



Bruce and Dana MacDermott's Presentation

Dana MacDermott*

Burroughs' Martians come in two basic varieties: 6 limbed ferocious giants, and approximately human cultures of several races. Although slim in description, the native costumes are repeatedly represented as consisting of harnesses and ornaments of metal and jewels. Additional information in the text is sparse, but telling. The civilized Martians have the ability to view Earth, and are perplexed by the quantity and complexity of the body coverings they observe. At one point, John Carter remarks on it as he picks up his clothing of straps and leathers. (*Princess of Mars*)

The costumes are indicated to be very revealing, which does create a difficulty for a PG-13 rated treatment, I have chosen to approach this in the spirit of an accurate interpretation of Barsoom as written by Edgar Rice Burroughs and reported by John Carter. As a result of this choice, the primary costumes are designed entirely of leather and ornamentation.

Although the stories begin post Civil War, and quickly progress to Earth's late 1800's, Burroughs' series of books began to be published in 1912. It could be interpreted that futuristic design at that time would be the variations of Art Deco. This is where I went for the majority of my inspiration.

Tars Tarkas and Sola

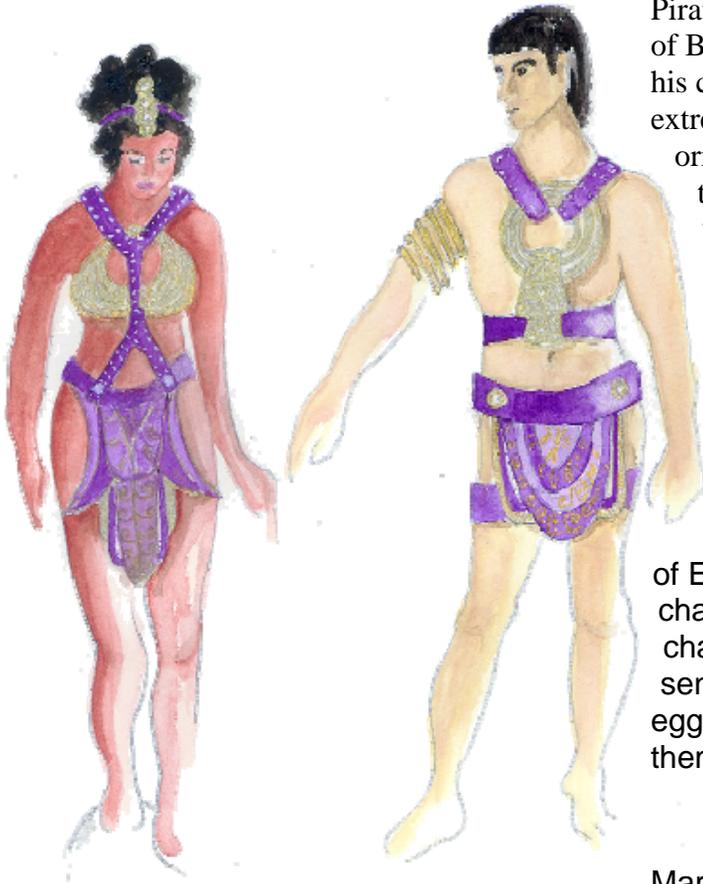
The green Martians' leathers, as exemplified by Tars Tarkas and Sola, are more primitive, although their jewelry is primarily Deco. I have taken

some liberty with the size of Tars Tarkas. Described as being 15 feet tall to John Carter's approximately 6' frame, the difference seemed to me too great for some of the action to be plausible, and I have reduced him by one yard to a mere 12 feet. Sola maintains her 8' stature.



Dejah Thoris and John Carter

Dejah Thoris and John Carter are pictured in their royal Helium costumes. Some of their strappings are textured as pictured (which I consider to be the normal leather surface of a Martian animal hide). The elaborate designs are tooled and dyed; an art the Helium culture has been interpreted to embrace.



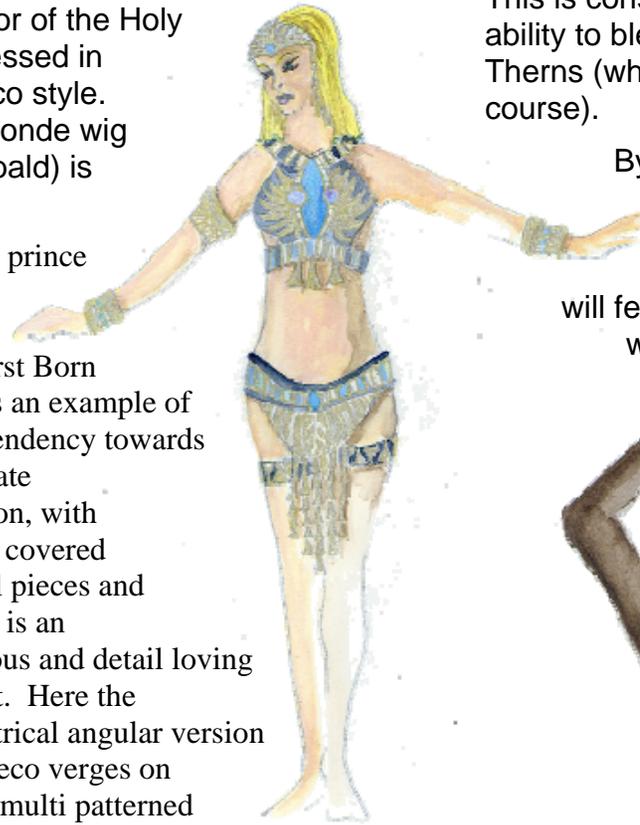
Phaidor and Xodar

Phaidor of the Holy Therns is dressed in Egyptian Deco style. Her yellow-blond wig (Therns are bald) is braided.

Xodar, prince of the black Martian Pirates, the First Born of Barsoom, is an example of his culture's tendency towards extremely ornate ornamentation, with the leather covered with metal pieces and jewels. It is an ostentatious and detail loving treatment. Here the asymmetrical angular version of Art Deco verges on African multi patterned textiles.

Note that with the exception of Earth-born John Carter, none of the characters exhibit that mammalian characteristic of a navel. Since the sentient races of Barsoom hatch from eggs, they obviously would not possess them.

I have chosen also to portray the various races of humanoid Martians closer to their racial equivalents on Earth rather than by the



simple colors of Burroughs' terminology. This is consistent with John Carter's ability to blend naturally with the "white" Therns (when properly be-wigged, of course).

By taking this quasi-historical approach to costuming Barsoom, I hope that true lovers of the Mars series will feel comfortable with the world we portray.

