



# Argonotes

## The Readers' Viewpoint



CAPTAIN BRIGAUD writes of the backgrounds of his novelette, "The White Savage":

The plot is woven around several true events. I was an eye-witness to the death struggle between the rhinoceros and the hippopotamus.

During the two years I spent in the Oubanghi-Chari district I did my best, like all other *Sidi officiers*, to discourage the practice of the poison-and-fowls trial tests, as described in the novelette; but, as far as I know, the tribes still indulge on the side in that most erratic administration of justice, rooted in their savage convictions by immemorial practice.

The episode of Marg'te, daughter of white runaways and raised in the jungle, is a real one. She was discovered by a patrolling section and returned to civilization toward the beginning of the present century; however, the Marg'te of real life had nothing to do with Fadel Soufan, a slave trader and gun runner who raised quite a bit of trouble several years later, until a company of native *Tirailleurs* put an end to his unsavory career and his life.

The episode of Naroo, the giant black avenger, is a true one, too. Having sworn to kill with his own hands his tribal chieftain, who had slaughtered his family in a murderous whim, the original Naroo protected the high-handed object of his hatred for several years, sheltering him in battle and from the javelins of other outraged tribesmen. Finally, at the end of a disastrous combat with another tribe, he followed the wounded chieftain in his flight through the jungle, and killed him after a short struggle.

The Oubanghi-Chari zone is a part of what is commonly called darkest Africa. Its tribes are most primitive; a few of them, like degenerate groups of *Bandas*, still indulge secretly in cannibalistic practices.

It is a country of tangled hills and water-courses where meet the three forms of African vegetation south of the Sahara: the brush, the jungle, and the equatorial forest. It abounds with all kinds of animals, but the very conformation of the ground makes it very dangerous for amateur hunters. The diseases and germ-carrying

insects which are its particular nuisances contribute to keep tourists well out from its boundaries.

ARMAND BRIGAUD.

BURROUGHS interplanetary? Coming!

Fairfield, Ala.

"The Bone Buster," by McNary, was a great story. How about trying to get at least one sport story in each issue of *ARGOSY*?

I was glad that Burroughs finally got back in the lineup. That guy is one real writer.

Those two new features, "Men of Daring," by Stookie Allen, and those true stories by Lowell Thomas are very good.

Oh, yes! Try and get an interplanetary story for us by Burroughs.

HAROLD R. COCKRELL.

MADE up:

Chicago, Ill.

I had to write to tell you that as long as I have been reading the *ARGOSY* I can only kick about one story. That is "Racing Nerve," by Thomson Burtis; but he made up for it by writing "Soldiers of the Storm."

I just finished reading "Tarzan and the City of Gold," by Edgar Rice Burroughs. I always thought that *Jimmie Cordie* and *Denis Burke* stories were the best, but since the last six weeks I have changed my mind.

GEORGE JAGER, JR.

WANTS all fiction:

Bronx, N. Y.

This is a kick, a big kick. Why in the name of all that's good did you change the policy of the magazine to such an extent as to allow true stories and pictures to appear in it? I'm conservative, and I think that if the magazine has gotten along for fifty years publishing ordinary fiction, it could go on that way for fifty years more the same way. Nobody asked for it.

I grant that some of it is interesting, and well written, but it has no place in a magazine which prides itself on printing good fiction. Another.

thing, the class of science fiction published within the last three months was far below the average. "The Insect Invasion" was just a rehash of almost all of Cummings's writings in ARGOSY. Now it's "Helgvor of the Blue River." I never heard of J. H. Rosny Ainé, and it won't bother me if I never heard of him again. Still, I don't read the ARGOSY only for the science fiction it prints, but also for the many other enjoyable stories of different types, for which you deserve much praise. "The Nervous Prince" is fine even if somewhat unbelievable.

N. GREENFELD.

CAN'T get enough:

Long Beach, Calif.

More power to all your writers. You can't give me enough of *Gillian Hazeltine*, and what's happened to *Jimmie* and *Red* and all the other Chinese-chasing adventurers? I was pleased to see Burroughs come back with another *Tarzan* tale. My favorite author is Fred MacIsaac. *Mme. Storey* would be another welcome personality. Haven't seen her for quite some time. Congratulations on the addition of Sinclair Gluck to your unexcelled staff of writers. Mr. Gluck is an old favorite of mine. Couldn't you persuade A. Merritt to hurry up with his annual story?

J. K. CORRIGAN.

## YOUR CHOICE COUPON

Editor, ARGOSY,

280 Broadway, N. Y. C., N. Y.

The stories I like best in this issue of the magazine are as follows:

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# Looking Ahead!

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