



Southwestern Oklahoma State University  
SWOSU Digital Commons

---

Faculty Articles & Research

University Libraries

---

8-5-2024

## Wisdom and Life Lessons in the Works of Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ray Bradbury, and David R. Slayton

Phillip Fitzsimmons

Southwestern Oklahoma State University, [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://dc.swosu.edu/libraries\\_articles](https://dc.swosu.edu/libraries_articles)



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Fitzsimmons, Phillip, "Wisdom and Life Lessons in the Works of Edgar Rice Burroughs, Ray Bradbury, and David R. Slayton" (2024). *Faculty Articles & Research*. 66.

[https://dc.swosu.edu/libraries\\_articles/66](https://dc.swosu.edu/libraries_articles/66)

This Paper is brought to you for free and open access by the University Libraries at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Articles & Research by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).

# WISDOM AND LIFE LESSONS

## FROM MIDDLE AMERICA

*IN THE WORKS OF EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS,*

*RAY BRADBURY,*

*AND DAVID R. SLAYTON*

Phillip Fitzsimmons

University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

[phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu)

# A CENTURY OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY

- Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950)
- Ray Bradbury (1920-2012)
- David R. Slayton (1973-Present)



# EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS

- Chicago native
- Best known for *Tarzan* and *John Carter of Mars* series
- First story, “Under the Moons of Mars,” published in 1912
- Inducted in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 2003



“I love to say it because it upsets everyone terribly – Burroughs is probably the most influential writer in the entire history of the world. By giving romance and adventure to a whole generation of boys, Burroughs caused them to go out and decide to become special.”

--Ray Bradbury,

The Paris Review, Spring 2010, no. 192



# RAY BRADBURY

- Waukegan, Ill., native
- Best known for *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Martian Chronicles*, and *The Illustrated Man*
- First story, "Hollerbochen's Dilemma," published in 1938
- Inducted in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame in 1999



“His imagination had a dark side, and he used that dark twin and its nightmares in his work; but to the waking world he presented a combination of eager, wonder-filled boy and kindly uncle, and that was just as real. In an age of writing classes, he was self-taught; in an age of spin, his was an authentic voice, straight from the heartland; in an age of groomed images, he was a natural.”

--Margaret Atwood,  
The Guardian, June 8, 2012





# DAVID R. SLAYTON

- Guthrie, Okla., native
- Best known for the *Adam Binder* and *Gods of Night and Day* series
- First published story, *White Trash Warlock* (*Adam Binder* #1)
- Colorado Book Award 2024, Science Fiction/Fantasy, for his book, *Dark Moon, Shallow Sea*
- Finalist Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Adult Literature 2024, Mythopoeic Society
- Founded in 2015 Trick or Read, an initiative to give out books along with candy to children on Halloween as well as uplift lesser-known authors or those from marginalized backgrounds



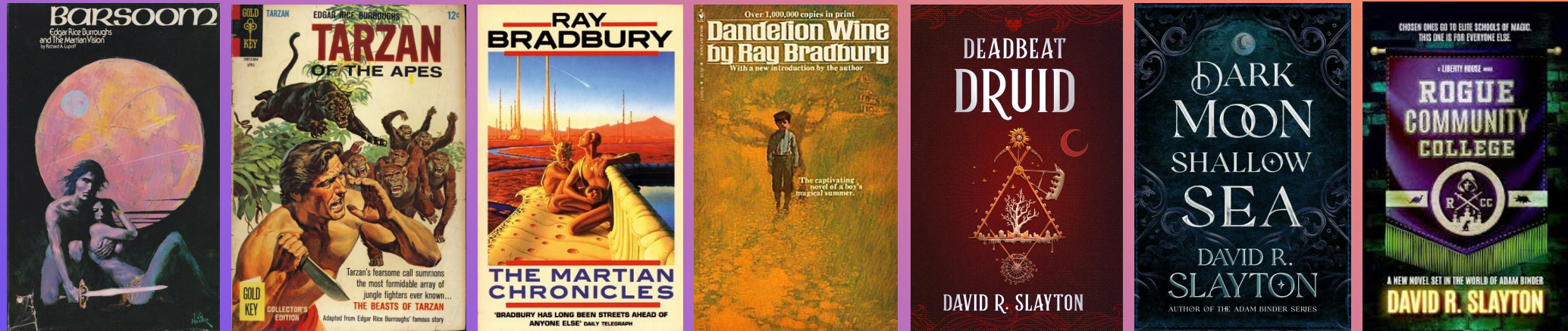
“I couldn't find the books I wanted to read, namely fantasy novels with a gay main character that weren't about being gay or without a lot of tragedy around being gay. So I write those.”

--David R. Slayton,

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18633474.David\\_R\\_Slayton](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18633474.David_R_Slayton)



# EVERYDAY WISDOM



- Valuing the magical powers of the imagination
- Practicing chivalry
- Championing fair play in dealing with others
- Portraying complexities of life and relationships

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS?



Phillip Fitzsimmons

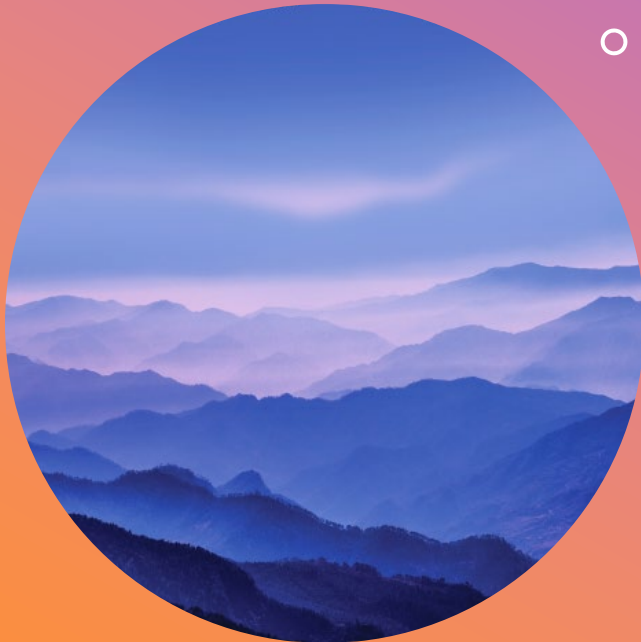
University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian

Southwestern Oklahoma State University

[phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu)



# SOURCES



x



<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ray-Bradbury>

<https://davidrslayton.com/about/>

<https://www.ziesings.com/pages/books/70956/richard-a-lupoff/barsoom-edgar-rice-burroughs-and-the-martian-vision>

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/164239795192>

<https://justincasewedie.com/2024/05/22/the-martian-chronicles-by-ray-bradbury/>

<https://www.michaelwhelan.com/galleries/descent/>

<https://davidrslayton.com/books/>

<https://davidrslayton.com/>

<https://www.worldswithoutend.com/novel.asp?ID=3612>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar\\_Rice\\_Burroughs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_Rice_Burroughs)

<https://www.theparisreview.org/interviews/6012/the-art-of-fiction-no-203-ray-bradbury>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray\\_Bradbury](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Bradbury)

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/jun/08/margaret-atwood-on-ray-bradbury>

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18633474.David\\_R\\_Slayton](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18633474.David_R_Slayton)

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/61086914-rogue-community-college>