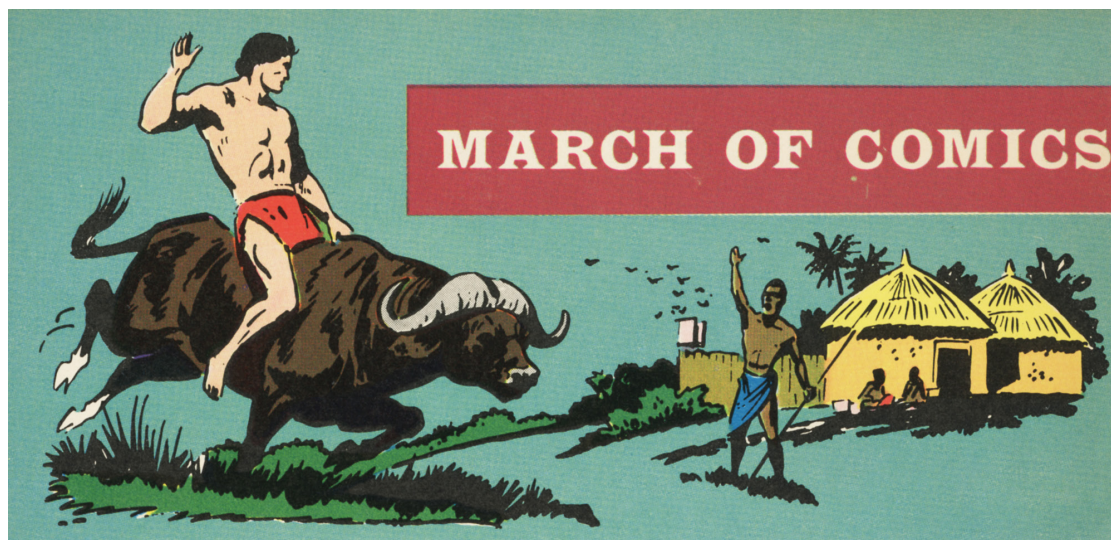
# EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS 100 YEAR ART CHRONOLOGY

VOLUME 3: THE COMICS

THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE PART 1

MICHAEL TIERNEY





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United Feature Syndicate launched a second series of newspaper strip reprints in 1940. The first issue featured all *Jim Hardy* newspaper strip reprints. The second and final issue was all *Frankie Doodle*.

The United Feature Syndicate tried again after morphing *Sparkler Comics* into the same anthology format as the successful *Tip Top Comics* series.



Debuting in July 1941, the first issue of the second volume hit newsstands in the month following the end of Tarzan's first run in *Tip Top Comics*. The long running *Captain & the Kids* and *Ella Cinders* also moved over from *Tip Top Comics*, while *Nancy* by Ernie Bushmiller was a new feature that would dominate the covers of later issues of *Tip Top Comics*.

On that first issue Tarzan was the top headshot of the seven features advertised along a strip down the side of a *Spark Man* cover.

The lead feature about the mysterious masked super-hero called the Spark Man was all original, while the rest of the magazine was all reprints. *Spark Man* would dominate the covers for the first couple of years, until the reprints took over completely.

Where *Tip Top* primarily reprinted Hal Foster, *Sparkler* would concentrate on the more current works of Burne Hogarth. The first issue opened with *Cabin in the Wilderness* from October 3, 1937 (#343), and then moved to the first page of *Tarzan and the Boers Part 1*

by Hogarth and writer Don Garden, with a total of six sequential weekly *Tarzan* strips.

*Tarzan* would remain a headshot on covers until issue #14, when *Sparkler Comics* hired Burne Hogarth to re-envision scenes from his Sunday pages. While none of the covers were connected to the reprints inside each particular issue, Hogarth's run were all highlights both in the run of *Sparkler Comics*, and in the history of *Tarzan* covers.

#14 (September 1942—page 43) recreated elements from Hogarth's May 11, 1941, strip (#531), with changes to the figures and the woman's clothing.

#21 (April 1943—page 44) was based on Tarzan's battle with an ape by Hogarth in the September 13, 1942, strip (#601).

#25 (September 1943—page 45) is an all original Hogarth cover.

#28 (December 1943—page 46) was either an original image, or Hogarth was working far in advance and this was a liberal reinterpretation of Hogarth's upcoming November 26, 1944, strip, where the lion had been an ally. This cover would be recycled for the second issue of the British *Tarzan* comics.

#31 (March 1944—page 47) was a recreation of Tarzan's battle with a warthog in Hogarth's February 27, 1944, Sunday strip (#677).

#34 (July 1944—page 48) was a recreation of Tarzan's battle with a rhino in Hogarth's August 16, 1942, strip, but nothing even remotely close to this scene occurred.

#37 (October 1944—page 49) was an all-original Hogarth cover. Tarzan fought a lot of sharks over the years, so this could be from any number of sea battles.







April

No. 21



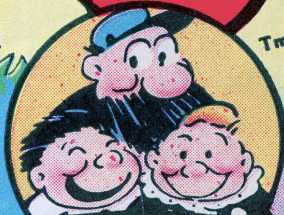


September

No. 25

# SPARKLER

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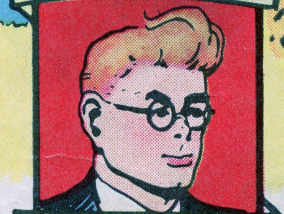
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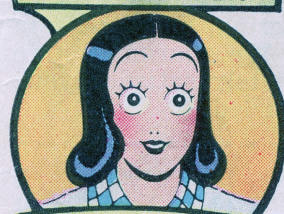
NANCY



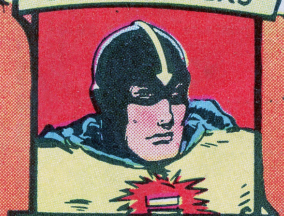
ABBIE an' SLATS



HAP HOPPER



ELLA CINDERS



The SPARK MAN





December

10 Cents

No. 28

# SPARKLER

COMICS

