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# A TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO MARS



## PREVIEW

VOL. 1  
THE WARLORD TRILOGY





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# A TRAVELLER'S GUIDE TO MARS

VOL. I



THE WARLORD'S TRILOGY





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# FOREWARD

*E. R. Burroughs' imagination was tireless, as much as his capability to collect elements from several sources and merge them in strong tapestries that, even today, blaze in the starry night.*

*Barsoom, Venus, Pellucidar, Va'Nah are powerful depictions of human archetypes supped in Sci-Fi, flamboyant adventures and eternal love.*

*Above all, Burroughs had a way to talk to the hearts of the readers through the vigorous strokes of his mind.*

*The world of Barsoom, to which this book is dedicated, is not a novel about what Mars is, but what Earthmen would like Mars to be: an exotic world on the brink of destruction where the full round of human feelings falls in the right spot. Honor is pledged above all, and the never-ending thirst of a man can be satisfied in the truest soul of a woman.*

*Burroughs' Mars is a mind game of circles intersecting each other on many levels. On Mars all men are warriors, and you have to be one to survive the harsh conditions of the planet. Mars itself is daily fighting to endure as its atmosphere is maintained by artificial means.*

*All that exists on the planet is defined by its will to survive and the strength to do so. John Carter himself states "I still live!" uttering the meaning of the Martian way of living.*

*Doubtlessly, a world in a perpetual state of war needs a Warlord to keep peace and social balance. A man who embodies the highest values everybody aspires to.*

*Yet, Barsoom is also a pastiche of re-worked scientific theories that were famous at the time "A Princess of Mars" was firstly published in 1912.*

Percival Lowell was convinced that, in a perhaps forgotten past, the Red Planet hosted life. Lowell, who studied Mars for the last fifteen years of his life, was fascinated by Camille Flammarion's studies (*Cartes de la Lune et de la planète Mars*, 1878) and by the theories of Giovanni Schiaparelli on the Martian "canali" (*Il Pianeta Marte*, 1893, *La Vita sul Pianeta Marte*, 1895, *Il Pianeta Marte*, 1909). Also, the Italian term "canali" was, perhaps erroneously, translated as "canals" by British newspapers, implying a manufactured system, thus raising the interest of both scholars and commoners.

All that can be found in literary Mars by Burroughs: Lowell theorized that an advanced but desperate culture built the canals to tap Mars' polar caps, as the last source of water on an inexorably drying planet. Schiaparelli's names were used for regions in Barsoominan geography.

Anthropology is also deeply tapped. The White Martians are almost gone, Yellow Martians hide in limited number at the North Pole, while the ebony-skinned First Born took the far south. In John Carter's time, Red Men have taken over the planet.

Seen from a distance, the present day brass-skinned denizens of Barsoom are an exotic mix of Native Americans and Greeks from the Bronze Age. Ruled by a warrior chaste that resembles the Mycenaean charioteers, the Red Men dwell in walled city-states controlling vast areas of the planet for herding and trade. Their Jeddaks (Kings) are rulers and justice-bearers with the right of life and death over the population. Social order is assured by the nobility holding ruling positions.

A "Shame Culture", Red Men consider public recognition and honor their highest values.

Shamans are traded with scientists that can perform miracles. Religion takes a back seat and is filtered through a subtle sense of Nineteenth Century Virginian irony.

Barsoominan technology is a fore-look in our present. Worldwide flight, environmental control, ground vehicles for individual transportation, artificial intelligence, robotics, cloning, organ market and advanced bio-medicine mix up with weapons of mass destruction, stealth



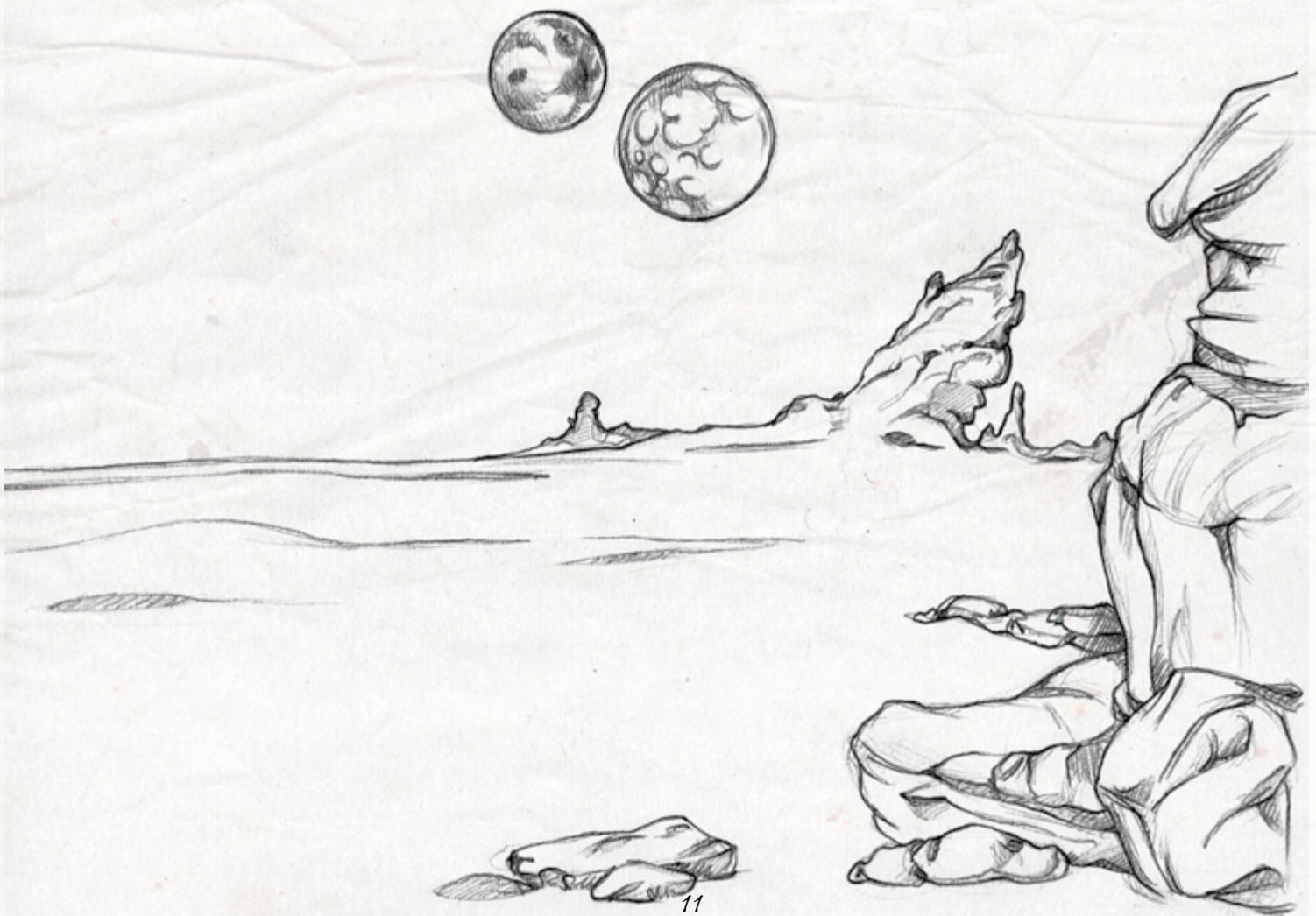
*technology, starvation due to overpopulation and social turmoil. However, the Martians are more prone to take the right turn than us, caring more than we do for their ever-dying planet.*

*Barsoom is not only another world. It is also a netherworld, in which stories are told in a circular way. John Carter, who on Earth was a warrior without a war, grows to be the Warlord of Mars. Ulysses Paxton, transported to Mars on the verge of death, becomes the apprentice of Ras Thavas, the Master Mind of Mars, and learns how to control life and death.*

*Earthmen on Mars are given the chance to fulfil their untapped potential, be purified through love, adventure, self-awareness and spiritual gain.*

*Now, if you please, you can take a walk under the moons of Mars.*

*May your ancestors be with you...*



# E. R. BURROUGHS

*(Sept. 1, 1875, Chicago, IL - March 19, 1950, Encino, CA.)*

*Known for the creation of "Tarzan of the Apes," "John Carter of Mars," "Carson of Venus" and many other wayfarers.*

*By 1911, he began writing fiction after several years of low wages.*

*He aimed his works at the pulp fiction readers and had his first story, "Under the Moons of Mars", serialized in All-Story Magazine in 1912. He carried out writing full-time and, by the time his first Barsoom novel was published, he had completed Tarzan of the Apes (Oct. 1912), that became a worldwide success.*

*He wrote sci-fi, fantasy novels and adventures on other planets (especially Mars and Venus), in a lost kingdom at the Earth Core (Pellucidar), as well as western and historical love stories.*

*He was a business man as much as a writer and promoted his characters and novels through several media.*

*In 1923, he started his own company (Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.) and began publishing his own books.*

*At the time of the attack on Pearl Harbour, he was a resident of Hawaii. Despite being almost 70 years old, he applied for the Army and was accepted as a war correspondent.*

*His war experience influenced his later works (cf. Skeleton Men of Jupiter, 1942).*

*After the war, he moved to Encino, California, where he died of a heart attack on March*



19, 1950.

*The Burroughs Crater on Mars is named after him.*

TITLE AND ABBREVIATION <sup>1</sup>	AS SERIAL	AS NOVEL	FICTIONAL NARRATOR	YEAR IN NOVEL
<i>A Princess of Mars</i> (PM) (originally entitled <i>Under the Moons of Mars</i> )	February-July 1912, <i>All-Story</i>	October 1917, McClurg	John Carter	1866-1876
<i>The Gods of Mars</i> (GM)	January-May 1913, <i>All-Story</i>	September 1918, McClurg	John Carter	1886
<i>The Warlord of Mars</i> (WM)	December 1913-March 1914, <i>All-Story</i>	September 1919, McClurg	John Carter	1887-1888
<i>Thuvia, Maid of Mars</i> (TMM)	April 1916, <i>All-Story Weekly</i>	October 1920, McClurg	3rd person	1888-1898
<i>The Chessmen of Mars</i> (CM)	February-March 1922, <i>Argosy All-Story Weekly</i>	November 1922, McClurg	3rd person	1898-1917
<i>The Master Mind of Mars</i> (MMM)	July 15, 1927, <i>Amazing Stories Annual</i>	March 1928, McClurg	Ulysses Paxton	1917
<i>A Fighting Man of Mars</i> (FMM)	April-September 1930, <i>Blue Book</i>	May 1931, <i>Metropolitan</i>	Tan Hadron	1928
<i>Swords of Mars</i> (SwM)	November 1934-April 1935, <i>Blue Book</i>	February 1936, Burroughs	John Carter	1928-1934
<i>Synthetic Men of Mars</i> (SMM)	January-February 1939, <i>Argosy Weekly</i>	March 1940, Burroughs	Vor Daj	1934-1938
<i>Llana of Gathol</i> (LG)	March-October 1941, <i>Amazing Stories</i>	March 1948, Burroughs	John Carter	1938-1940
<i>John Carter of Mars</i> (JCM) collecting: <i>John Carter and the Giant of Mars</i> (JCGM) (attributed to John Coleman Burroughs) <sup>2</sup>	January 1941, <i>Amazing Stories</i>	July 1964, Canaveral	third person	1940
<i>Skeleton Men of Jupiter</i> (SMJ) (attributed to Edgar Rice Burroughs)	February 1943, <i>Amazing Stories</i>		John Carter	1941-1942

### Copyright:

American copyright of the 5 earliest novels has expired in the United States. However, since they were copyrighted separately in the UK, these works remain under the Berne Copyright Convention throughout much of the world. The Australian copyright, not including *John Carter of Mars* (1964), has expired.

<sup>1</sup>Abbreviations are from official source for everything Barsoomian - [www.erbzine.org](http://www.erbzine.org)

<sup>2</sup>Since it not attributed to ERB, it is not included in the present work.

# BARSOOM

*Barsoom (known as Mars by Earthmen and Garobus by Jovians) is the fourth planet in the Solar System. It is orbited by two moons, Thuria (Phobos) and Cluros (Deimos).*

*The primeval planet was rich of vegetation and water. The ancient cultures of the Black Men (later known as the First Born, or Black Pirates), the Yellow Men (who will become the arctic Okarians) and the White Martians (referred to as the Orovars) dominated the majority of the lands on the sea shores, while the barbaric Green Martians inhabited the inland.*

*The progressive drying of the oceans caused a slow, but unstoppable downfall that brought along a worldwide economic crisis and the gradual interruption of commerce and cultural exchange.*

*The ancient cities were rebuilt several times on the shores of the disappearing oceans, pursuing the salty water that granted their former wealth, yet they became poorer and poorer.*

*Even worse, the atmosphere started to get thinner, jeopardizing the survival of the whole planet.*

*In those desperate times, technology advanced quickly, bringing to the discovery of flight and of the Eighth and Ninth Rays.*

*The Atmosphere Plant, providing the sorely needed air supply for survival, and Yellow Men's the dome-cities at the North Pole were built during the planet downfall.*

*It is also possible that the nearer moon, Thuria (Ladan in the language of the locals), was colonized during the global crisis. The white-skinned Ladanians can be related to the Orovars with whom they share some physical features and hypnotic abilities.*



*Yet, disaster could not be avoided.*

*Histories from the ancient times and myths record a progressively faster downfall. The environmental and economic crisis worsened, bringing famine and death.*

*The Ancients left their cities, struggling for survival and were almost wiped out by the rise of the Green Martian hordes who adapted better to the global changes.*

*Small groups of Orovars, Black and Yellow Men sought sanctuary in remote areas, looking for safety through isolation.*

*Contacts with distant cities ceased for a long time.*

*The Thuria colony was forgotten.*

*The ancient races mingled, becoming the ancestors of the present-day Red Men, a warlike population with the cunning of the Orovars, the iron will of the Black Men and the Yellow Men's laborious attitude.*

*The Red Men rebuked the Green Martians and gradually took the place of the ancients, becoming the dominant population of dying Mars.*

*They inherited the cultural traits and the technology of their ancestors along with the responsibility for Barsoom's survival by keeping the Atmosphere Plant working efficiently.*

*At the time John Carter arrived on Barsoom in 1866, the gleaming city-states of the Red Men shined under the two moons, warring among each other and against the Green Martians. Mysteries from the long-lost past filled the abandoned towns haunted by the Great White Apes, and disputes were solved on the top of a sword...*



*Blue Monkey Studio (BMS), established in 2010, is an Italian firm specializing in graphic design, illustration and publishing services.*

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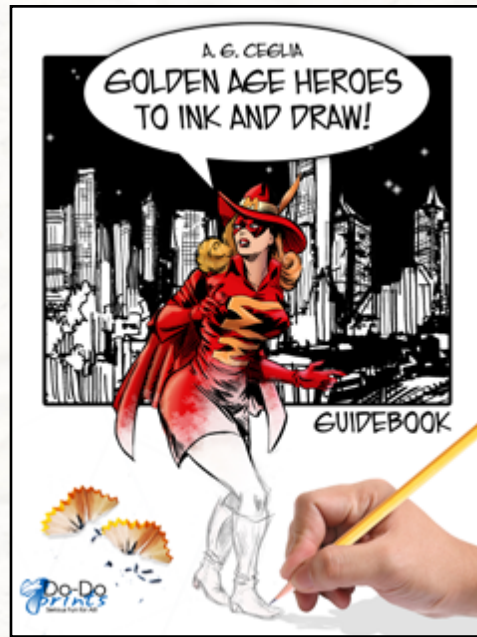
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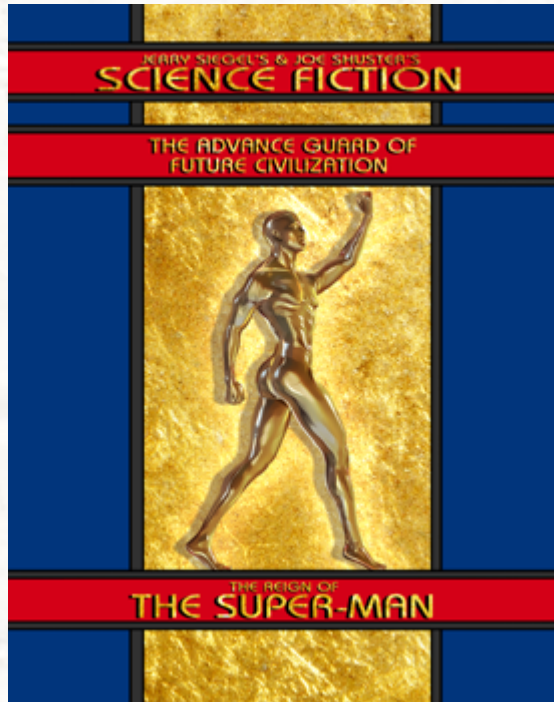
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