

Robert K. Abbett

Biography^[edit]

Abbett was born in 1926 in [Hammond, Indiana](#).

During the late-1950s, 1960s and 1970s, **Robert Abbett**, also credited as **Bob Abbett**, illustrated book covers for [war novels](#), detective novels, thrillers, historical fiction and science fiction. Today, Abbett is best known for his paintings of [wildlife](#)(in particular, [dogs](#)), [wilderness](#), [sporting](#), and [fishing](#).

His illustrations have been featured in a large number of [books](#), [magazines](#), and [advertising](#). He has also authored or been featured in several art-related books, including *A Season for Painting: The Outdoor Paintings of Robert K. Abbett* and *Wings from Cover: The Upland Images of Robert Abbett and Ed Gray*.

Abbett is a graduate of both the [University of Missouri](#) and [Purdue University](#). In 1953, Abbett moved to rural [Connecticut](#) where he built a [house](#) on an old [farm](#) (namely, Oakdale Farm^[1]). There, Abbett was inspired by the untouched wilderness and [forests](#), and began painting what he has become famous for today: animals and countrylife.

He died on June 20, 2015 at the age of 89 in [Bridgewater, Connecticut](#).^[2]

Book covers illustrations^[edit]

was an illustrator for [Ballantine Books](#),^[3] [Pyramid Books](#) and [Ace Books](#), as well as Gold Medal, Avon, [Permabook](#), and Pocket Books. He illustrated [Edgar Rice Burroughs'](#) books,^[4] including the [Tarzan](#) series,^[5] [Barsoom](#) series,^{[6][7]} and [Pellucidar](#) ^{[8][9]} series.

Books^[edit]

- *[The Quiet American](#)* by [Graham Greene](#), [Bantam Books](#), 1957
- *[The Devil to Pay](#)* by [Ellery Queen](#) (pseudonym), [Pocket Books](#), 1958
- *[Spearhead](#)* by [Franklin M. Davis, Jr.](#), [Permabooks](#), 1958
- *[Justice, My Brother](#)* by [James Keene \(author\)](#) (pseudonym of William Everett Cook), [Dell Books](#), 1959
- *[Turn on the Heat](#)* by [A.A. Fair](#), [Dell Books](#) 1959
- *[Colonel Hugh North Solves The MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR MURDERS](#)*, by [F. Van Wyck Mason](#), [Cardinal Edition](#), 1960
- *[Fear is the Key](#)* by [Alistair MacLean](#), [Permabook](#), 1960
- *[Kiss Off the Dead](#)* by [Garrity](#), [Gold Medal](#), 1960
- *[Mark Kilby and the Miami Mob](#)* by [Robert Caine Frazer](#), [Pocket Books](#), 1960

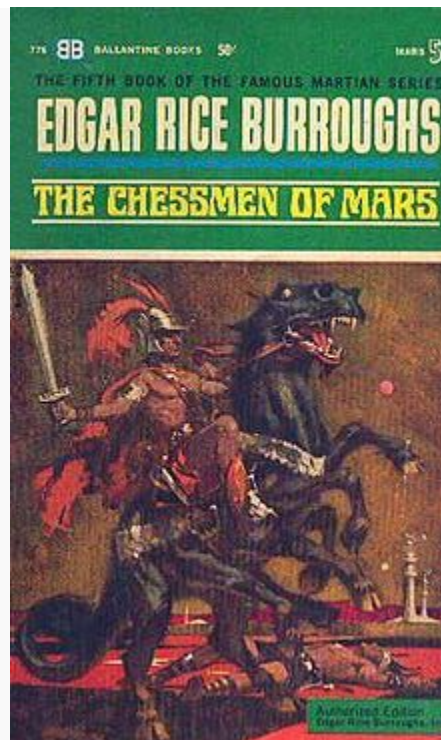
- [*Plot It Yourself*](#) by [Rex Stout](#), [Bantam Books](#), 1960
- [*The Fix*](#) by [Jack Usher](#), Pocket Books, Inc., 1961
- [*The Grave's in the Medal*](#) by [Manning Lee Stokes](#), Dell 1961
- [*The Counterfeit Courier*](#) by [James C. Sheers](#), [Dell Books](#), 1961
- [*Born of Battle*](#) by [Robert Crane](#),^[10] Pyramid Books, 1962
- [*Cry, Baby*](#) by [Jack Ehrlich](#), Dell 1962
- [*The Girl From Midnight*](#) by [Robert Wade and Bill Miller](#), Gold Medal Books, 1962
- [*Cleopatra*](#), by [Jeffrey K. Gardner](#), 1962
- [*Earth Abides*](#), by [George R. Stewart](#), Ace Books 1962
- [*The Hate Merchant*](#) by [Niven Busch](#), Macfadden Books, 1962
- [*Tobruk \(novel\)*](#) by [Peter Rabe](#), Bantam Books
- [*Acapulco G.P.O.*](#) by [Day Keene](#), Dell Books
- [*The Life and Good Times of Randolph Hearst*](#), by [John Tebbel](#), Paperback Library, Inc., 1962
- [*The Case Against Satan*](#) by [Ray Russell](#), Paperback Library, Inc., 1963
- [*The Bowl of Brass*](#) by [Paul Wellman](#), Paperback Library, Inc.
- [*Assignment—Stella Marni*](#) (Sam Durell Series) by [Edward S. Aarons](#), Gold Medal Book, 1965
- [*A Woman of the People*](#) by [Benjamin Capps](#), [Duell, Sloan & Pearce](#), 1966
- [*Chicago 11*](#) by [Day Keen](#), Dell, 1966
- [*The Dark Fantastic*](#) by [Whit Masterson](#) (pseudonym of Robert Wade and H. Bill Miller), Avon Books, 1966
- [*In the Last Analysis*](#) by [Amanda Cross](#) (pseudonym of [Carolyn G. Heilbrun](#)), 1966 ([ISBN 0380545101](#))
- [*The Bull Whip Breed*](#) by [J. T. Edson](#), [Bantam Books](#), 1969

Tarzan[edit]

- [*Tarzan of the Apes*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*The Return of Tarzan*](#), Ballantine, 1969
- [*The Beasts of Tarzan*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*The Son of Tarzan*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Tarzan and the Jewels of Opar*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Jungle Tales of Tarzan*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Tarzan the Untamed*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Tarzan the Terrible*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Tarzan and the Golden Lion*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Tarzan and the Ant Men*](#), Ballantine 1969
- [*Tarzan and the Lost Empire*](#), Ballantine 1969

- [*Tarzan at the Earth's Core*](#), Ballantine 1970
- [*Tarzan the Invincible*](#), Ballantine 1970
- [*Tarzan Triumphant*](#), Ballantine 1970
- [*Tarzan and the City of Gold*](#), Ballantine 1970
- [*Tarzan and the Lion Man*](#), Ballantine 1970
- [*Tarzan and the Leopard Men*](#), Ballantine 1970
- [*Tarzan's Quest*](#), Ballantine 1974^[11]
- [*Tarzan and the Foreign Legion*](#), Ballantine, 1964^[12]
- [*Tarzan and the Madman*](#), Ballantine 1965^[13]
- [*Tarzan and the Castaways*](#), Ballantine, 1965^[14]

Barsoom (Mars)^[edit]



Front cover of the 1963 [Ballantine Books](#) paperback edition of [*Chessmen of Mars*](#) by [Edgar Rice Burroughs](#). Cover illustration by [Robert Abbett \(Illustrator\)](#).

- [*A Princess of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963
- [*The Gods of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963
- [*The Warlord of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963
- [*Thuvia, Maid of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963, 1969 (new painting)
- [*The Chessmen of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963
- [*The Master Mind of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963
- [*A Fighting Man of Mars*](#), Ballantine 1963

- [Swords of Mars](#), Ballantine 1963
- [Synthetic Men of Mars](#), Ballantine 1963
- [Llana of Gathol](#), Ballantine 1963
- [John Carter of Mars](#), Ballantine 1965

Pellucidar^[edit]

- [Tarzan at the Earth's Core](#), Ballantine 1974

References^[edit]

1. **Jump up**[^] Abbett illustrated books for Edgar Rice Burroughs. Burroughs wrote a novel called *The Oakdale Affair*.
2. **Jump up**[^] <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/newstimes/obituary.aspx?pid=175520831>
3. **Jump up**[^] Dr. Michael S. Smith. "[ACE SF K-Series Singles Image Library](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-08.
4. **Jump up**[^] Robert R. Barrett. "[To Bora-Bora and Back Again: The Story of Armstrong W. Sperry](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-08.
5. **Jump up**[^] Nick Knowles. "[ERB Paperback Collector U.S. First Editions](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-08.
6. **Jump up**[^] FALCONER'S FANTASY BOOKS. "[The Barsoom Series The John Carter Trilogy](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-10.
7. **Jump up**[^] Nick Knowles. "[Mars Series: Ballantine Books Series 1 Cover art by Robert Abbett](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-10.
8. **Jump up**[^] Nick Knowles. "[Pellucidar 4](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-10.
9. **Jump up**[^] von Horst. "[Tarzan at the Earth's Core Publishing History](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-10.
10. **Jump up**[^] Barnard, Jeff (September 8, 1984). "[With 97 Pen Names, Con Sellers Loses Taack of Stories He's Written](#)". *Schenectady Gazette*. pp. Supplement Page 21. Retrieved 29 September 2011.
11. **Jump up**[^] ERBzine.com. "[ERB CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-11.
12. **Jump up**[^] ERBzine.com. "[TARZAN AND "THE FOREIGN LEGION"](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-11.
13. **Jump up**[^] Burroughs Bibliophiles, Inc. "[BURROUGHS BULLETIN Illustrated Bibliography IV: Issues 61 - 80](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-11.
14. **Jump up**[^] Tarzan.com. "[TARZAN AND THE CASTAWAYS](#)". Retrieved 2008-03-11.

External links^[edit]

- [Robert K. Abbett official website, with paintings and a biography.](#)
- [Bob Abbett](#) at the [Internet Speculative Fiction Database](#)
- [AskART Robert Abbett biography](#)
- [A large version of the 1962 painting by Robert Abbett for the Ace Book *Earth Abides*](#)
- [Painting for the 1969 cover of *The Convenient Marriage*, by Georgette Heyer.](#)
- [This page has an interview/biography of Robert K. Abbett that talks about his career as a book illustrator.](#)