

CONAN

THE SYNDICATED

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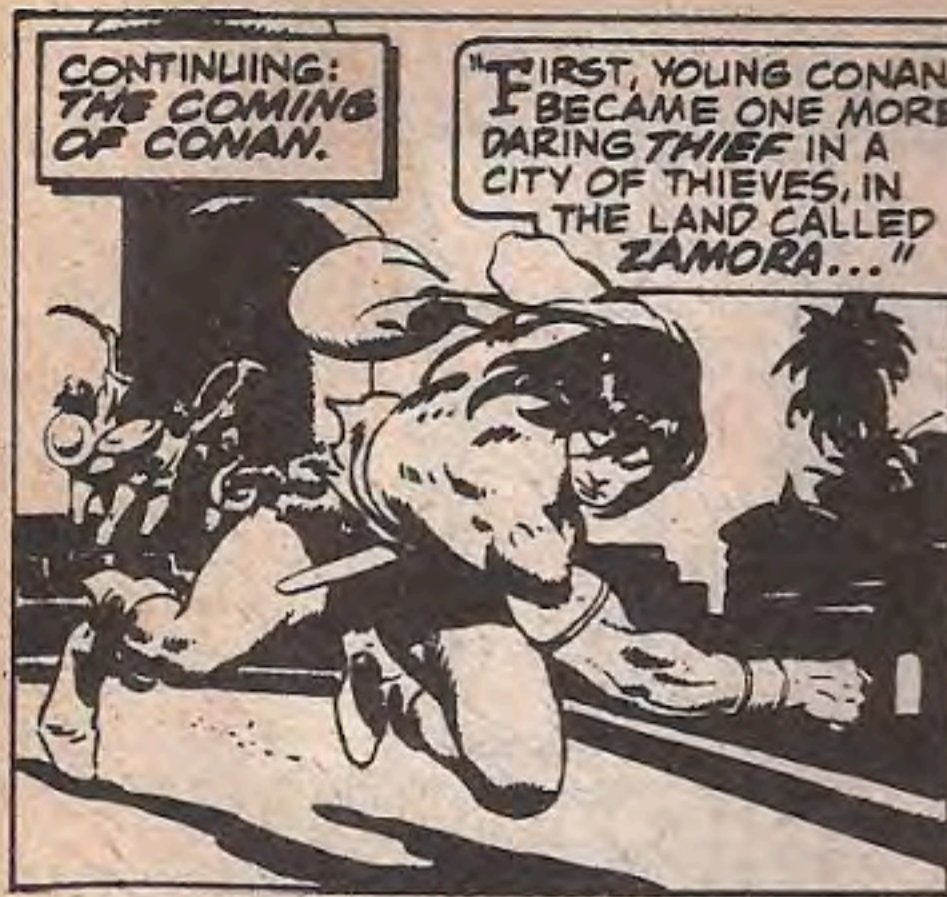


Not satisfied with conquering comic magazines, paperback books and the silver screen, our sullen-eyed Cimmerian has now invaded the world of newspapers! Even as we write these

words, **Conan the Barbarian** has begun to appear as a comic strip in some of the most influential newspapers in the United States.

Robert E. Howard's original Conan

concept was created way back in the 1920s, but didn't see print until the 1930s, with the first story appearing in the December 1932 issue of the American "pulp" magazine, *Weird Tales*.



CONTINUING:
THE COMING
OF CONAN.

"FIRST, YOUNG CONAN
BECAME ONE MORE
DARING THIEF IN A
CITY OF THIEVES, IN
THE LAND CALLED
ZAMORA..."



"LATER, HE BECAME A MERCENARY
SOLDIER... SELLING HIS SWORD, BUT
NOT HIS SOUL, FOR GOLD."



"BUT ALWAYS, HE REMAINED A
WANDERER..."

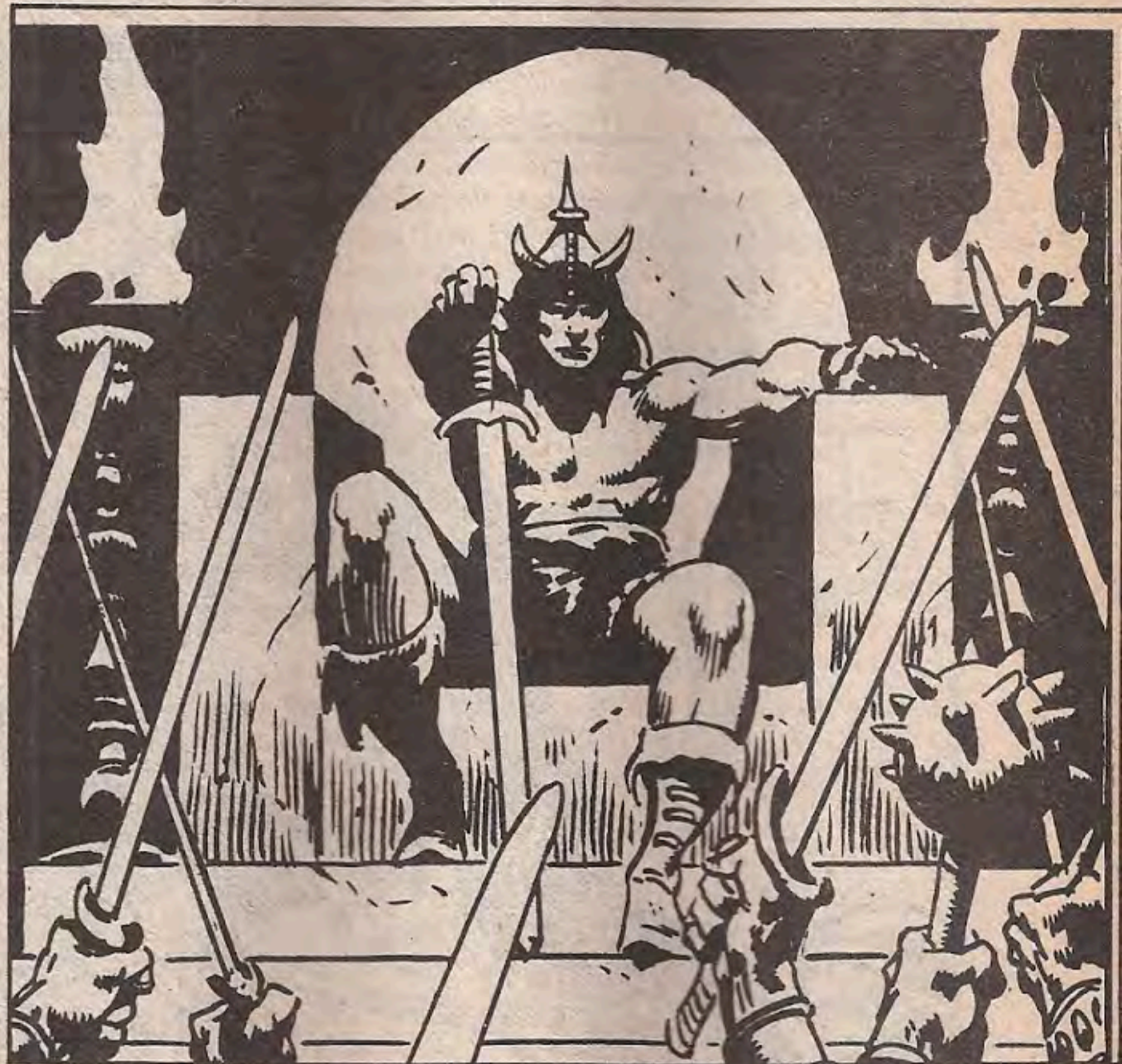
"... FATED TO
TRAVEL THE
LENGTH AND
BREADTH OF
A WORLD NOW
VANISHED IN
THE MISTS
OF TIME!"

The description "pulp" magazine was coined to describe many short story anthology magazines around that time, with it meaning quite simply recycled paper, because of the acute paper shortage at that time. The pulp feel however, often extended beyond the actual feel of the paper. The writers were paid such low rates for their work that only unknown authors and second grade writers would submit material. But, possibly because of their none-too-demanding ways, new talent flourished, with innovative ideas – more than often frowned on by the major publishers – springing forth.

Sadly, the era of the pulp magazine passed on, as did the all-too-brief life of Robert E. Howard. And so it was that Conan too disappeared from the stands.

Then, almost thirty years later, a new paperback publisher, Lancer, picked up the rights to the original Conan short stories and novels. Wisely teaming them with brilliant cover paintings by Frank Frazetta, a new age of Conan was born.

Reaching a popularity not seen during Howard's lifespan, Conan made a further transition, in October 1970. . . to Marvel Comics.



Under the caring, watchful eye of editor/writer Roy Thomas, Conan soared in popularity to such an extent that even the giant movie moguls displayed interest (but more on that in a future issue).

Thus, with Conan's exploits currently (or soon to be) appearing in comics, books and on film, the mass-market of the newspaper strip is one of the last remaining frontiers for the black-maned barbarian to conquer.

And conquer is precisely what he plans to do, in a series of new adventures penned by the award-winning team of Roy Thomas and John Buscema (interviewed last issue). The series made its debut in the American newspapers on Monday, 4th September 1978 and should make its way to Britain before too long.

The hard-working Thomas/Buscema team intend to spare no effort to make "Conan the Barbarian" a welcome addition to those strips which have led to a renaissance of the adventure strip in the last year or so. Buscema will be achieving his ambition mentioned last month as he inks as well as pencils the strip, and he and Thomas will be presenting a series of tales from a period when Conan is in his late twenties, some time before the adventures appearing in



this magazine took place. And, naturally, the stories will be all-new, though filled with the same sword-and-sorcery excitement you've come to expect.

In short, if "Conan the Barbarian" isn't eventually mentioned in the same breath with such classic strips as "Prince Valiant" and "Flash Gordon" we'll want to know the reason why!

Meanwhile, by kind permission of the Register and Tribune Syndicate (which also produces the "Spider-man" and "Howard the Duck" newspaper strips) here are a few random samples from the first few weeks. Hopefully, the early strips will contain enough of the sword-and-sorcery elements to let the unsuspecting world know what the bronzed

barbarian is all about.

We hope these samples whet your appetite. And if you want to find out if your local newspaper is going to be carrying "Conan the Barbarian" from the Register and Tribune Syndicate, don't ask us - ask them. It could just be that yours will be the letter that makes them sign on!



ONE MOMENT CONAN IS STARING UPWARD, WIDE-EYED, AT A SINGLE WINGED QUASH-HUMAN MONSTER IN THE SKY ABOVE.

THE NEXT, AND A SECOND CREATURE JOINS THE FIRST, SWOOPING DOWN FROM OUT OF THE HOT ZAMORIAN SUN...



KEEP BEHIND ME, GIRL! I DON'T KNOW JUST WHY THOSE BAT-WINGED DEVILS ARE AFTER YOU--

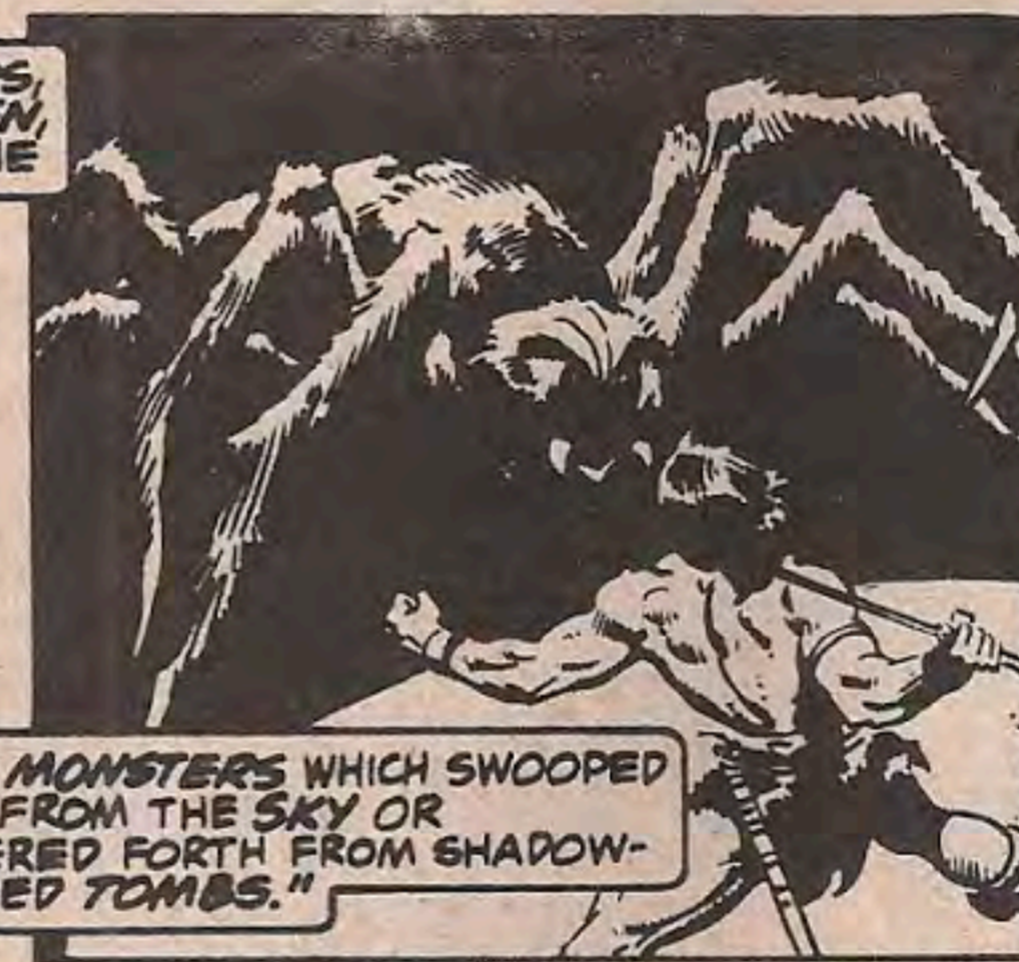


--BUT THEY'LL GET YOU OVER MY DEAD CIMMERIAN BODY!



THE COMING OF CONAN, CONT'D:

"IN THE CIVILIZED LANDS, CONAN BATTLED MEN, AMONG WHOM HE HAD NO PEER..."



"...AND MONSTERS WHICH SWOOPED DOWN FROM THE SKY OR SLITHERED FORTH FROM SHADOW-GUARDED TOMBS."



"YET, HIS MOST DEADLY FOES WERE EVER WIZARDS... HOODED SORCERERS WHO KNEW THE DARK SECRETS OF A MAGIC THAT WAS OLD WHEN ATLANTIS SANK."



THE SOUND OF SCURRYING FOOTFALLS AMID THE ZAMORIAN WASTE SENDS YOUNG CONAN HURLING HIMSELF INTO THE SHADOW OF A JAGGED BOULDER...



THEN, ANOTHER SOUND IS ABRUPTLY HEARD...

HELP!
HELP ME!



IN THE NAME OF MITRA--SOMEONE PLEASE HELP ME!



HELP--* WHOA, GIRL! STOP ALL THAT RUNNING AND YAMMERING FOR A MINUTE--

--AND TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING 'WAY OUT HERE!