

## The sheer beauty of the Bunduki footnote/endnote/appendix structure

In every detail, Bunduki's appearance was complimentary to that of the beautiful young woman at his side. However, while she conveyed the impression of a lioness's lithe and deadly grace, his was the imposing bulk and majesty of a lion.

Six foot three from his bare feet to the top of his head a curly golden blond hair, Bunduki's only garment apart from his archer's arm guard—was a leopardskin loincloth which left little to be imagined about his magnificent physical development. Exceptionally handsome, his face denoted similar qualities to those of the girl. He had a tremendous spread to his shoulders, with massive biceps and forearms to augment the strength they could put out when it was needed. Bronzed by long exposure to the elements, his torso slimmed down to a lean waist and a flat stomach ridged by cords of powerful muscles. His hips sat on legs so perfectly proportioned and puissant that they could carry his two hundred and twenty pounds' weight with effortless speed and agility. For all their bulk and quantity, due to the high tone and quality' of his muscles, there was nothing slow, clumsy nor awkward about him.

Like Dawn, the blond giant was well—if primitively armed. Hanging in its sheath down his left thigh he was equipped with a Randall Model 12 'Smithsonian' bowie knife. The concave ivory handle and brassed lugged hilt made Dawn's efficient weapon seem almost puny. He too could indulge in archery. Custom built to his specifications, the recurved Fred Bear Super Kodiak bow had a draw weight of one hundred pounds and was fitted with an eight-capacity bow quiver. As in the case of his adoptive cousin—although he no longer thought of the girl in that relationship—he had left his back quiver with their off-saddled and hobbled mounts in order to make stalking and observing the quaggas less difficult. Nor had he brought the other piece of equipment with which he had been helped to effect Dawn's rescue.

Realizing that Bunduki's duties on Zillikian would call for him to be adequately armed, the 'Suppliers' had delivered his *mkuki*—Masai throwing spear—and his shield. Although he had decided against encumbering himself with the *mkuki* when setting out in search of Dawn, he had carried the shield hanging from the horn of his captured mount's saddle. The shield was of the same elliptical shape and size as those carried by Masai *moran*, warriors. However, beneath the convex outer

4. The dimensions of the Randall Model 12 'Smithsonian Bowe knife are given in APPENDIX ONE. J.T.E.

### APPENDLX ONE

James Allenvale 'Bunduki' Gunn's tremendous physique and strength were hereditary. On his father's side, he was descended from an illegitimate son of Sir Henry Curtis who had accompanied the great white hunter, Allan Quatermain on two epic journeys of exploration in Africa. His mother, Allison Dawn 'Tex' Gunn, was the granddaughter of Mark Counter, a Texan who in the mid-1800's had attained legendary status by virtue of his

Herculean powers, as a cowhand, peace officer and all round fighting man. Nor had his parents proved unworthy of such bloodlines. Along with Sir Armond John and Lady Hazel Drummond-Clayton, they had served in the little known but highly effective 'Group Thirteen' Special Missions Organization of British Military Intelligence all through World War II.

When Bunduki's parents were murdered by Mau Mau terrorists, he had been adopted by a wealthy titled family who were related to Dawn. In their care, he had received the education which fitted him perfectly for sur-

1. // Sir Henry Curtis's biographer, H. Rider Haggard, knew of the son, he was too tactful to mention the matter in KING SOLOMON'S

MINES or ALLAN QUATERMAIN. J.T.E.  
2. Mark Counter's history is recorded in the author's 'Floating Outfit' series of biographies. J.T.E.

3. Even to this day, British Military Intelligence an reluctant to comment upon, or even acknowledge the existence of 'Group Thirteen'. J.T.E.

vival on Zillikian. Arguably the world's foremost authority on wild life and wilderness survival, his adopted father had imparted much practical knowledge. Bunduki had been taught how to follow tracks which were scarcely discernible to less keen eyes, to move in silence even through dense undergrowth, to locate hidden enemies and conceal himself from them when necessary and to climb with great agility. He had the knowledge to find or hunt for food, while his training in various forms of fighting allowed him to protect himself against predators or human foes.

In Bunduki's hands, the Bandall Model 12 'Smithsonian' bowie knife—sixteen inches in overall length, weighing forty-three ounces, with an eleven inch long, two and a quarter inch wide, three-eighths of an inch thick clip point blade—was an even more effective weapon than James Bowie had found the original. Sir Armond Drummond-Clayton had taught him fighting techniques which were unknown in Bowie's day. In archery, he had acquired sufficient skill to duplicate most of the feats attributed to Robin Hood. From a Masai *melombuki*\* he had learned to throw a *mkuki*, that nation's traditional spear and handle a shield. During visits to the United States, along with his Texas-born look-

4. 'Clip' point: one where the back of the blade curves to meet the main cutting surface in a concave arc. In the case of the Randall Model 12 'Smithsonian bowie knife, the arc's 'false', or 'top' cutting edge is five and a quarter inches in length and as sharp as the main cutting surface. J.T.E.

5. What happened to James Bowie's knife after his death at the conclusion of the siege at the Alamo Mission—San Antonio de Bexar, Texas—on March the 6th, 1836, is told in THE QUEST FOR BOWIE'S BLADE. Some authorities have claimed that Bowie's elder brother, Rezin Pleasant, was the actual designer of the knife which was made by Arkansas' master cutler, James Black. J.T.E.

6. Melombuki: a Masai *moran*—warrior—who has on four separate occasions grasped and held the tail of a hunted lion so that his companions could close in and kill it with their spears or simis-fighting knives. A man who attains the title is expected to be ready to fight anybody, or anything. J.T.E.