

ÉCHOS DE CIMMÉRIE
HOMMAGE À ROBERT ERVIN HOWARD
1906 – 1936
(ECHOES OF CIMMERIA, HOMAGE TO ROBERT ERVIN HOWARD)



(Illustration by Jean-Michel Nicollet)

A book edited by Fabrice TORTEY

Solomon Kane, El Borak, Bran Mak Morn, Kull the Barbarian King, Conan the Cimmerian and many other characters, all unforgettable creations that sprang from the fertile mind of Robert Ervin Howard.

A pioneer of heroic fantasy, the Texan writer has excelled in many genres : tales of adventure, fantasy and horror, sports and western stories, poetry...

At the time when *Two-Gun Bob* finds a second life in France, the Éditions de l'Œil du Sphinx are pleased to pay homage to Robert E. Howard and display his many facets as the man, the boxer, the storyteller, the poet.

Renowned specialists and dedicated fans of Howard have all gathered to explore the epic universe of the Cross Plains Bard. This opus, under the direction of Fabrice Tortey, opens on an overview of Robert E. Howard's life, completed by more specific biographical studies by acknowledged experts such as Rusty Burke with *La dernière lettre / The Note*, Glenn Lord with *Herbert Klatt : le quatrième mousquetaire / Herbert Klatt : the Fourth Musketeer* and *The Junto*, or Chris Gruber who shares with us his passion both for boxing and the creator of Steve Costigan in *Howard et la fabrique de glace / Howard at the Ice House*.



(Illustration by Christian Broutin)

Four texts of Robert E. Howard are published here for the first time in France : two fragments (*Le Tueur / The Slayer*; *Sous l'éclat impitoyable du soleil... / Beneath the Glare...*) and two poems (*Les Cellules du Colisée / The Cells of the Coliseum* et *Comme un bruit sourd à ma porte / A Dull Sound as of Knocking*). Introduced by Don Herron, a series of essays analyzes different aspects of the Texan's opus : *Le Sens du récit chez Robert E. Howard / The Narrative Sense of Robert E. Howard* by Simon Sanahuja, *Bob Howard ou le pouvoir du regard intérieur / Bob Howard or the power of the inner look* by Argentium Thri'le, *Robert E. Howard : pionnier des lettres / Robert E. Howard : Frontiersman of Letters* by Donald Sidney-Fryer, *Conan, Kull et Bran Mak Morn : les rois de la nuit / Conan, Kull et Bran Mak Morn : the Kings of the Night* by Patrice Louinet, *Kings of the Night : Une allégorie shakespearienne ? / Kings of the Night : a Shakespearean allegory?* by Pierre Favier, *Le Phénix sur l'épée et autres fulgurances. Une lecture spirituelle du cycle hyborien de Robert E. Howard / The Phoenix on the Sword and other blinding flashes. A spiritual reading of Robert E. Howard's Hyborian cycle* by Rodolphe Massé, *Solomon Kane and Face à Cthulhu : le club des aventuriers de Robert E. Howard / Facing Cthulhu : the Adventurer's Club* by Patrice Allart, *Solomon Kane et le racisme : une étude en noir et blanc / Solomon Kane and racism : a study in black and white* by Olivier Legrand, *Des rites impies de sadisme et de sang. Le réveil de l'archaïque chez Howard, Lovecraft et Vere Shortt / An unhallowed ritual of cruelty and sadism and blood: The revival of the archaic in Howard, Lovecraft and Vere Shortt* by Michel Meurger, *Un nouveau monde, ou l'Almuric de Robert E. Howard / A New World, or the Almuric of Robert E. Howard* by Rémy Lechevalier and Jacques Bergier, *ou l'homme qui découvrit aussi Robert E. Howard / Jacques Bergier, or The Man Who Also Discovered Robert E. Howard* by Joseph Altaïrac.

This thick volume is concluded with a bibliography of Howard's works published in France, compiled by Simon Sanahuja. Many photographs of Bob Howard, his family and friends, open for us a vista of a past cut short all too soon.

This anthology also contains the works of Howard's main illustrators in France : foremost is Christian Broutin, with his drawings for "Phoenix on the Sword" in *Planète* magazine, then Philippe Druillet who illustrated Conan for *Édition spéciale*, and of course Jean-Michel Nicollet whose covers for *Titres SF* and the *Nouvelles Éditions Oswald* have been the French readers' companions in their discovery of Two-Gun Bob. The cover is by the great american illustrator Frank Frazetta.

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