



In just the 1950s alone, more Tarzan comic books were made in Britain than all the Tarzan comics that have ever made in America. That was how popular the apeman was in the country that Burroughs gave Tarzan's fictional heritage.

About the time that U.S. publishers finished their Big Little Book run of daily strips reprints, two different British publishers started reprinting the U.S. newspaper strips at the same time.

One revamped a syndicated mini-newspaper reprint service that ran many of the black & white U.S. dailies as color comics for the first and only time.

The other turned old color Sunday strips into black & white comic books.

Soon, images of Tarzan film actors Johnny Weissmuller, Lex Barker, and Gordon Scott began appearing on comic book racks all across England. These included many completely new color images rarely seen by American readers.



Westworld Publications

Tarzan the Grand Adventure Comic

On September 15, 1951, Westworld Publications Limited of London debuted their first issue of the 12 page *Tarzan the Grand Adventure Comic*. These bi-weeklies were mini-newspapers, initially sized at 11 & 1/4" x 15 & 13/16", and mainly reprinted story sequences from the daily comic strips from the U.S. with the outer pages and some interior in color and the rest in black & white. Basically, they printed a very large sheet of paper in color on one side and black on the other, then folded it twice before trimming and then inserted another black & white section that had already been folded once into the middle.

These newspaper inserts were also produced in multiple languages worldwide. Actually, Tarzan had already been headlining

a similar 8 page bi-weekly series that had been running internationally since 1946 under the simple title of *Tarzan*, and opened with the Maxon dailies from 1943 (*the French edition of issue #4 from October 10, 1946, is shown center page*). The *Tarzan* feature was in color, but only on the front and back page. The interiors were all filler features which included *Batman* newspaper reprints. Once *Tarzan the Grand Adventure Comic* began, the international masthead changed to match -- in their respective languages.

Tarzan, the Grand Adventure Comic Volume 1 ran for 22 bi-weekly issues through July 15,

1952. While the front cover of the very first issue is marked as Vol. 1 - Nr. 1, the legal indicia on the back cover lists it as Vol. II - No. 2. To add even more confusion to novice collectors, the second issue is marked as Vol. II - Nr. 2 on the front. The correct #2 is easily identified because by the time the true Vol. 2 #2 was made, the comic had been reduced in

size to 9 & 1/8" & 1/4" x 12 & 1/4" in size. The 1st issues of each volume are shown here side by side and in scale with each other to show how different their respective sizes were.

Volume 2 #1 debuted August 1, 1952 and ran for 36 weekly issues.





Volume 1 had two comics albums made with 7 issues in each. The second is shown above, which contains issues #8 through #14.

Volume 2 had some special content when issue #5 began reprinting the daily *Tarzan at the Earth's Core* storyline. The early weeks of this strip had been pencilled by Hal Hogarth until inker Dan Barry took over the full art chores. Unlike the all black & white dailies seen in the U.S., British readers got to enjoy three pages in color each week. The last page of color on the back cover was dedicated to the wild west tales of *Buffalo Bill* (v1 #1 through #14) and the science fiction adventures of *Mike Meteor* (v1 #15 - v2 #36). Other interior backup features, like the fumetti (photo-novel) *Arizona Bill*, were always in black & white.

Tarzan at the Earth's Core concluded with issue #9 where, thanks to an all text

panel, the strip jumped right into the middle of a much earlier Maxon strip with Tarzan chasing escaped circus animals down a city street.

This type of jumping back and forth across the continuities of different timelines within the U.S. strips was typical of *Tarzan the Grand Adventure Comic*. The numbering inserted into the panels was also changed from the U.S. numbering, so European readers had no idea. But this gave readers a great selection of different Tarzan artists, which included Dan Barry, Nick Cardy, Bob Lubbers, Paul Reinman and others.

Maxon reprints filled the rest of Volume 2 until the 35th issue when, thanks to yet another block of explanatory text, the format changed from running dailies to a full-page *Tarzan and the N'Ani* (#875) Sunday strip illustrated by Burne Hogarth (shown below).

The 36th issue of Volume 2 dated April 3, 1953 might have been the last of *Tarzan the Grand Adventure Comic*, but it was far from the last of Westworld's involvement with Tarzan strip reprints.

