

Book THE CONAN companion planting

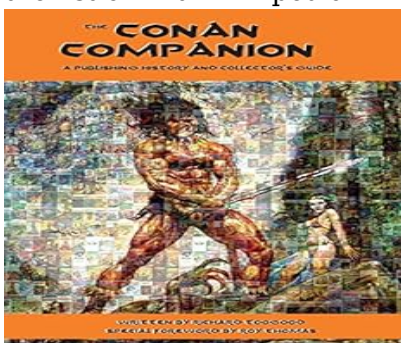
Ever ponder the history of paperback publishing of Robert E Howard's Conan the Cimmerian Ponder no Richard Toogood covers the history of popular culture's favorite barbarian from the pulp magazine beginnings to the current trade paperbacks Lancer Ace Sphere Tor Del Rey Orbit The book is profusely illustrated with high quality reproductions of often iconic paperback book cover art by Frank Frazetta Ken Kelly Blas Gallego The text accompanying the pictures tells the tale of back door deals corporate mergers and in fighting among copyright holders with some acerbic comments along the way Drama and beauty are contained in this history of the paperback Conan This book is both for the novice and the long time fan THE CONAN COMPANION: A Publishing History and Collector's Guide By Crom At long last the definitive history of Conan the Barbarian paperbacks that fans have clamoured for 107 pages with detailed chapters devoted to each of the mighty Cimmerian's publishers Heavily illustrated with many rare images Plus complete cover galleries of every US and UK Conan title ever issued In full colour An indispensable aid to Conan collectors and completists everywhere Featuring a specially written foreword by Conan comics legend Roy Thomas By Crom! At long last the definitive history of Conan the Barbarian paperbacks that fans have clamoured for. **THE CONAN companionless** Featuring a specially written foreword by Conan comics legend Roy Thomas! THE CONAN COMPANION: A Publishing History and Collector's Guide Fantastic book for all Conan fans THE CONAN COMPANION: A Publishing History and Collector's Guide Overall I was disappointed in this volume though if you are a fan of Conan and Robert E Howard it is still worth getting even with the issues The cover scans are great but this is in no way complete and will not serve as a bibliography for completionists The arrangement of the covers also leaves something to be desired as it is very haphazard rather than in publication order The biggest problem though is with the text It veers between personal review and scholarly paper but has issues on both levels There is no bibliography for the sources though other sources are noted in the text They are usually referenced but not in any accepted format There is also an annoying absence of proper punctuation and the author references certain authors using unusual forms of their names rather than their professional names Linwood Carter instead of Lin Carter and Lyon Sprague De Camp rather than L Sprague De Camp He also takes every opportunity to malign both of these authors and in particular attempts to attribute nefarious motivations to De Camp's actions at nearly every turn with no references to back up any of his accusations It gets old very quickly THE CONAN COMPANION: A Publishing History and Collector's Guide This book is simply a Conan fan's dream Collecting every pretty much cover of all the Conan novels in the US and UK over the years with Toogood's exceptional expert commentary alongside This really is a must have if you love Conan THE CONAN COMPANION: A Publishing History and Collector's Guide THE Conan Companion A Publishing History and Collector's Guide is a nice resource for the Conan fan It includes a nice forward by Roy Thomas The book itself covers the history of Conan publishing from the pulps and the various paperback editions from Lancer Ace Berkley Sphere Bantam and Tor along with current editions from Del Rey and Gollancz And of course there are lots of illustrations from the above mentioned publishers and It's not a complete compendium of published Conan paperbacks As the author notes in the introduction uestions of individual printings and series uniformity have not been a particular fixation To this end it will be noticed that later printings of both 'Conan the Freebooter' and 'Conan the Wanderer' have been mixed in with the earlier editions in the Lancer gallery pg 6 So some of the covers of the later editions from Ace books with Frank Frazetta artwork Conan Conan the Adventurer Conan the Conueror etc only appear under the Lancer editions I personally would have liked to have seen the Ace versions of these but it's not a deal breaker The author also notes In a similar vein not every cover featured in the Tor gallery can be claimed to have been scanned from a first printing But later printings have been judged to suffice where the cover

image is exactly the same as that featured on the first the first print pg 6 He does note and the gallery reflects where Tor Conan books had different covers on the trade and mass market editions those are included Also those where the mass market cover differed from the trade but then the mass market cover reverted to the cover from the trade those are all included Conan the Victorious is an example Not every image is a paperback edition There are some pulp magazine covers with Conan appearing along with the early Gnome Press hardcovers Plus some covers from Marvel's Conan the Barbarian and Savage Sword of Conan comics But not every picture is Conan The Sphere and Bantam Books covers of their King Kull books are included There are also covers of Robert Jordan's Eye of the World books included under the Tor Books section pgs 68 69 I know that Jordan is better known for this latter series rather than having started out writing Conan books but the pictures each take up over a quarter of a page The same with John Norman's Gor novel pictures of five of them pg 47 take up over half a page included as part of a discussion of changes in publishing that took place in the late 1980's There are also a number of book covers included that are really associational at best covers of books by Lin Carter and L Sprague De Camp Karl Edward Wagner Andrew J Offutt and the above mentioned Kull covers To be fair they don't take up multiple pages and the author appears to be using them for context But it would have been nice to see some additional Conan covers like the above mentioned Frazetta Ace editions especially from something that bills itself as a Collector's Guide At the end of it all I can overlook this as there are positives about the book then negatives I don't have any of the Sphere editions of Conan so it's great to actually see the covers of these books And it's really interesting to see some covers recycled from US editions for example the Sphere edition of Conan the Freebooter uses the same cover art from Tor Books' Conan the Triumphant The author also speaks at length at L Sprague De Camp's involvement with the publishing of Conan mostly in a negative light De Camp being probably the most polarizing figure in the history of Conan publishing So it's not just a collection of pretty covers which it is but it's also a fairly comprehensive history of the publishing of Conan It's not a perfect book an index would have been nice but for its faults which at the end of the day are minor I can see this being a valued resource and definitely a worthy investment for the Conan fan I was going back and forth on what to grade this It's certainly a solid four star plus book but do the negatives which I pointed out deserve to dock it a star I eventually decided it doesn't which is why I'm giving it a five star rating It's certainly worth purchasing and if you're a Conan fan like I am this definitely belongs in your library

THE CONAN COMPANION: A Publishing History and Collector's Guide

The pictures are wonderful The text is not I expected this to be a comprehensive and factual account of the Publishing History of Conan books I expected to see checklists tables of contents editorial remarks cover artist biographies comparisons of different editions and other minutia It is after all a Collector's Guide Instead I got a bombastic outpouring of opinion written by someone who clearly abhors any and all Conan stories written by everyone whose name isn't Robert E Howard The author is so laser focused on bashing De Camp that he forgets his book is subtitled A Publishing History and Collector's Guide and not Toogood Ridicules Every Conan Pastiche Ever Written Pick this up if you're interested in browsing the covers of every Conan paperback ever published in English it does an absolutely fantastic job in that regard But if you actually want to learn something about Conan books then stick with Wikipedia

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