

THE DISCOVERY AND REPLICATION OF THE McCLURG DUST JACKET FOR *THE RETURN OF TARZAN*

As you know, the dust jacket for *The Return of Tarzan* is the most rare of all the Burroughs first edition jackets. Even the Burroughs Memorial Collection at the University of Louisville lacks an original. Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. bought a copy of *Return* in jacket from collector Joe Clopton in 1972 which was stolen several years later. The only other copy known to most collectors is privately owned and was unavailable for reproduction reference until recently. A number of years ago a facsimile first edition jacket was offered for sale by Clay Davis. It turned out to be a construction made from reprints and had several inaccuracies. Most reproduction jackets for *Return* have been of either A.L. Burt Company or Grosset & Dunlap reprint editions.

In order to create my earliest replica of the *Return* jacket (1999) I had to rely on descriptions from major Burroughs collectors like the late Bob Hyde who *had* seen the actual jacket and could give me accurate information about the color, font size and wording of the back cover blurb and spine.

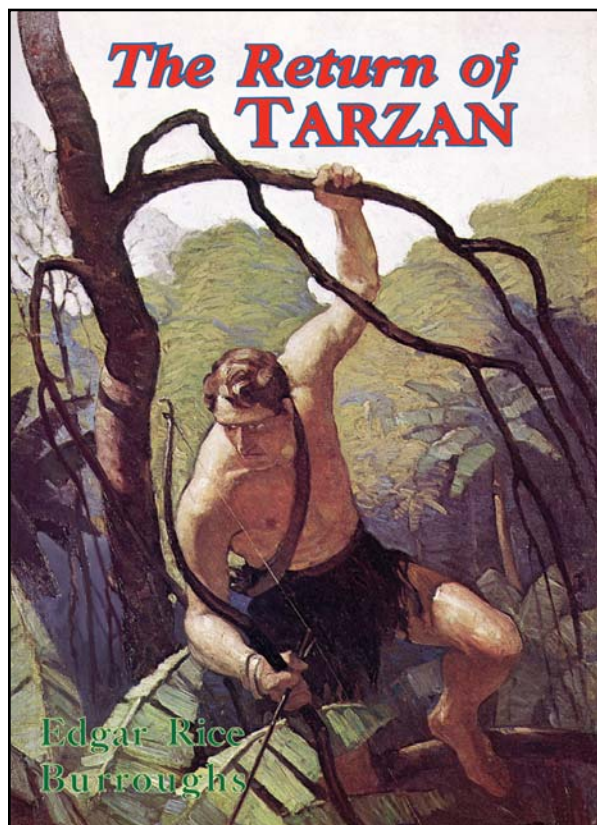
In November, 2002, Burroughs scholar and collector Robert R. Barrett found a trimmed back cover panel inserted in a first edition of *Return* he had purchased on eBay. He was kind enough to loan it to me so that I might make a copy of it and use it as a source for a more definitive reconstruction. Of particular interest is the typo of “virture” for “virtue” on the back cover blurb. The type was reset in Recut Caslon to match the hand-set original. The printed color of the jacket stock was adjusted to more closely approximate the Barrett sample which appears to be a darker cream than any of the subsequent McClurg dust jackets. There are no cream-colored glossy papers available for ink jet printers. Soon after the discovery of the Barrett sample, images of the privately-owned jacket were released and the spine typography could be accurately replicated. The trimmed flaps are not

“price-clipped” but trimmed to make it easier to fold the jacket onto the book at the bindery. These trims are confirmed by the photos of the complete extant copy.

The cover was scanned from a reproduction of the Wyeth painting, making for a much clearer image than the original, blurry printing. Some reprint editions show cloud-like forms in the background below the titling. Early Burt jackets show no such forms or show them only very faintly. The painting itself has no clouds and we now know that they were not present on the McClurg first edition jacket. We must conclude that what appeared to be clouds were simply artifacts left from the original engraving process.

—Phil Normand, 2002

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