

# The Cross Plainsman

*A Journal of Essays, Contemplations, and Creative Writing on the Life and Literature of Robert Ervin Howard*  
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## "By the Numbers" (Part One): Stylometrical/Themetrical Analysis Applications to the Writings of Robert E. Howard

The following pages offer some examples of excerpts from a KWIC ("Key Word in Context") concordance made by opening a text file of "Spear and Fang" in the concordance application Conc 1.80b3 (a free download for the Macintosh platform:

<http://www.sil.org/computing/conc/conc.html>

— note that other similar concordancers are available for free download in the IBM/PC platform. Do a web search on "concordancer" to find more examples, of "KWIC concordance").

I will illustrate some of the practical applications of such a concordance in the comments below.

First, let's look at some examples of the young REH's "tagging" or way of attribution of speaker in dialogue:

91	He seized her by the wrist. "Turn not away, fair maiden,"	said he. "It is your slave, Ka-nanu." "Let me go," she answered. "I must go to the spring
114	dissuade him. "I am not powerful enough to resist you," she	said, "but I will accuse you before the tribe." "You will never accuse me, little antelope
116	the tribe." "You will never accuse me, little antelope," he	said, and she read another, even more sinister intention in his cruel countenance. On and
253	the girl in his arms. "What I have fought for I will keep,"	said he. And so it was that the girl who went forth into the forest in the arms of an

One distinctive feature of style is the way in which attribution of speaker or "tagging" of dialogue is done. Above, the young Robert E. Howard's tendency is to use what I call MEDIAL REGULAR ATTRIBUTION (the tag line breaks up the dialogue) or TERMINAL REGULAR ATTRIBUTION (the tag line comes at the end of the sentence). Interestingly, the young REH uses INVERTED REGULAR ATTRIBUTION here in the two clips that read "said he" rather than "he said." All examples here are "REGULAR" in that the normal and generic word "said" is used instead of some variant or more specific word indicative of the tone of voice, manner of saying, emotional state of the speaker: *shouted, whispered, screamed, said sarcastically, queried nervously* etc..

6	figures on the wall. With a piece of flint he scratched the outline	and then with a twig dipped in ochre paint completed the figure. The result was
9	for expression. It was a mammoth that he sought to depict,	[coordinating conjunction] and little A-Æa's eyes widened with wonder and admiration. Wonderful! What
10	that he sought to depict, and little A-Æa's eyes widened with wonder	and admiration. Wonderful! What though the beast lacked a leg and had no tail
11	and admiration. Wonderful! What though the beast lacked a leg	and had no tail? It was tribesmen, just struggling out of utter barbarism, who
12	just struggling out of utter barbarism, who were the critics,	[coordinating conjunction] and to them Ga-nor was a past master. However, it was not to watch the
17	he was, towering well over six feet, leanly built, with mighty shoulders	and narrow hips, the build of a fighting man. Both his hands and his feet were
18	shoulders and narrow hips, the build of a fighting man. Both his hands	and his feet were long and slim; and his features, thrown into bold profile by the
18	the build of a fighting man. <b>BOTH HIS HANDS AND HIS FEET WERE LONG</b>	<b>AND SLIM</b> ; and his features, thrown into bold profile by the flickering torch-light

19 of a fighting man. Both his hands and his feet were long and slim;  
22 was very easy to look upon. Her hair, as well as her eyes, was black  
24 tattooing tinted her cheek, for she was still unmated. Both the girl  
25 of the great Cro-Magnon race which came from no man knows where  
25 race which came from no man knows where and announced  
26 knows where and announced and enforced their supremacy over beast  
27 A-Æa glanced about nervously. All ideas to the contrary, customs  
28 All ideas to the contrary, **CUSTOMS AND TABOOS ARE MUCH MORE NARROW**  
30 The more primitive a race, the more intolerant their customs. Vice  
31 licentiousness may be the rule, but the appearance of vice is shunned  
34 man, denunciation as a shameless woman would have been her lot, [coordinating conjunction] and doubtless a public whipping. To be proper, A-Æa should have played the  
38 would have followed public wooing by means of crude love-songs  
39 love-songs and music from reed pipes. Then barter with her parents  
45 way to win him. Ga-nor turned from his completed work, stretched  
46 toward the cave mouth. Like a frightened rabbit, little A-Æa ducked  
54 dared a scolding by slipping nearer. She heard the words "footprint"  
57 in the forest, not far from the caves. "Gur-na" was a word of hatred  
61 tiger, they had ruled the forests until the Cro-Magnon men had come  
62 had come and waged savage warfare against them. Of mighty power  
62 against them. Of mighty power and little mind, savage, bestial  
63 bestial and cannibalistic, they inspired the tribesmen with loathing  
64 and horror--a horror transmitted through the ages in tales of ogres  
64 through the ages in tales of ogres and goblins, of werewolves  
65 of ogres and goblins, of werewolves and beast-men. **THEY WERE FEWER**  
66 cunning, then. No longer they rushed roaring to battle, but cunning  
69 hunting grounds. And ever the Cro-Magnon men trailed them down  
71 the deep forests. But the fear of them remained with the tribesmen,  
72 and no woman went into the jungle alone. Sometimes children went,  
72 alone. Sometimes children went, and sometimes they returned not;  
75 nor yet the tracks of men. And so a hunting party would go forth and hunt  
76 would go forth and hunt the monster down. Sometimes it gave battle  
76 and hunt the monster down. Sometimes it gave battle and was slain,  
77 it gave battle and was slain, and sometimes it fled before them  
79 with the chase, had pursued a fleeing gur-na into the deep forest  
87 She drew away with a shrug of her shoulders. She did not like Ka-nanu a  
89 He wooed her with a mocking air, as if he did it merely for amusement  
100 of the tribal girls looked with favor on Ka-nanu, for he was bigger  
101 with favor on Ka-nanu, for he was bigger and taller even than Ga-nor,  
101 and more handsome in a reckless, cruel way. But A-Æa loved Ga-nor  
105 be another mark of progress, was proud of his success with women  
111 I have you at last. You shall not escape me." In vain she struggled  
116 before the tribe. "You will never accuse me, little antelope," he said,  
118 another, even more sinister intention in his cruel countenance. On  
118 in his cruel countenance. On and on into the forest he carried her,  
123 through the forest, as the thing approached. **KA-NANU, WHITE-LIPPED**  
123 Ka-nanu, white-lipped and horrified, dropped A-Æa to the ground  
124 dropped A-Æa to the ground and told her to run. Then, drawing knife  
126 man plunged forward on short, gnarled legs. He was covered with hair  
133 by nearly a hundred pounds. On he came like a charging buffalo,  
and his features, thrown into bold profile by the flickering torch-light, were  
and fell about her slim shoulders in a rippling wave. No other tattooing tinted her  
and the youth were perfect specimens of the great Cro-Magnon race which came  
and announced and enforced their supremacy over beast and beast-man. A-Æa  
and enforced their supremacy over beast and beast-man. A-Æa glanced about  
and beast-man. A-Æa glanced about nervously. All ideas to the contrary  
and taboos are much more narrow and vigorously enforced among savage peoples  
**AND VIGOROUSLY ENFORCED** among savage peoples. The more primitive a race, the  
and licentiousness may be the rule, but the appearance of vice is shunned and  
and contemned. So if A-Æa had been discovered, hiding near the cave of an  
and music from reed pipes. Then barter with her parents and then--marriage. Or  
and then--marriage. Or no wooing at all, if the lover was wealthy. But little A-Æa  
and glanced toward the cave mouth. Like a frightened rabbit, little A-Æa ducked  
and darted away. When Ga-nor emerged from the cave, he was puzzled by the  
and "gur-na" (man-ape). The footprints of a gur-na had been found in the forest  
and horror to the people of the caves, for the creatures whom the tribesmen  
and waged savage warfare against them. Of mighty power and little mind, savage  
and little mind, savage, bestial and cannibalistic, they inspired the tribesmen with  
and cannibalistic, they inspired the tribesmen with loathing and horror--a horror  
and horror--a horror transmitted through the ages in tales of ogres and goblins  
and goblins, of werewolves and beast-men. They were fewer and more cunning  
and beast-men. They were fewer and more cunning, then. No longer they rushed  
**AND MORE CUNNING**, then. No longer they rushed roaring to battle, but cunning and  
and frightful, they slunk about the forests, the terror of all beasts, brooding in  
and slaughtered them, until sullenly they had withdrawn far into the deep forests  
[coordinating conjunction] and no woman went into the jungle alone. Sometimes children went, and  
[coordinating conjunction] and sometimes they returned not; and searchers found but signs of a ghastly  
[coordinating conjunction] and searchers found but signs of a ghastly feast, with tracks that were not the  
the monster down. Sometimes it gave battle and was slain, and  
and was slain, and sometimes it fled before them and escaped into the depths of  
[coordinating conjunction] and sometimes it fled before them and escaped into the depths of the forest  
and escaped into the depths of the forest, where they dared not follow. Once a  
and there, in a deep ravine, where overhanging limbs shut out the sunlight  
nd she was afraid of him. He wooed her with a mocking air, as if he did it merely  
and would take her whenever he wished, anyway. He seized her by the wrist  
and taller even than Ga-nor, and more handsome in a reckless, cruel way. But A  
[coordinating conjunction] and more handsome in a reckless, cruel way. But A-Æa loved Ga-nor  
and she was afraid of Ka-nanu. Her very fear of him kept her from resisting his  
and used his power over them in no gentle fashion. A-Æa found Ka-nanu was to be  
and pleaded with him. Lifting her in his mighty arms he strode away into the  
[coordinating conjunction] and she read another, even more sinister intention in his cruel countenance. On  
and on into the forest he carried her, and in the midst of a glade he paused, his  
[coordinating conjunction] and in the midst of a glade he paused, his hunter's instinct alert. From the trees  
**AND HORRIFIED**, dropped A-Æa to the ground and told her to run. Then, drawing  
and told her to run. Then, drawing knife and ax, he advanced. The Neandertal man  
and ax, he advanced. The Neandertal man plunged forward on short, gnarled legs  
and his features were more hideous than an ape's because of the grotesque  
[coordinating conjunction] and Ka-nanu met him squarely and boldly. With flint ax and obsidian dagger he

133 On he came like a charging buffalo, and Ka-nanu met him squarely  
 134 buffalo, and Ka-nanu met him squarely and boldly. With flint ax  
 134 him squarely and boldly. With flint ax and obsidian dagger he thrust  
 135 dagger he thrust and smote, but the ax was brushed aside like a toy  
 137 The girl saw the councilor's son wrenched from the ground  
 138 him hurled clear across the glade, saw the monster leap after him  
 143 blood, reaching toward her. Unable to flee, she lay dizzy with horror  
 144 her to him, leering into her eyes. He swung her over his shoulder a  
 145 He swung her over his shoulder and waddled away through the trees;  
 155 of the girl ceased, but that the man's turned toward the jungle  
 161 to him. Perhaps another man would have shrugged his shoulders  
 162 to interfere with a son of a councilor. But Ga-nor had few interests,  
 165 renowned as a fighter, he feared no man. Therefore, he loosened ax  
 166 he loosened ax and dagger in his belt, shifted his grip on his spear,  
 167 in his belt, shifted his grip on his spear, and took up the trail. On  
 167 shifted his grip on his spear, and took up the trail. On and on, deeper  
 169 forest, the Neandertaler carried little A-Æa. **THE FOREST WAS SILENT**  
 173 of his path. Once a great python came slithering through the jungle  
 179 they lived as do beasts, uniting only against some common enemy  
 182 Cro-Magnards' warfare against them. Into a ravine he carried the girl,  
 182 against them. Into a ravine he carried the girl, and **INTO A CAVE, SMALL**  
 193 hands, bruising her soft flesh. He ran rough fingers through her hair,  
 195 enjoy devilishly the torturing of his fair captive. A-Æa set her teeth  
 196 A-Æa set her teeth and would not scream as she had done at first,  
 198 him. The leopard was his hereditary foe. He plucked it from her  
 200 Ga-nor was hurrying through the forest. He was racing now,  
 200 his face was a devil's mask, for he had come upon the bloody glade  
 203 in the ravine the Neandertaler reached for A-Æa. She sprang back  
 204 toward her. He had her in a corner but she slipped under his arm  
 204 she slipped under his arm and sprang away. He was still between her  
 206 of the cave. Unless she could get past him, he would corner her  
 208 to spring to one side. The Neandertaler lumbered in that direction,  
 208 in that direction, and quick as a cat she sprang the other way  
 220 hand, lay A-Æa. The Neandertaler bellowed, dropped his captive  
 222 not matching brute strength with his lesser might, but leaping back  
 222 lesser might, but leaping back and out of the cave. His spear leaped  
 223 through his arm. Leaping back again, the warrior jerked his spear  
 224 jerked his spear and crouched. Again the Neandertaler rushed,  
 225 Again the Neandertaler rushed, and again the warrior leaped away  
 226 this time for the great hairy chest. And so they battled, speed  
 226 And so they battled, speed and intelligence against brute strength  
 228 great, lashing arm of the monster caught Ga-nor upon the shoulder  
 230 Neandertaler bounded after him, but Ga-nor flung himself to one side  
 230 him, but Ga-nor flung himself to one side and leaped to his feet. Again  
 232 Then before the warrior knew it, the wall of the ravine was at his back  
 234 shriek as the monster rushed in. The spear was torn from his hand  
 235 and he was in the grasp of his foe. The great arms encircled his neck  
 236 He thrust his elbow under the retreating chin of his antagonist,  
 237 his antagonist, and with his free hand struck the hideous face again

and boldly. With flint ax and obsidian dagger he thrust and smote, but the ax was  
 and obsidian dagger he thrust and smote, but the ax was brushed aside like a toy  
 and smote, but the ax was brushed aside like a toy and the arm that held the  
 and the arm that held the knife snapped like a stick in the misshapen hand of the  
 and swung into the air, saw him hurled clear across the glade, saw the monster  
 and rend him limb from limb. Then the Neandertaler turned his attention to her  
 and fear. And the monster dragged her to him, leering into her eyes. He swung  
 nd waddled away through the trees; and the girl, half-fainting, knew that he was  
 and the girl, half-fainting, knew that he was taking her to his lair, where no man  
 and were more deeply imprinted than before. Therefore Ka-nanu was carrying  
 and gone his way, reflecting that it would not be well to interfere with a son of a  
[coordinating conjunction] and once his interest was roused he was inclined to see a thing through  
 and dagger in his belt, shifted his grip on his spear, and took up the trail. ON AND ON,  
[coordinating conjunction] and took up the trail. ON AND ON, deeper and deeper into the forest, the  
 and on, deeper and deeper into the forest, the Neandertaler carried little A-Æa  
 and deeper into the forest, the Neandertaler carried little A-Æa. The forest was  
**AND EVIL**, no birds, no insects broke the stillness. Through the overhanging trees  
 and the Neandertaler took to the trees with surprizing [SIC?] speed for one of his  
 and not often then. Therein had lain the reason for the success of the Cro  
[coordinating conjunction] and into a cave, small and vaguely illumined by the light from without.  
**AND VAGUELY ILLUMINED** by the light from without. He threw her roughly to the floor  
[coordinating conjunction] and when he saw that he hurt her he seemed filled with a fiendish glee. He tore  
 and would not scream as she had done at first, and presently he desisted. The  
[coordinating conjunction] and presently he desisted. The leopard-skin garment she wore seemed to enrage  
 and tore it to pieces. And meanwhile Ga-nor was hurrying through the forest. He  
[coordinating conjunction] and his face was a devil's mask, for he had come upon the bloody glade and had  
 and had found the monster's tracks leading away from it. And in the cave in the  
 and he plunged toward her. He had her in a corner but she slipped under his arm  
 and sprang away. He was still between her and the outside of the cave. Unless  
 and the outside of the cave. Unless she could get past him, he would corner her  
 and seize her. So she pretended to spring to one side. The Neandertaler  
[coordinating conjunction] and quick as a cat she sprang the other way and darted past him, out into the  
 and darted past him, out into the ravine. With a bellow he charged after her. A  
 and charged. And Ga-nor met him, not matching brute strength with his lesser  
 and out of the cave. His spear leaped and the monster bellowed as it tore  
 and the monster bellowed as it tore through his arm. Leaping back again, the  
 and crouched. Again the Neandertaler rushed, and again the warrior leaped away  
[coordinating conjunction] and again the warrior leaped away and thrust, this time for the great hairy chest  
 and thrust, this time for the great hairy chest. And so they battled, speed and  
 and intelligence against brute strength and savagery. Once the great, lashing arm  
 and savagery. Once the great, lashing arm of the monster caught Ga-nor upon  
 and hurled him a dozen feet away, rendering that arm nearly useless for a time  
 and leaped to his feet. Again and again his spear drew blood, but it seemed only  
 and again his spear drew blood, but it seemed only to enrage the monster. Then  
 and he heard A-Æa shriek as the monster rushed in. The spear was torn from his  
 and he was in the grasp of his foe. The great arms encircled his neck and  
 and shoulders, the great fangs sought his throat. He thrust his elbow under the  
[coordinating conjunction] and with his free hand struck the hideous face again and again; blows that would  
 and again; blows that would have felled an ordinary man but which the Neandertal

241	the shoulder of his foe he saw the girl approaching with a great stone,	[coordinating conjunction] and he tried to motion her back. With a great effort he reached down over
242	back. With a great effort he reached down over the monster's arm a	nd found his ax. But so close were they clinched together that he could not
245	as one breaks a stick. But Ga-nor's elbow was thrust under his chin,	[coordinating conjunction] and the more the Neandertal man tugged, the deeper drove the elbow into his
247	drove the elbow into his hairy throat. Presently he realized that fact	and flung Ga-nor away from him. As he did so, the warrior drew his ax, and
248	flung Ga-nor away from him. As he did so, the warrior drew his ax,	[coordinating conjunction] and striking with the fury of desperation, clove the monster's head.
251	stood reeling above his foe, then he felt a soft form within his arms	and saw a pretty face, close to his. "Ga-nor!" A-Æa whispered, and Ga-nor
252	arms and saw a pretty face, close to his. "Ga-nor!" A-Æa whispered,	[coordinating conjunction] and Ga-nor gathered the girl in his arms. "What I have fought for I will keep,"
255	forest in the arms of an abductor came back in the arms of a lover	and a mate.
69	for the men who had driven them from the best hunting grounds.	And ever the Cro-Magnon men trailed them down and slaughtered them, until
75	that were not the tracks of beasts, nor yet the tracks of men.	And so a hunting party would go forth and hunt the monster down. Sometimes it
94	I will go with you, moon of delight, so that no beast may harm you."	And accompany her he did, in spite of her protests. "There is a gur-na abroad," he
96	for a man to accompany even an unmated maiden, for protection.	And I am Ka-nanu," he added, in a different tone; "do not resist me too far, or I
143	toward her. Unable to flee, she lay dizzy with horror and fear.	And the monster dragged her to him, leering into her eyes. He swung her over his
199	was his hereditary foe. He plucked it from her and tore it to pieces.	And meanwhile Ga-nor was hurrying through the forest. He was racing now, and
202	bloody glade and had found the monster's tracks leading away from it.	And in the cave in the ravine the Neandertaler reached for A-Æa. She sprang
220	A-Æa. The Neandertaler bellowed, dropped his captive and charged.	And Ga-nor met him, not matching brute strength with his lesser might, but
225	warrior leaped away and thrust, this time for the great hairy chest.	And so they battled, speed and intelligence against brute strength and savagery
254	the girl in his arms. "What I have fought for I will keep," said he.	And so it was that the girl who went forth into the forest in the arms of an

Howard's use of *AND* displays what Richard Lanham (see *Analyzing Prose*) and other rhetoricians call a "paratactic" style (*parataxis*), where compounding is the norm and coordinating rather than subordinating clauses is the norm. This opposed to a "hypotactic" style (*hypotaxis*) [a la Henry James], in which complex sentences and subordinate clauses are plentiful and sometimes extending to more than one level of subordination.

The fact that Howard uses "*And*" to begin sentences ten different times in this story shows his tendency to use what I call "CONJUNCTIVE OPENINGS"/"INITIAL CONJUNCTION" or, as it might rightly be termed in the proper traditional rhetorical Greek: "*prosyndeton*" ["conjunction first"] NOTE: That last term is derived from the traditional Greek rhetorical figures of *asyndeton* ("no conjunctions," no synthesizing words) as in Mark Twain's, "All the grace, the beauty, the poetry, had gone out of the majestic river" and *polysyndeton* ("many conjunctions," using conjunctions almost wherever possible) again as in Twain's ". . . a day came when I began to cease from noting the glories and the charms which the moon **and** the sun **and** the twilight wrought upon the river's face. . . ."

Also important is the relatively small number of cases (as noted above in the sentences marked with [*coordinating conjunction*]) where *and* is used as the coordinating conjunction to link two independent clauses (although again, there is enough of this to indicate paratactic rather than hypotactic style). Robert E. Howard used a great deal of compounding in his verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs—this indicative of what I have elsewhere in my *Cross Plainsman* contributions called "hypermodification" (especially with the compound adjectives and adverbs) and "packing" of narrative information.

He also displays a tendency to occasionally invert the normal syntax (word order) by placing adjectives and adverbs AFTER the nouns and verbs which they modify (as in bold face above), rather than before — as is normal in English and, for that matter, in all Germanic languages. More important than this is Howard's definite tendency to use what I have called "verbal packing":

- (compound verbs are very frequent, the character doing "this AND this")
- there is a strong tendency to use compound predicate adjectives after the "to be" verb: The character was "this" and "this" (in small caps above)
- there are, as often, maybe more often than not, compound objects to prepositions
- there is a definite preference for and heavy use of compound modification (adjectives and adverbs connected by *and*)

These tendencies are strong enough in this first fictional sale by REH. I believe that they are a distinctive part of Howard's style that would not vary over time. Compounding and Verbal Packing and what we might call elements in Howard's "DNA" (what I call Distinctive [possibly "Determinative" as more data and sophistication of method develop] Narrative Attributes]. Howard's style is "Action Packed" because it is verbally, grammatically, rhetorically "packed."

7 dipped in ocher paint completed the figure. The result was crude,  
31 intolerant their customs. Vice and licentiousness may be the rule,  
52 chief's cave. A mere girl might not intrude upon the councils of men,  
66 and more cunning, then. No longer they rushed roaring to battle,  
73 children went, and sometimes they returned not; and searchers found  
114 to dissuade him. "I am not powerful enough to resist you," she said, "  
134 and boldly. With flint ax and obsidian dagger he thrust and smote,  
154 Then, at the spring, he noticed that the footprints of the girl ceased,  
203 She sprang back and he plunged toward her. He had her in a corner  
215 as he bounded down into the ravine. He approached the cave swiftly  
221 Ga-nor met him, not matching brute strength with his lesser might,  
229 arm nearly useless for a time. The Neandertaler bounded after him,  
231 one side and leaped to his feet. Again and again his spear drew blood,  
238 face again and again; blows that would have felled an ordinary man

but gave evidence of real artistic genius, struggling for expression. It was a  
but the appearance of vice is shunned and contemned. So if A-Æa had been  
but such was A-Æa's curiosity, that she dared a scolding by slipping nearer. She  
but cunning and frightful, they slunk about the forests, the terror of all beasts  
but signs of a ghastly feast, with tracks that were not the tracks of beasts, nor  
but I will accuse you before the tribe." "You will never accuse me, little antelope  
but the ax was brushed aside like a toy and the arm that held the knife snapped  
but that the man's turned toward the jungle and were more deeply imprinted than  
but she slipped under his arm and sprang away. He was still between her and the  
but cautiously. As he looked in, he saw red rage. In the vague light of the cave  
but leaping back and out of the cave. His spear leaped and the monster bellowed  
but Ga-nor flung himself to one side and leaped to his feet. Again and again his  
but it seemed only to enrage the monster. Then before the warrior knew it, the  
but which the Neandertal beast did not even notice. Ga-nor felt consciousness

41 and then--marriage. Or no wooing at all, if the lover was wealthy.  
70 them, until sullenly they had withdrawn far into the deep forests.  
101 taller even than Ga-nor, and more handsome in a reckless, cruel way.  
162 that it would not be well to interfere with a son of a councilor.  
243 effort he reached down over the monster's arm and found his ax.  
245 man set himself to break his foe to pieces as one breaks a stick.

But little A-Æa was herself a mark of progress. Covert glances had failed to  
But the fear of them remained with the tribesmen, and no woman went into the  
But A-Æa loved Ga-nor and she was afraid of Ka-nanu. Her very fear of him kept  
But Ga-nor had few interests, and once his interest was roused he was inclined to  
But so close were they clinched together that he could not draw it. The  
But Ga-nor's elbow was thrust under his chin, and the more the Neandertal man

*Prosyndeton* is also used with the conjunction *BUT* -- as seen in the sentence starts at the bottom of the "but" list above. Notice that, as contrasted with *AND*, the non-prosyndetic *but* is consistently a coordinating conjunction. Again, this is clear indication of a paratactic style. Howard accumulates and piles up action: take this AND this AND this AND this — all on the level of extreme tension and excitement, of heavily involved action and danger. He subordinates thoughts and clauses comparatively sparingly.

37 [SIC?] arousing the young artist's interest without seeming to do  
43 attention of the young man who seemed engrossed with his artistry,  
50 most of the others, at some distance from Ga-nor's cave. As she did  
75 that were not the tracks of beasts, nor yet the tracks of men. And  
93 go to the spring for water." "Then I will go with you, moon of delight,  
225 leaped away and thrust, this time for the great hairy chest. And  
243 effort he reached down over the monster's arm and found his ax. But  
247 he realized that fact and flung Ga-nor away from him. As he did  
254 the girl in his arms. "What I have fought for I will keep," said he. And

so. Then, if the youth was pleased, would have followed public wooing by means  
so she had taken to the unconventional way of spying upon him, in hopes of  
so, she noticed a group of warriors talking excitedly in front of the chief's cave  
so a hunting party would go forth and hunt the monster down. Sometimes it gave  
so that no beast may harm you." And accompany her he did, in spite of her  
so they battled, speed and intelligence against brute strength and savagery. Once  
so close were they clinched together that he could not draw it. The Neandertal  
so, the warrior drew his ax, and striking with the fury of desperation, clove the  
so it was that the girl who went forth into the forest in the arms of an abductor

32 be the rule, but the appearance of vice is shunned and contemned.  
81 out the sunlight, numbers of the Neandertalers had come upon them.  
206 Unless she could get past him, he would corner her and seize her.

So if A-Æa had been discovered, hiding near the cave of an unattached young man  
So no more entered the forests. A-ÆA turned away, with a glance at the forest  
So she pretended to spring to one side. The Neandertaler lumbered in that

Again, prosyndeton on the initial uses of *So*. This is, by the way, also a regular occurrence in the fiction of folks like Brett Hart and Jack London, two influences on REH.

48 cave, he was puzzled by the sight of a small, slender footprint in the  
192 with great fangs. He took her between his great hands, bruising her  
218 eyes on his foe, hideous, hairy, blood-smearred, while at his feet, her  
250 head. FOR a minute Ga-nor stood reeling above his foe, then he felt a

soft loam outside the cave. A-Æa walked primly toward her own cave, which was  
soft flesh. He ran rough fingers through her hair, and when he saw that he hurt  
soft white body contrasting with the shaggy monster, her long hair gripped in his  
soft form within his arms and saw a pretty face, close to his. "Ga-nor!" A-Æa

To demonstrate how concordancing can be applied to psychological criticism, the use of "soft" and its connection with the feminine in Howard's words (and his mind?) is interesting here. Three of the four uses of the word refer directly to A-Æa, the other to the mythologically/archetypical earth itself (the natural "Mother"). The feminist critics (lots of room for their angles if and when they ever might take an interest in REH?!) might also offer some comment upon this use of "soft."

87 the chief. She drew away with a shrug of her shoulders. She did not  
129 arms dangling from sloping, incredible shoulders, **the monster seemed**  
133 have outweighed the warrior by nearly a hundred pounds. On **he came**  
135 obsidian dagger he thrust and smote, but **the ax was brushed aside**  
135 was brushed aside like a toy and the arm that held **the knife snapped**  
185 cave, where she lay, too terrified to rise. **The monster watched her,**  
46 his completed work, stretched and glanced toward the cave mouth.

like Ka-nanu and she was afraid of him. He wooed her with a mocking air, as if he  
**like the devil himself** to the terrified girl. His apelike head came scarcely to Ka  
**like a charging buffalo**, and Ka-nanu met him squarely and boldly. With flint ax  
**like a toy** and the arm that held the knife snapped **like a stick** in the misshapen  
hand of the Neandertaler. The girl saw the  
**like some demon of the forest**. He did not even jabber at her, as an ape would  
**Like a frightened rabbit, little A-Æa ducked and darted away**. When Ga-nor

A check in any concordance for the similetic connectives *like*, *as*, *than*, and *so* will quickly retrieve examples of the SIMILE and possibly indicate tendencies in comparative thinking and typical associations on the part of the author. The first "like" is simply a different use of "like" — she did not "like" Ka-nanu. All the rest are similes. While one can accept fairly easily the comparisons to things that even trogloditic people might know: toy?(ok), stick (yes), rabbit (likely [maybe like Kyle Banor!?!?]), and buffalo (ok, possibly), the references to "the devil himself" and "demon" must give us pause. Especially with "the devil himself," we have a clear case of the milieu of the author impinging upon the setting of the story. Since "the devil himself" is part of the reader's milieu also, this will most often go without notice. However, it represents a flaw in the perfection of verisimilitude that might have been achieved. When Robert E. Howard nods, this is one of the minor sins that he commits in later work as well. He makes up for it later by filling in the background details and doing a much better job with Conan's world, with Kull's, with Bran's, etc. In brief, he becomes a much better mythopoeist as he becomes a more sophisticated writer. I'll have more to say in a later essay about what I consider to be his occasional problems regarding narrative viewpoint and his tendency to "over-dialogize" rather than leaving flashback or summary narration to the narrator — but, again, for a later essay. Here follows a look at the word as and the similes using that connective:

2 Ga-nor with wondering eyes. Ga-nor's occupation interested her,  
2 with wondering eyes. Ga-nor's occupation interested her, as well  
15 scanty bushes by Ga-nor's cave. The admiration for the painting was  
21 of sandy hair. A-Æa herself was very easy to look upon. Her hair,  
21 sandy hair. A-Æa herself was very easy to look upon. Her hair, as well  
33 hiding near the cave of an unattached young man, denunciation a  
88 Ka-nanu and she was afraid of him. He wooed her with a mocking air,

as well as Ga-nor himself. As for Ga-nor, he was too occupied with his work to  
as Ga-nor himself. As for Ga-nor, he was too occupied with his work to notice her  
as nothing beside the look of positive adoration with which she favored the artist  
as well as her eyes, was black and fell about her slim shoulders in a rippling wave  
as her eyes, was black and fell about her slim shoulders in a rippling wave. No  
s a shameless woman would have been her lot, and doubtless a public whipping  
as if he did it merely for amusement and would take her whenever he wished

122 frightful thing. A-Æa's scream re-echoed through the forest,  
141 his attention to her. A new expression came into his hideous eyes  
151 of the man he knew to be Ka-nanu. The other track was the same  
152 track was the same as that in front of his cave. He wondered, idly a  
164 was inclined to see a thing through. Moreover, though not renowned  
175 his gigantic bulk. He was not at home in the trees, however, not even  
175 bulk. He was not at home in the trees, however, not even as much  
176 have been. Once or twice the girl glimpsed another such monster  
179 other Neandertal men avoided them. It was evident that they lived  
186 her, like some demon of the forest. He did not even jabber at her,  
196 of his fair captive. A-Æa set her teeth and would not scream  
208 to one side. The Neandertal lumbered in that direction, and **quick**  
214 scream of a woman in the grasp of a beast. Ga-nor heard that scream  
222 back and out of the cave. His spear leaped and the monster bellowed  
233 it, the wall of the ravine was at his back and he heard A-Æa shriek  
244 draw it. The Neandertal man set himself **to break his foe to pieces**

as the thing approached. Ka-nanu, white-lipped and horrified, dropped A-Æa to  
as he lumbered toward her, his great hairy hands horridly smeared with blood  
as that in front of his cave. He wondered, idly as Ga-nor was wont to do all things  
s Ga-nor was wont to do all things except the painting of pictures. Then, at the  
as a fighter, he feared no man. Therefore, he loosened ax and dagger in his belt  
as much as A-Æa would have been. Once or twice the girl glimpsed another such  
as A-Æa would have been. Once or twice the girl glimpsed another such monster  
as her captor. Evidently they had gone far beyond the vaguely defined boundaries  
as do beasts, uniting only against some common enemy and not often then  
as an ape would have done. The Neandertalers had no form of speech whatever  
as she had done at first, and presently he desisted. The leopard-skin garment she  
**as a cat** she sprang the other way and darted past him, out into the ravine. With  
as he bounded down into the ravine. He approached the cave swiftly but  
as it tore through his arm. Leaping back again, the warrior jerked his spear and  
as the monster rushed in. The spear was torn from his hand and he was in the  
**as one breaks a stick.** But Ga-nor's elbow was thrust under his chin, and the

The important thing to note here is that REH uses *as* for similetic connection far less frequently than *like*. Regarding the "quick as a cat" simile, a whole later installment in this (to be a) series of contributions to THE CROSS PLAINSMAN will be on the feline comparisons in REH (title pending — I've already discarded "The Cat's Pajamas") :-)

2 eyes. Ga-nor's occupation interested her, as well as Ga-nor himself.  
50 was, with most of the others, at some distance from Ga-nor's cave.  
211 her headlong; before she could rise his hand seized her shoulder.  
215 down into the ravine. He approached the cave swiftly but cautiously.  
247 Presently he realized that fact and flung Ga-nor away from him.

As for Ga-nor, he was too occupied with his work to notice her. A torch stuck in  
As she did so, she noticed a group of warriors talking excitedly in front of the  
As he dragged her into the cave, she screamed, wildly, frenziedly, with no hope of  
As he looked in, he saw red rage. In the vague light of the cave, the great  
As he did so, the warrior drew his ax, and striking with the fury of desperation

Here, of course, further evidence for the tendency to use what I've called *prosyndeton* (starting sentences with conjunctions or other connectives).

3 interested her, as well as Ga-nor himself. As for Ga-nor, he  
5 cave wall dimly illuminated the roomy cavern, and by its light Ga-nor  
7 with a twig dipped in ocher paint completed the figure. The result  
9 but gave evidence of real artistic genius, struggling for expression. It  
11 Wonderful! What though the beast lacked a leg and had no tail? It  
12 out of utter barbarism, who were the critics, and to them Ga-nor  
13 were the critics, and to them Ga-nor was a past master. However, it  
15 the scanty bushes by Ga-nor's cave. The admiration for the painting  
16 positive adoration with which she favored the artist. Indeed, Ga-nor  
16 the artist. Indeed, Ga-nor was not unpleasing to the eye. Tall he  
21 a high, broad forehead, topped by a mane of sandy hair. A-Æa herself  
21 herself was very easy to look upon. Her hair, as well as her eyes,  
23 in a rippling wave. No ocher tattooing tinted her cheek, for she  
37 young artist's interest without seeming to do so. Then, if the youth  
39 with her parents and then--marriage. Or no wooing at all, if the lover  
41 Or no wooing at all, if the lover was wealthy. But little A-Æa  
47 ducked and darted away. When Ga-nor emerged from the cave, he  
49 outside the cave. A-Æa walked primly toward her own cave, which  
52 A mere girl might not intrude upon the councils of men, but such

was too occupied with his work to notice her. A torch stuck in a niche in the cave  
was laboriously tracing figures on the wall. With a piece of flint he scratched the  
was crude, but gave evidence of real artistic genius, struggling for expression. It  
was a mammoth that he sought to depict, and little A-Æa's eyes widened with  
was tribesmen, just struggling out of utter barbarism, who were the critics, and  
was a past master. However, it was not to watch the reproduction of a mammoth  
was not to watch the reproduction of a mammoth that A-Æa hid among the  
was as nothing beside the look of positive adoration with which she favored the  
was not unpleasing to the eye. Tall he was, towering well over six feet, leanly  
was, towering well over six feet, leanly built, with mighty shoulders and narrow  
was very easy to look upon. Her hair, as well as her eyes, was black and fell  
was black and fell about her slim shoulders in a rippling wave. No ocher tattooing  
was still unmated. Both the girl and the youth were perfect specimens of the  
was pleased, would have followed public wooing by means of crude love-songs and  
was wealthy. But little A-Æa was herself a mark of progress. Covert glances had  
was herself a mark of progress. Covert glances had failed to attract the  
was puzzled by the sight of a small, slender footprint in the soft loam outside the  
was, with most of the others, at some distance from Ga-nor's cave. As she did  
was A-Æa's curiosity, that she dared a scolding by slipping nearer. She heard the

57 gur-na had been found in the forest, not far from the caves. "Gur-na"  
 76 go forth and hunt the monster down. Sometimes it gave battle and  
 85 hate, malevolent, frightful. Someone stepped across her path. It  
 88 away with a shrug of her shoulders. She did not like Ka-nanu and she  
 100 nature. Many of the tribal girls looked with favor on Ka-nanu, for he  
 102 handsome in a reckless, cruel way. But A-Æa loved Ga-nor and she  
 103 fear of him kept her from resisting his approaches too much. Ga-nor  
 105 Ka-nanu, thereby showing himself to be another mark of progress,  
 107 used his power over them in no gentle fashion. A-Æa found Ka-nanu  
 125 The Neandertal man plunged forward on short, gnarled legs. He  
 134 With flint ax and obsidian dagger he thrust and smote, but the ax  
 146 away through the trees; and the girl, half-fainting, knew that he  
 151 That of the man he knew to be Ka-nanu. The other track  
 152 the same as that in front of his cave. He wondered, idly as Ga-nor  
 156 and were more deeply imprinted than before. Therefore Ka-nanu  
 157 than before. Therefore Ka-nanu was carrying the girl. Ga-nor  
 159 would not have been carried. Now Ga-nor (another mark of progress)  
 162 of a councilor. But Ga-nor had few interests, and once his interest  
 163 But Ga-nor had few interests, and once his interest was roused he  
 169 into the forest, the Neandertaler carried little A-Æa. The forest  
 174 the trees with surprizing [SIC?] speed for one of his gigantic bulk. He  
 178 boundaries of her race. The other Neandertal men avoided them. It  
 189 of course. Her mind reeling with horror, she saw that it  
 197 leopard-skin garment she wore seemed to enrage him. The leopard  
 199 He plucked it from her and tore it to pieces. And meanwhile Ga-nor  
 200 to pieces. And meanwhile Ga-nor was hurrying through the forest. He  
 204 was hurrying through the forest. He was racing now, and **his face**  
 232 her in a corner but she slipped under his arm and sprang away. He  
 233 the monster. Then before the warrior knew it, the wall of the ravine  
 234 back and he heard A-Æa shriek as the monster rushed in. The spear  
 245 as the monster rushed in. The spear was torn from his hand and he  
 254 to break his foe to pieces as one breaks a stick. But Ga-nor's elbow  
 girl in his arms. "What I have fought for I will keep," said he. And so it

12 no tail? It was tribesmen, just struggling out of utter barbarism, who  
 18 narrow hips, the build of a fighting man. Both his hands and his feet  
 20 and his features, thrown into bold profile by the flickering torch-light,  
 24 her cheek, for she was still unmated. Both the girl and the youth  
 58 for the creatures whom the tribesmen called "gur-na", or man-apes,  
 65 ages in tales of ogres and goblins, of werewolves and beast-men. They  
 73 and searchers found but signs of a ghastly feast, with tracks that  
 126 on short, gnarled legs. He was covered with hair and **his features**  
 155 of the girl ceased, but that the man's turned toward the jungle and  
 239 notice. Ga-nor felt consciousness going from him. The terrific arms  
 243 reached down over the monster's arm and found his ax. But so close

was a word of hatred and horror to the people of the caves, for the creatures  
 was slain, and sometimes it fled before them and escaped into the depths of the  
 was Ka-nanu, the son of a councilor of the chief. She drew away with a shrug of  
 was afraid of him. He wooed her with a mocking air, as if he did it merely for  
 was bigger and taller even than Ga-nor, and more handsome in a reckless, cruel  
 was afraid of Ka-nanu. Her very fear of him kept her from resisting his  
 was known to be gentle with women, if careless of them, while Ka-nanu, thereby  
 was proud of his success with women and used his power over them in no gentle  
 was to be feared more than a beast, for at the spring just out of sight of the  
 was covered with hair and his features were more hideous than an ape's because  
 was brushed aside like a toy and the arm that held the knife snapped like a stick  
 was taking her to his lair, where no man would dare come to rescue her. GA-NOR  
 was the same as that in front of his cave. He wondered, idly as Ga-nor was wont  
 was wont to do all things except the painting of pictures. Then, at the spring, he  
 was carrying the girl. Ga-nor was no fool. He knew that a man carries a girl into  
 was no fool. He knew that a man carries a girl into the forest for no good  
 was inclined to meddle in things not pertaining to him. Perhaps another man  
 was roused he was inclined to see a thing through. Moreover, though not  
 was inclined to see a thing through. Moreover, though not renowned as a fighter  
 was silent and evil, no birds, no insects broke the stillness. Through the  
 was not at home in the trees, however, not even as much as A-Æa would have  
 was evident that they lived as do beasts, uniting only against some common  
 was the arm of a Cro-Magnard child. When he saw she would not eat, he devoured  
 was his hereditary foe. He plucked it from her and tore it to pieces. And  
 was hurrying through the forest. He was racing now, and his face was a devil's  
 was racing now, and his face was a devil's mask, for he had come upon the bloody  
**was a devil's mask**, for he had come upon the bloody glade and had found the  
 was still between her and the outside of the cave. Unless she could get past him  
 was at his back and he heard A-Æa shriek as the monster rushed in. The spear  
 was torn from his hand and he was in the grasp of his foe. The great arms  
 was in the grasp of his foe. The great arms encircled his neck and shoulders, the  
 was thrust under his chin, and the more the Neandertal man tugged, the deeper  
 was that the girl who went forth into the forest in the arms of an abductor came

were the critics, and to them Ga-nor was a past master. However, it was not to  
 were long and slim; and his features, thrown into bold profile by the flickering  
 were intelligent, with a high, broad forehead, topped by a mane of sandy hair. A  
 were perfect specimens of the great Cro-Magnon race which came from no man  
 were the hairy monsters of another age, the brutish men of the Neandertal  
 were fewer and more cunning, then. No longer they rushed roaring to battle, but  
 were not the tracks of beasts, nor yet the tracks of men. And so a hunting party  
**were more hideous than an ape's\*** because of the grotesque quality of the man in  
 were more deeply imprinted than before. Therefore Ka-nanu was carrying the girl  
 were crushing him, threatening to break his neck. Over the shoulder of his foe he  
 were they clinched together that he could not draw it. The Neandertal man set

Just as *like, as, than, so* can be used in a concordance search to find similes, so too can *to be* verbs be used to quickly discover many metaphors. The *simile* says that things are "similar," the metaphor says that things are equal (*is, are, was, were* and usually *was, were* in a past tense narrative). Of course the

relative number of *to be* verbs compared to action verbs can also be studied. The lone metaphor above is bold faced. Interestingly, the one metaphor shown (REH seems to have preferred the simile to the metaphor) is from the present writer's favorite sentence in the story. It is an early epitome sentence of the power with words of Robert E. Howard. **\*[The other figure in this list is noted in red above. It is Simile using the word "than" as a comparative with the "was" ("to be" verb) structure needed.]**

75 tracks of men. And so a hunting party would go forth and hunt the  
120 instinct alert. From the trees in front of them dropped a hideous  
129 immensely long arms dangling from sloping, incredible shoulders, the  
138 and swung into the air, saw him hurled clear across the glade, saw the  
143 her. Unable to flee, she lay dizzy with horror and fear. And the  
176 A-Æa would have been. Once or twice the girl glimpsed another such  
185 to the floor of the cave, where she lay, too terrified to rise. The  
218 while at his feet, her soft white body contrasting with the shaggy  
222 might, but leaping back and out of the cave. His spear leaped and the  
227 brute strength and savagery. Once the great, lashing arm of the  
231 Again and again his spear drew blood, but it seemed only to enrage the  
233 wall of the ravine was at his back and he heard A-Æa shriek as the  
59 whom the tribesmen called "gur-na", or man-apes, were the hairy  
201 devil's mask, for he had come upon the bloody glade and had found the  
242 to motion her back. With a great effort he reached down over the  
249 drew his ax, and striking with the fury of desperation, clove the

monster down. Sometimes it gave battle and was slain, and sometimes it fled  
monster, a hairy, misshapen, frightful thing. A-Æa's scream re-echoed through  
monster seemed like the devil himself to the terrified girl. His apelike head came  
monster leap after him and rend him limb from limb. Then the Neandertaler  
monster dragged her to him, leering into her eyes. He swung her over his  
monster as her captor. Evidently they had gone far beyond the vaguely defined  
monster watched her, like some demon of the forest. He did not even jabber at  
monster, her long hair gripped in his blood-stained hand, lay A-Æa. The  
monster bellowed as it tore through his arm. Leaping back again, the warrior  
monster caught Ga-nor upon the shoulder and hurled him a dozen feet away  
monster. Then before the warrior knew it, the wall of the ravine was at his back  
monster rushed in. The spear was torn from his hand and he was in the grasp of  
monsters of another age, the brutish men of the Neandertal. More feared than  
monster's tracks leading away from it. And in the cave in the ravine the  
monster's arm and found his ax. But so close were they clinched together that  
monster's head. FOR a minute Ga-nor stood reeling above his foe, then he felt a

What a stylometrist's/themetrists' (thematometrist's?) dream to be able to access YE OFFICIAL COMPLEAT HOWARD in digital and authoritative text archive, to ponder the uses of key words like "monster." Here, the critic might suggest — as I do, that the young Howard might have used more "elegant variation" as it is usually called and termed the Neanderthal beast-man by some other names occasionally. He does of course have that early beast-man reference and the very overdone other term "Neandertal(er)."

59 were the hairy monsters of another age, the brutish men of the  
125 and told her to run. Then, drawing knife and ax, he advanced. The  
178 far beyond the vaguely defined boundaries of her race. The other  
238 and again; blows that would have felled an ordinary man but which the  
244 so close were they clinched together that he could not draw it. The  
245 stick. But Ga-nor's elbow was thrust under his chin, and the more the  
136 that held the knife snapped like a stick in the misshapen hand of the  
140 saw the monster leap after him and rend him limb from limb. Then the  
167 took up the trail. ON AND ON, deeper and deeper into the forest, the  
171 trees no sunlight filtered. On padded feet that made no noise the  
173 path. Once a great python came slithering through the jungle and the  
202 tracks leading away from it. And in the cave in the ravine the  
216 looked in, he saw red rage. In the vague light of the cave, the great  
220 monster, her long hair gripped in his blood-stained hand, lay A-Æa. The  
224 back again, the warrior jerked his spear and crouched. Again the  
229 a dozen feet away, rendering that arm nearly useless for a time. The  
80 ravine, where overhanging limbs shut out the sunlight, numbers of the  
186 forest. He did not even jabber at her, as an ape would have done. The

Neandertal. More feared than mammoth or tiger, they had ruled the forests until  
Neandertal man plunged forward on short, gnarled legs. He was covered with hair  
Neandertal men avoided them. It was evident that they lived as do beasts, uniting  
Neandertal beast did not even notice. Ga-nor felt consciousness going from him  
Neandertal man set himself to break his foe to pieces as one breaks a stick. But  
Neandertal man tugged, the deeper drove the elbow into his hairy throat  
Neandertaler. The girl saw the councilor's son wrenched from the ground and  
Neandertaler turned his attention to her. A new expression came into his hideous  
Neandertaler carried little A-Æa. The forest was silent and evil, no birds, no  
Neandertaler hurried on. Beasts slunk out of his path. Once a great python came  
Neandertaler took to the trees with surprizing [SIC?] speed for one of his  
Neandertaler lumbered in that direction, and quick as a cat she sprang the other  
Neandertaler stood, his piggish eyes on his foe, hideous, hairy, blood-smearred  
Neandertaler bellowed, dropped his captive and charged. And Ga-nor met him, not  
Neandertaler rushed, and again the warrior leaped away and thrust, this time for  
Neandertaler bounded after him, but Ga-nor flung himself to one side and leaped  
Neandertalers had come upon them. So no more entered the forests. A-ÆA  
Neandertalers had no form of speech whatever. He offered her meat of some

24	of the great	Cro-Magnon race which came from no man knows where and announced and enforced their
60	the forests until the	Cro-Magnon men had come and waged savage warfare against them. Of mighty power and
69	grounds. And ever the	Cro-Magnon men trailed them down and slaughtered them, until sullenly they had
180	for the success of the	Cro-Magnards'warfare against them. Into a ravine he carried the girl, and into a cave
189	it was the arm of a	Cro-Magnard child. When he saw she would not eat, he devoured it himself, tearing the

With WWI occurring in REH's formative years, it is interesting to note that the Neandertalers are given the hard Germanic "T" and the German "-er" ending, while the Cro-Magnon/Cro-Magnards keep the distinctive "-on" and "-ard" of French. Of course the origins of these two words might have something to do with it, but, especially in "Neandertaler" the German ending seems intentional in tone. Possibly a contrast (possibly subconscious) between the "barbaric," "savage," "HUN" of the Great War versus the more civilized French?

Some final stats and remarks:

The following is a "Letter Concordance" showing the number of times each letter is used in the story. Recent studies are showing (my thanks to Mark Hall of the Zothique Nights group for turning my attention to one such study) that frequency of letter distribution and word usages are being shown to be very precise (93+% accuracy) in author identification and determination of some stylistic tendencies.

a	(1150)	
b	(157)	
c	(292)	
d	(613)	
e	(1673)	The most often occurring letter in English (see Poe's "The Gold Bug" for a nifty story of ciphers and letter frequencies, and, of course, Doyle's Holmes story "The Dancing Men" as a rip-off of Poe). The vocalic percentages and ratios between vowels will, I believe, also be a marker of style. Also the ratios between vowels and consonants.
f	(318)	
g	(346)	
h	(938)	
i	(782)	
j	(9)	The low density of Js is very interesting and likely a distinctive marker of the early REH.
k	(93)	
l	(445)	
m	(315)	
n	(942)	
o	(908)	
p	(195)	
q	(4)	The low number of Qs is to be expected in most writers, but the Q-words over several texts would be worth examination.
r	(901)	
s	(760)	
t	(1118)	The very high number of Ts is possibly a marker of style, possibly distinctive of the early REH.
u	(329)	
v	(113)	
w	(302)	

x (11)  
y (154)  
z (12)

NOTES (the following are my theories on relative densities of letter sounds):

- 1) The relative densities of the vowels A, E, I, O, and U will, I believe, offer a distinctive pattern.
- 2) Subdividing the consonants into groups as follows, will also be productive:
  - nasals and "hums" (N and M)
  - liquids and sibilants and aspirants (L, R, F, V, S, Z, [also SH and ZH patterns] H, TH, W)
  - plosives (B and P)
  - stops and gutturals (D, G, K, Q, T)

These will, I believe, allow the gleaning of still other markers of style.

"Spear and Fang" by Robert E. Howard (info gleaned from Conc 1.80b3 and simple sorts in Microsoft Word):

Total Number of Letter Characters	12880
Total Number of Words =	3043
Total Number of Unique Words =	971
Total Number of Sentences =	183
Total Number of Paragraphs =	72

So:

average word length in letters is =	4.233 (syllable count per word also important -- I have yet to do this)
average # of words/sentence =	16.628 (always an important number)
average # of unique words/sentence =	5.306
average total words/unique word =	3.134 (an indication that every third word in the style is unique)
average # of sentences/paragraph =	3.514 (always an important element of stylistic statistics, better of course as more and more of an entire corpus of lit is examined)

Other interpretive concepts like DENSITY OF PUNCTUATION, MIMETIC DENSITY, DIEGETIC DENSITY, CONNOTATIVE CONCORDANCING, and others will be addressed in later installments in this series.