

EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS 100 YEAR ART CHRONOLOGY

VOLUME 4: THE COMICS



THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE PART 2

MICHAEL TIERNEY



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Edgar Rice Burroughs' Art Chronology

Book Four

Comics: The Universal Language—Part Two

by Michael Tierney

John Carter of Mars A Romance of Two Worlds



The creation of John Carter of Mars launched Edgar Rice Burroughs' literary career. Burroughs had an obvious affinity for the name John, giving the name of John Clayton to his next great creation, Tarzan of the Apes, and naming his youngest son John Coleman Burroughs (JCB). ERB must

have watched with special pride when John Coleman developed his artistic skills to the point where he became the exclusive artist for all the publications produced by ERB, Inc.

Shown above is John Coleman Burroughs' unfinished, and previously unpublished, portrait of his father at work.

John Coleman Burroughs

Born in Chicago (February 28, 1913–February 22, 1979), one year after *A Princess of Mars* debuted in the February 1912 issue of *The All-Story Magazine*, John Coleman Burroughs showed an aptitude as an artist early on and received his first lessons from his father. JCB continued his artistic pursuits by enrolling in Pomona College in 1930 and graduating with magna cum laude honors.

In 1936, at age 23, John Coleman Burroughs was given his first chance to illustrate one of his father's stories, *The Oakdale Affair* and *The Rider*. Shown below is a photograph taken by his brother, Hulbert Burroughs, of JCB as he started on the project, with an inset showing the final result. It was a complicated assignment for a novice

illustrator, showcasing two different stories with one cover, but Edgar Rice Burroughs would later comment about how his son had done a "Swell job" with his efforts.

JCB went on to enjoy a long and productive career with a large body of work that extended to cover paintings and story illustrations beyond his father's creations. He also established himself as a novelist.

Utilizing his pencilling skills, John Coleman Burroughs' first work in the comic book industry was on his namesake, *John Carter of Mars*. John Coleman's first wife, Jane Ralston Burroughs, served as his model for the Princess of Mars, Dejah Thoris, as well as being his inker, letterer, colorist, and background artist.



The **FUNNIIES**

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JOHN CARTER^{OF} MARS....

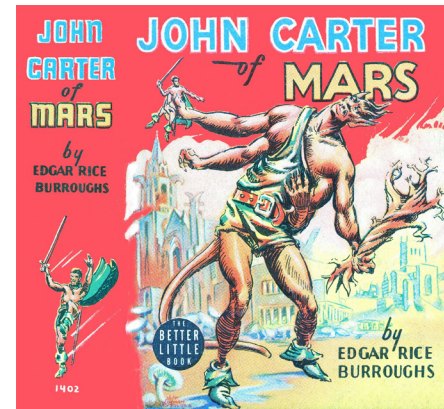
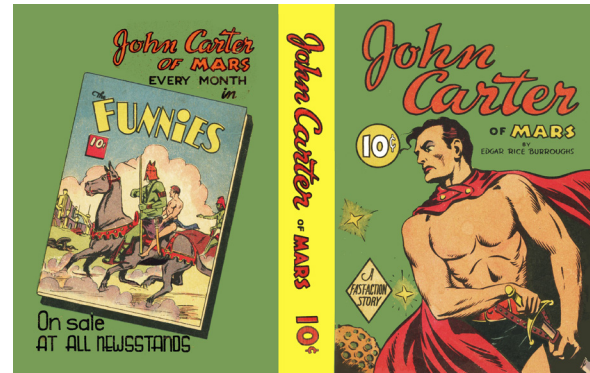
8 PAGES OF *SKY RANGER*

**CAPT. EASY • MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY • ALLEY OOP
TOM BEATTY • CRIME BUSTERS • and many others**

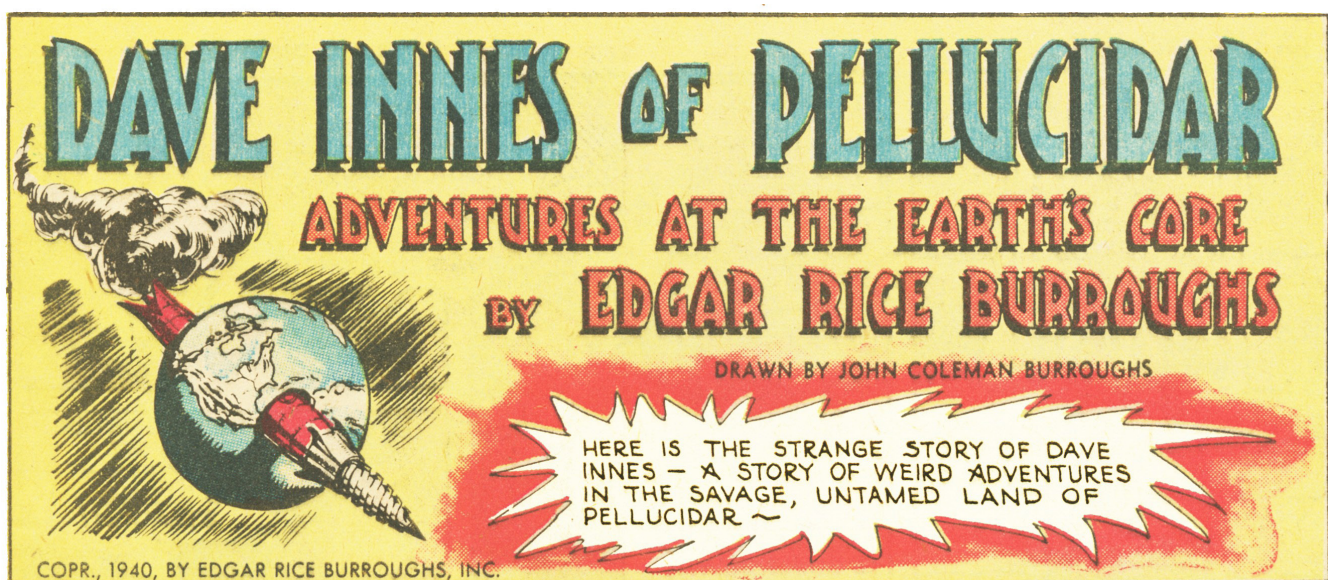
Fast Action and a Better Little Book

The 1940 *John Carter of Mars* Dell Fast Action Story reprints panels from *The Funnies* containing early chapters from *A Princess of Mars* adaptation by Jim Gary and John Coleman Burroughs (1939). The front cover was by JCB and the back cover by Gary.

The 1940 *John Carter of Mars* Better Little Book (#1402) featured an all new cover and new interior illustrations by John Coleman Burroughs. This is the origin of the “John Carter and the Giant of Mars” story that was published by *Amazing Stories Magazine* a year later, which has long been a subject of controversy regarding the identity of the author. This Better Little Book has a story very close to the early chapters of the pulp story, but with a different ending.

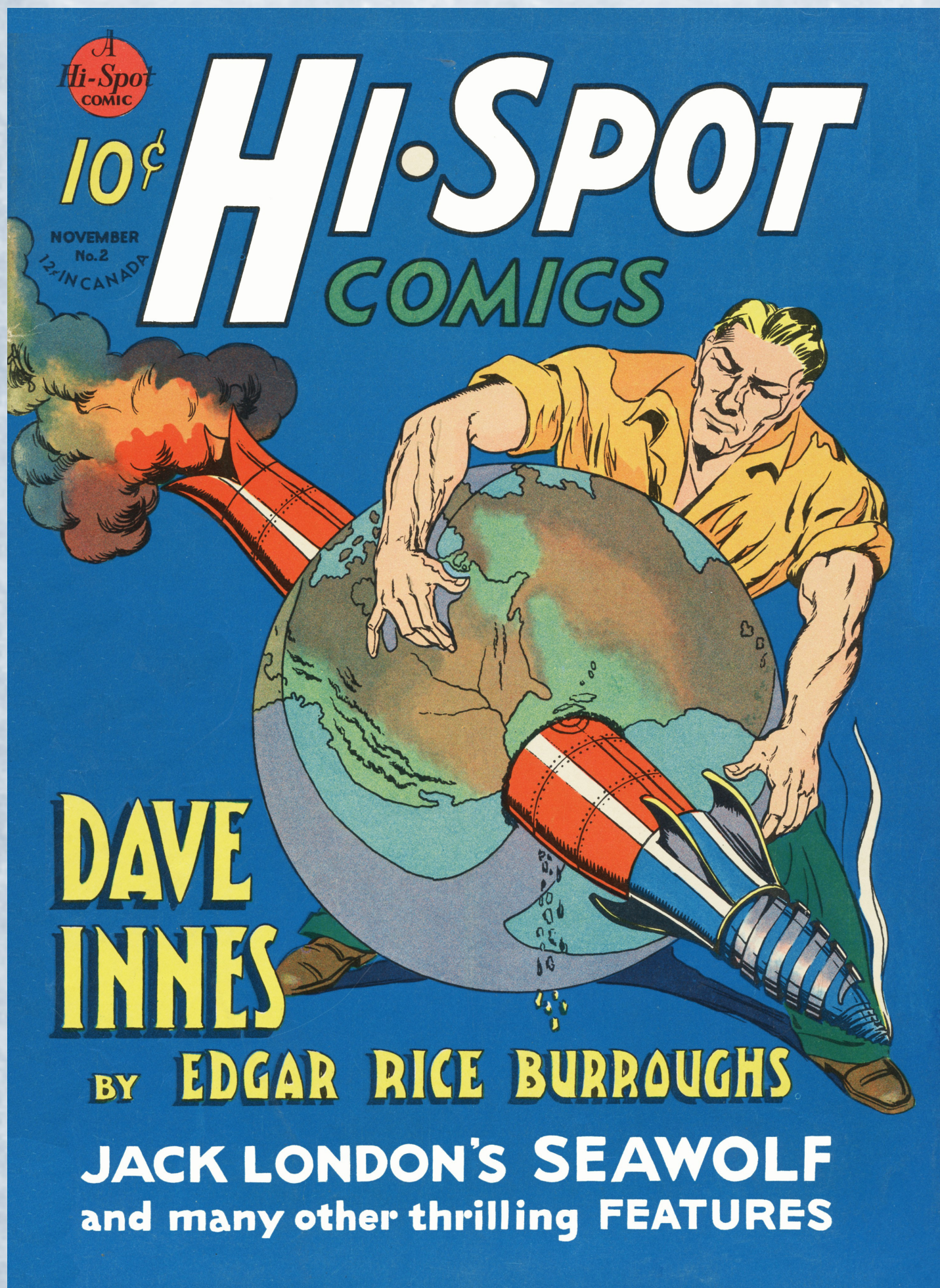


Pellucidar and Hi-Spot #2



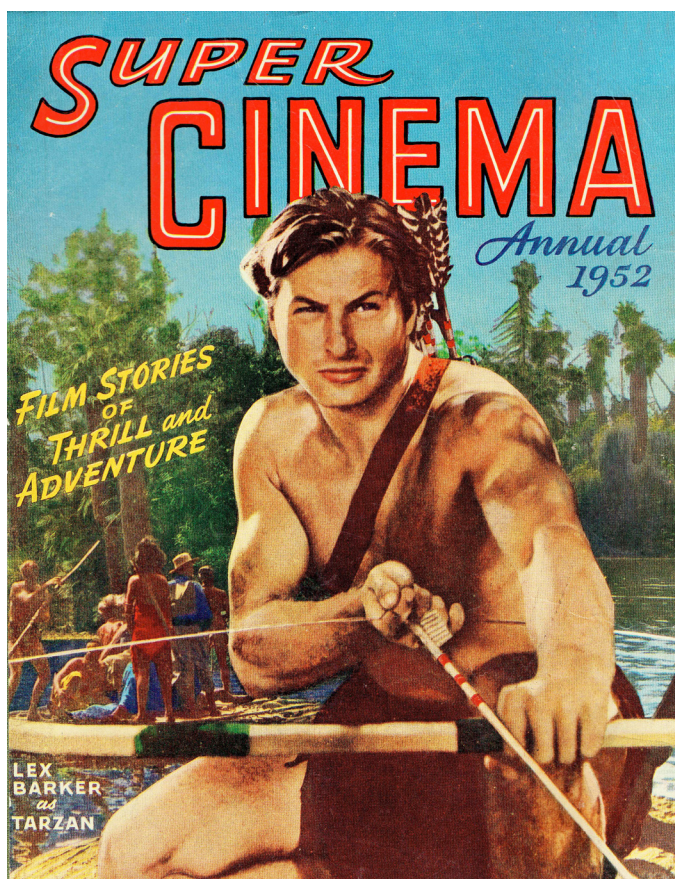
Burroughs' third longest running book series centered on *David Innes of Pellucidar*, who became Burroughs' second creation to have original comic pages published in comic book form—once again illustrated by his son, John Coleman Burroughs.

The 1940 *Hi-Spot* issue #2 (Page 11) was a book that probably drove collectors of that time crazy—for decades. Because postal certificates were so difficult to obtain at the time, they were never abandoned and often reused with changed titles, which was the case here.





Tarzan Annual



As they were with the paperback book format, the British were far ahead of U.S. publishers in the utilization of the comic format known today as *Graphic Novels*.

The British called them *Annuals*.

An early example featured Tarzan on the cover of the *Super Cinema Annual 1952*. Just like graphic novels, these were magazine or larger-sized books with hard covers.

Tarzan had his own series of *Annuals* first published by World Distributors in 1960 (*begins on page 316*) and then by Brown Watson Ltd. starting in 1973 (*marked as #1, page 318*), skipping 1963, 1964, 1967 and 1979.

The series initially consisted of reprints from *Tarzan Adventures* and the American Dell and Gold Key *Tarzan* comics, later mixed with new material which included work by John Bolton (*bottom left, page 319*).

