Edgar Rice Burroughs comic book collection
1953-1977

Abstract: The Edgar Rice Burroughs comic book collection is an artificial collection of comic books inspired by the writings of Edgar Rice Burroughs, as published by Dell Publishing Co., Marvel Comics Group, DC Comics, Western Publishing Company (Gold Key Comics), and others from 1953 to 1977. The character Tarzan is the primary focus of these comic books; a minority of the comics expand upon Burroughs's series of Mars novels. As examples of other Burroughs-inspired items, the collection also includes two records and a set of trading cards.
Descriptive Summary

Identification: MSS 631
Title: Edgar Rice Burroughs comic book collection
Title: 1953-1977
Extent: 1.5 linear feet (2 boxes)
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Citation: MSS 631, Edgar Rice Burroughs comic book collection, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

Shelving Summary: Box 1: Shelved in SPEC MSS record center cartons; Box 2: Shelved in SPEC MSS manuscript boxes (upright manuscript boxes); F59 and F60: Shelved in SPEC Media audio records

Location: Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

Source: Source unknown.


Access Restrictions: The collection is open for research.

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American writer Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) is known for his science fiction and adventure novels, most especially those featuring Tarzan, a feral child raised by apes in the jungles of Africa. After his death in 1950, Burroughs's many creations have continued to offer inspiration to numerous other writers working in a variety of formats, including film, television, and comic books. Edgar Rice Burroughs, born September 1, 1875, in Chicago, worked a number of unsuccessful jobs in such varied professions as cattle ranching, the Cavalry, gold dredging and sales, among others, before seeking a career in writing in 1911, while employed as an agent for a pencil sharpener company. His first novel was serialized as Under the Moons of Mars in All-Story Magazine in 1911, and later published in novel form as A Princess of Mars in 1917. Burroughs is perhaps best known for creating Tarzan, a feral child raised by apes in the jungles of Africa, who first appeared in Burroughs's Tarzan of the Apes and went on to feature in twenty-six subsequent novels. In addition to the Tarzan series, Burroughs also wrote a twelve-volume series of science fiction novels set on Mars, as well as others set on Venus, the Moon, and in Pellucidar, a fictional realm at the center of the earth, along with a number of contemporary dramas, westerns, and historical novels. Burroughs continued to publish extensively throughout his life, also serving as a war correspondent during World War II. He died, of a heart attack, in 1950.

Both during and after his life, Burroughs's creations have provided inspiration for a vast number of comic books, films, television, and other media. Burroughs created extensive imaginary worlds for his novels, populated by a vast array of peoples, species, and technologies, which would be further explored and elaborated through subsequent installments in his series, which in turn afforded ample opportunity for subsequent writers to expand upon his creations in the decades since his death.

Sources:


Scope and Content Note

The Edgar Rice Burroughs comic book collection is an artificial collection of 1.5 linear feet of comic books based on the writings of Edgar Rice Burroughs, as published by Dell Publishing Co., Marvel Comics Group, DC Comics, Western Publishing Company (Gold Key Comics), and others from 1953 to 1977. The majority of comic books in the collection depict the adventures Tarzan, a feral-child raised by apes in the jungles of Africa. A minority of the comic books present in this collection expand upon Burroughs's series of Mars novels. As examples of other Burroughs-inspired items, the collection also includes two records and a set of trading cards. Some of the stories within these comic books are direct adaptations of individual novels written by Burroughs, or of particular episodes derived from his novels. Others present original stories featuring and inspired by the characters and environs which Burroughs wrote of during his long literary career.

The collection is arranged in six series, by publisher, with other Tarzan-related material in the final series. It should be noted, though, that some of these series were continued from one publisher to another, albeit under different editorial and artistic staff. Dell Publishing Company’s Edgar Rice Burroughs’ Tarzan was acquired by Western Publishing for its Gold Key Comics line. The series was renamed Tarzan of the Apes with issue # 132 and was in turn purchased by DC Comics after the Gold Key Comics line folded; the series continued under the name of Tarzan with issue # 207. Similarly, the Gold Key Comics series Korak Son of Tarzan was also acquired by DC Comics with issue # 46 and was later re-titled to Tarzan Family with issue # 60.

Series I through IV consist of, respectively, comic books published by DC Comics, Dell Publishing Co., Marvel Comics Group, and Western Publishing Group (Gold Key Comics). Series V consists of issued printed by other, miscellaneous publishers. The Marvel Comics series includes a number of issues inspired by Burroughs’ Mars novels; the other series are focused solely on Tarzan and related characters. Series VI, which consists of other Burroughs-related popular culture, contains two records and a set of Tarzan trading cards.
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**

Burroughs, Edgar Rice, 1875-1950.

Burroughs, Edgar Rice, 1875-1950--Mars novels.

Burroughs, Edgar Rice, 1875-1950--Tarzan novels.

**Corporate Names**

DC Comics, Inc.

Dell Publishing Company.

Marvel Comics Group.

Western Publishing Company.

**Topical Terms**

Carter, John (Fictitious character)

Comic books, strips, etc.

Tarzan (Fictitious character)

**Form/Genre Terms**

Comic books.

Science fiction.
Arrangement

I. DC Comics (National Periodical Publications)
II. Dell Publishing Company
III. Marvel Comics Group
IV. Western Publishing Company (Gold Key Comics)
V. Miscellaneous Publishers
VI. Media and Ephemera
Detailed Description of the Collection


Korak, Son of Tarzan, 1972-1975

Issues 46, 47, 50 , 1972-1973 [Box 1 F1]

Issues 51, 52, 55, 57, May-June 1975 , 1973-1975 [Box 1 F2]

Tarzan, 1972-1976

Issues 207, 208 , 1972 [Box 1 F3]

2 copies of Issue 207

Issues 209, 210 , 1972 [Box 1 F4]

2 copies of Issue 210

Issues 214, 216, 217 , 1972-1973 [Box 1 F5]

Issues 220, 224, 226 , 1973 [Box 1 F6]

Issues 229, 233, 237 , 1974-1975 [Box 1 F7]

Issues 238, 240 , 1975 [Box 1 F8]

2 copies of Issue 240

Issues 241, 244 , 1975 [Box 1 F9]

2 copies of Issue 244

Issues 245, 247, 248 , 1976 [Box 1 F10]

Issues 250, 253 , 1976 [Box 1 F11]

Tarzan Family, 1976

Issue 64 , 1976 [Box 1 F12]

Tarzan 100-Page Super Spectacular, 1973

Issue DC-19 , 1973 [Box 1 F13]

Weird Worlds , 1972-1973
Series I.

Issues 1, 5, 7, 1972-1973 [Box 1 F14]


*Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan*, 1953-1958

Issues 40, 44, 45, 1953 [Box 1 F15]

Issues 57, 65, 71, 1954-1955 [Box 1 F16]

Issues 96, 98, 1957 [Box 1 F17]

Issues 99, 101, 103, 1957-1958 [Box 1 F18]

Issues 104 - 106, 1958 [Box 1 F19]

Issues 107 - 109, 1958 [Box 1 F20]

*Turok Son of Stone*, 1957-1958

Issues 8 - 10, 12, 1957-1958 [Box 1 F21]

Series III. Marvel Comics Group, 1977-1979


Issues 1 - 3, 1977 [Box 1 F22]

Issues 4 - 6, 1977 [Box 1 F23]

Issues 7 - 9, 1977-1978 [Box 1 F24]

Issues 11, 13, 14, 1978 [Box 1 F25]

Issues 15, 18, 1978 [Box 1 F26]


# 1, 1977; # 2, 1978, 1977-1978 [Box 1 F27]

*Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle*, 1977-1979

Issues 1, 2, 1977 [Box 1 F28]

2 copies of Issue 2
Series III.

Issue 3, 1977 [Box 1 F29]
3 copies of Issue 3

Issue 4, 1977 [Box 1 F30]
7 copies of Issue 4

Issues 5, 7, 1977 [Box 1 F31]
2 copies of Issue 5

Issues 12, 16, 17, 1978 [Box 1 F32]

Issues 18, 21, 23, 1978-1979 [Box 1 F33]

*Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle* Annual, 1977-1978

Issue 1, 1977 [Box 1 F34]
3 copies of Issue 1. Cover title reads "Jungle Tales of Tarzan," but this is from the same serial publication as "Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle Annual"

Issue 2, 1978 (3 copies), 1978 [Box 1 F35]
3 copies of Issue 2

**Series IV. Western Publishing Company (Gold Key Comics), 1963-1971**

*Korak, Son of Tarzan*, 1966-1971

Issues 12 - 14, 1966 [Box 1 F36]
2 copies of Issue 14

Issues 15 - 16, 1966-1967 [Box 1 F37]

Issues 17 - 19, 1967 [Box 1 F38]

Issues 20, 22, 25, 1967-1968 [Box 1 F39]

Issues 26, 33, 36, 1968-1970 [Box 1 F40]

Issues 37, 40, 41, 43, 1970-1971 [Box 1 F41]

*Tarzan of the Apes*, 1963-1971

Issues 133, 137, 138, 1963 [Box 1 F42]
Issues 139, 140, 1963-1964 [Box 1 F43]
2 copies of Issue 140

Issues 141, 142, 143, 1964 [Box 2 F44]

Issues 144, 145, 1964 [Box 2 F45]
2 copies of Issue 145

Issues 146, 147, 1964 [Box 2 F46]
2 copies of Issue 146

Issues 148, 149, 150, 1965 [Box 2 F47]

Issues 151, 152, 153, 1965 [Box 2 F48]


Issues 176, 183, 1968-1969 [Box 2 F50]
2 copies of Issue 183


Issues 195, 199, 1970-1971 [Box 2 F52]

**Series V. Miscellaneous publishers, 1964-1977**

*Tarzan Weekly* (Byblos Productions Ltd.), 1977


2 copies of 22nd Oct. Issue


Issues 82, 85, 89, 1975-1976 [Box 2 F55]

*Jungle Tales of Tarzan* (Charlton Comics Group), 1964

Issue 1, 1964 [Box 2 F56]

*Edgar Rice Burroughs Tarzan of the Apes* (Top Sellers, Ltd.), 1974
Series VI. Media and ephemera, 1966

*Tarzan* Trading Cards, 1966 [Box 2 F58]

Set of 8.8 x 6.3 cm cardboard trading cards

Contains cards #1 - 66. Published by Banner Productions, Inc.

*Tarzan in the Valley of the Talking Gorillas*, [undated] [Box 2 F59] (Shelved in SPEC Media audio records)

3-EP record set, with case

Published by Tarzan Records; Album T1

*Theme From Tarzan*, 1966 [Box 2 F60] (Shelved in SPEC Media audio records)

1-LP record, with case

Published by Banner Productions, Inc. Tifton 78007