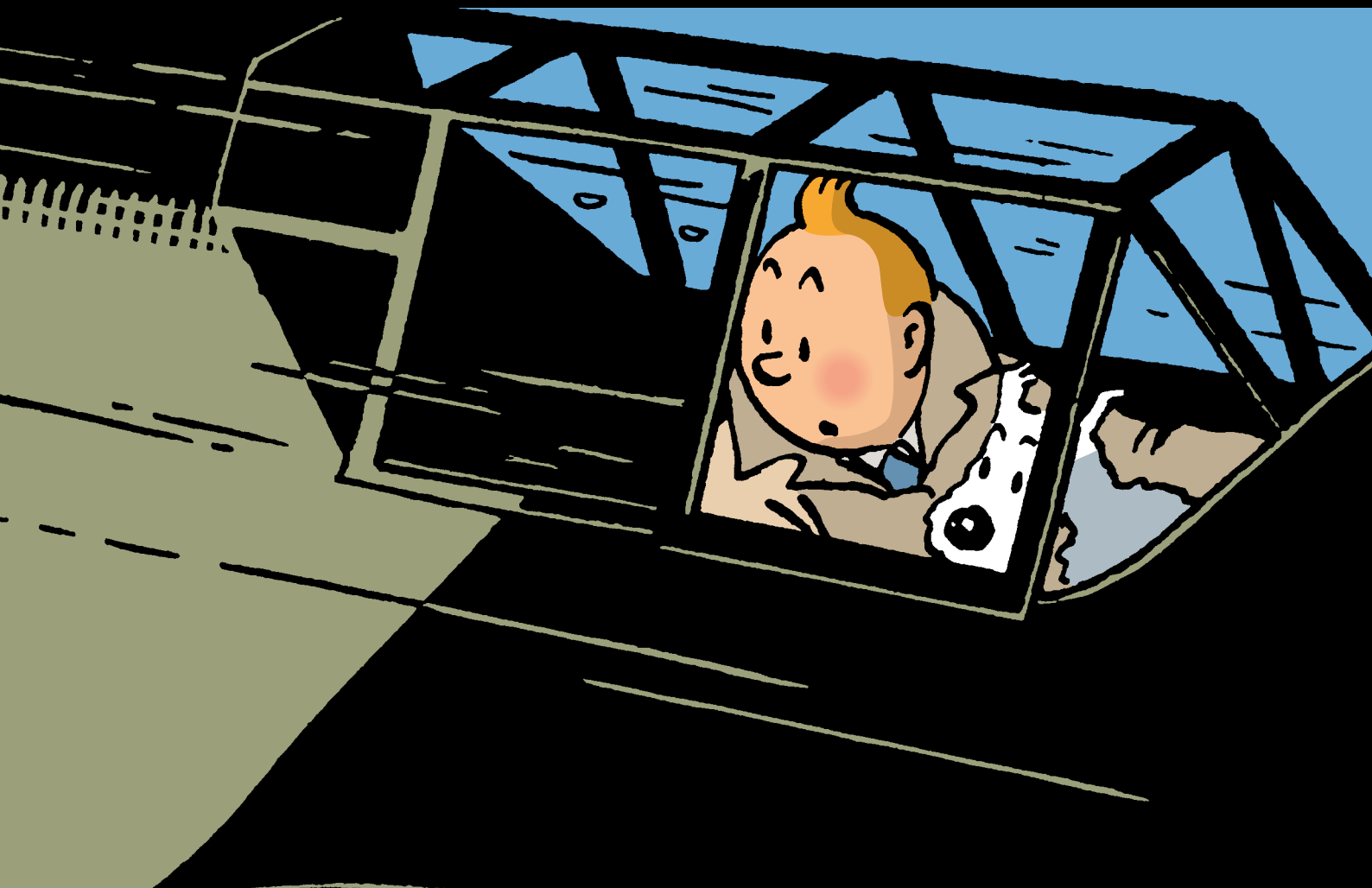


# WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW ON HERGÉ AND TINTIN





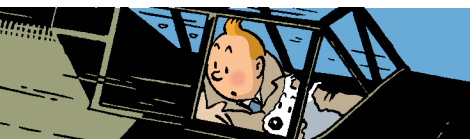
*“Hergé has influenced my work to the same degree Disney has.  
For me, Hergé is more than an illustrator of cartoon strips.  
There is a political and satirical dimension that permeates his work.”*

*Andy Warhol*

Tintin will soon reach 80 years old, a fact hard to believe. Somehow, ever since January 10 in 1929, the day when together they took the train to the Soviet Union, the renowned reporter and his inseparable side-kick Snowy have surrendered nothing of their timeless appeal. As it is, the Soviets have passed into history but Tintin's adventures retain their same old magnetic power unabated. Reprinted and published in ever greater numbers, the books are a source of inspiration for artists, writers, producers, and directors. Tintin personifies all of the universal values that are a mirror to everyone's own aspirations. Eternally youthful, the indefatigable reporter continues to conquer the world with unflagging, never-failing vitality.







# TINTIN, FOREVER

Tintin is, of course, much more than the intrepid hero whose cause is just and whose heart is pure: he is the centre piece of a complex universe where we are placed face to face with our own reality. Characters such as captain Haddock, professor Calculus, la Castafiore, or Thompson & Thomson, are lending colour, depth, and perspective to his world. Tintin: a unique palette of qualities, combining breathtaking tales, “clear line” graphics, and themes of universal appeal.

Researchers have never been loath to apply their talents trying to explain this exceptional work. Even though - and as happens with all true masterpieces - the magnetic pull of Tintin’s fascination upon our minds may continue to baffle us, Jean-Marie Apostolidès advances a different explanation in his recent essay, *Tintin et le mythe du surenfant* (Éditions Moulinsart). And this novel understanding cannot but revive once again the pleasures of rereading the famous Adventures.



## 200 million copies in more than **sixty languages**, THUNDERING TYPHOONS!

Now at the age of almost 80, Tintin has indisputably earned his place amongst the great figures in world literature. In 1999, following a survey by *Le Monde*, readers of this newspaper ranked *The Blue Lotus* eighteenth amongst books that left their mark on the twentieth century. Tintin found himself in distinguished company indeed, side by side with Aldous Huxley, Solzhenitsyn, and Anne Frank.

Tintin albums figure amongst the world’s best-sellers: since 1929, more than 200 million copies have been sold, in sixty languages. In France, one in every two families owns at least one Tintin adventure.

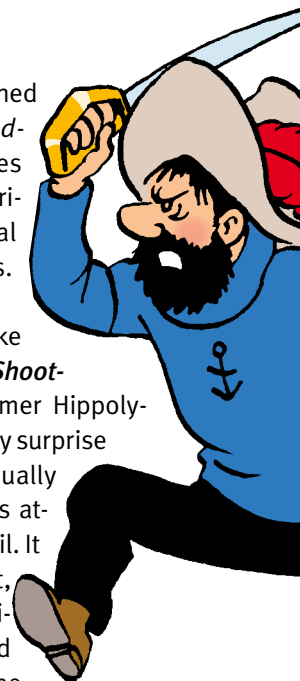
Numbers of famous plates from Tintin albums respect the classical proportions of the Golden Mean rule, just like the paintings of the mighty Rubens, Rembrandt, and Veronese.

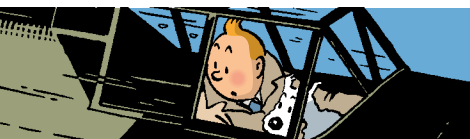
The insults hurled about by captain Haddock are poured over assiduously by serious-minded experts who have identified 169 to over 200 of them. An exhaustive vocabulary of the captain’s

curses has been published in *The Illustrated Haddock*, which celebrates the old seadog’s contribution to the universal language of invectives.

Do you happen to like soft candies? In *The Shooting Star*, the astronomer Hippolytus Calys takes Tintin by surprise with his question, actually an example of Hergé’s attention to minute detail. It is known that the artist, when collecting material for his scenes and drawings, left no stone unturned to be true to facts, and the fact here is that one of the astronomers at the Royal Belgian Observatory used to have a weakness for sweets.

Likewise, in *The Castafiore Emerald*, Hergé borrows a character from his own surroundings; this is the stone mason Mr. Bolt, equally difficult to figure in real life as in fiction. The man’s real name was Boullu, which was, in fact, kept in the French-language edition.





At international art auctions, Tintin collectors have been dizzily bidding up prices for Hergé's drawings and articles representative of the Tintin craze. During one such auction in Paris (1998), original sketches fetched 25.000 dollars, and old editions as much as 30.000 dollars.

### Tintin and the young: made for one another

Readers between 8 and 12 years old remain the prime audience for the Adventures of Tintin. The young can identify with this hero without fear or reproach, but also without a past and without a future, without parents. Free.

And many are those who confess today that it was Tintin who taught them the art of reading at an age when one learns to figure out signs.

### When friendship moves mountains

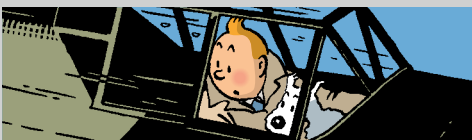
Many readers, like Hergé himself, have a soft spot for *The Blue Lotus* and *Tintin in Tibet*. It is in *The Blue Lotus* (1936) that we first make Tchang's acquaintance. This friend of Hergé's, talented artist and sculptor, who was studying in Brussels at the time, gave him considerable assistance in the creation of this album. Under his influence, Hergé proceeded to the study of the Chinese art of drawing and of Taoism, which did in fact fascinate him for the rest of his life. But the album had not yet been finished by the time Tchang returned to China.

The occupation of China by Japan, the Second World War, and the Mao regime separated Tchang and Hergé for a long time. But Hergé reunited Tchang and Tintin in his masterpiece *Tintin in Tibet* (1960), a story dedicated to friendship. Tchang and Hergé would meet again in Brussels in 1981.

There are stories to tell about the crossed destinies of these two masters, but the essential thing is that these albums, imbued with their timeless beauty, have lost nothing of their appeal.







# 1929-2004

## A TOUR THROUGH TINTIN'S WORLD



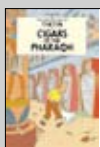
**TINTIN IN THE LAND OF THE SOVIETS 1929**  
The debut of the Tintin character, still uninformed



**TINTIN IN THE CONGO 1931**  
A Tintin adventure set inside the paternalistic attitude towards the colony during the thirties of the last century.



**TINTIN IN AMERICA 1932**  
Tintin declares war on Al Capone and takes up the cause of the American Indians.



**THE CIGARS OF THE PHARAO 1934**  
Tintin's world is enriched by the addition of Tompson & Thomson and Rastapopoulos



**THE BLUE LOTUS 1936**  
In this exceptional adventure, both Tintin's personality and the story itself reach unexpected depths. Tchang. Kai-Chek's wife invites Hergé to China, but the proximity of the war prevents the artist from following up on the invitation.



**THE BROKEN EAR 1937**  
Tintin leaves for South America in search of a stolen idol.



**THE BLACK ISLAND 1938**  
Our young reporter tracks down a gang of counterfeiters.



**The Scepter of Ottokar 1939**  
Because of the censorship by the occupying Nazi forces, this scenario is to all appearances set in a distant location, far from the reality of the times, but this does not prevent it from trashing the Nazi regime.



**THE CRAB WITH THE GOLDEN CLAWS 1941**  
Captain Haddock is introduced here and becomes Tintin's most loyal bosom companion! From the very outset, Haddock reveals himself as one of the Tintin gang's most picturesque characters.



**THE SHOOTING STAR 1942**  
A mysterious meteorite threatens to destroy the earth. The pessimism of this tale, out-of-character for Hergé, bears the stamp of a war that is ravaging the western world.



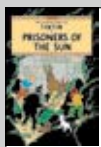
**THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN 1943**  
Haddock and Tintin take off in search of one of the captain's forefathers.



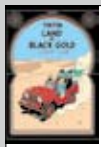
**RED RACKHAM'S TREASURE 1944**  
Haddock acquires the castle of Marlinspike, suggested to Hergé by one of the Loire castles, in Cheverny. Cuthbert Calculus enters upon the scene in this album.



**THE SEVEN CRYSTAL BALLS 1948**  
Seven scientists fall victim to a mysterious coma after an expedition in the Andes. Could it be that they are being pursued by the curse of the Inca?



**PRISONERS OF THE SUN 1949**  
Tintin and captain Haddock are off to Peru, in search of the kidnapped professor Calculus.



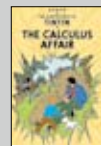
**TINTIN IN THE LAND OF BLACK GOLD 1951**  
Ages before the energy crisis creates its blend of havoc in world economies, Hergé emphasizes the strategic importance of oil



**DESTINATION MOON - 1953**  
Borne along by professor Calculus's enthusiasm, Tintin and his friends leave for the conquest of the Moon!



**EXPLORERS ON THE MOON 1954**  
Tintin and Snowy get to the Moon before Armstrong.



**THE CALCULUS AFFAIR 1956**  
The cold war suggests to Hergé a scenario based on the dangers of collusion between scientists and the military establishment.



**THE RED SEA SHARKS 1958**  
A denunciation of the slave trade, with the infamous Rastapopoulos more villainous than ever.



**TINTIN IN TIBET 1960**  
Hergé's favorite story, set against the fabulous background of the Himalayas, where man is confronted by his own insignificance



**THE CASTAFIORE EMERALD 1963**  
For once, Tintin stays at home. A brilliant comedy that also touches upon the prejudices against gypsies.



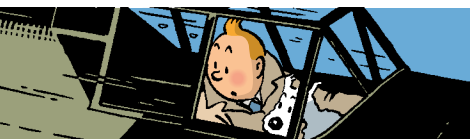
**FLIGHT 714 1968**  
The kidnapping of Laszlo Carreidas - the man who never laughs - brings about a succession of passionate but also particularly entertaining adventures where Hergé draws away from the duality of good and evil.



**TINTIN AND THE PICAROS 1976**  
Not without a sense of bitterness, Hergé reminds us that our world will not infrequently succumb to appearances.



**TINTIN AND THE ALPHA ART 1986**  
This posthumous tale is a parody on contemporary art, a subject that Hergé felt passionately about. In fact, he owned works by Picasso, Miró, and Roy Lichtenstein.



# Hergé

## AN UNASSUMING GENIUS

Hergé, or Georges Remi, born in Brussels on May 22, 1907, studied at the college of Saint-Boniface, where, in his own words, he was bored to death. In 1921, he joins the boy scouts, where he acquires the totem name of Inquisitive Fox, and his first drawings are subsequently reproduced in the boy scouts magazines?

Upon completion of his studies, Georges Remi is employed in the subscription department of the magazine *Le Vingtième Siècle*. His career, interrupted in 1927 by his military service, takes a new turn in 1928 when he is made responsible for designing, supervising, and illustrating *Le Petit Vingtième*, a weekly supplement intended for the magazine's youthful readership. Tintin and Snowy make their debut there on January 10 in 1929.

In 1930, *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets* is published by Le Petit Vingtième. In 1934, the Casterman House publishes the first book: *Tintin in America*. En 1934 les éditions Casterman publient leur premier album: *Tintin en Amérique*.

In those first stories, which he considers fun things, a game, Hergé allows his imagination free rein: he improvises instead of elaborating the plot. But, in 1934,

Tchong-Jen, a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Brussels. The young Chinese persuades him to write well-researched stories and to get solid documentation for his material. Tchang's subsequent influence on Hergé's work is obvious.

During the war, Hergé works for the newspaper *Le Soir*, for which he will later on be censored by certain quarters,



because *Le Soir* was being published with permission from the occupying Nazi forces. Nevertheless, when reading the *Adventures of Tintin*, one can get a taste of Hergé's aversion (*The Blue Lotus*), or of his skepticism (*Tintin and the Picaros*), to and with the notion of totalitarian regimes.

As of 1946, the Tintin adventures will appear in their own weekly, titled *Tintin* (or *Kuifje* in the Dutch edition), at the initiative of Raymond Leblanc.

In 1950, Hergé forms the Hergé Studios; from that moment onwards, he will be producing work that is even more realistic, drawing on the assistance of a team of specialized collaborators.

In the nineteen sixties and nineteen seventies, Tintin enters a novel field of adventure: film making. In 1979, his fiftieth anniversary is celebrated worldwide, and Andy Warhol produces four Hergé portraits. Then, 1981 is for Tchang and Hergé, after a span of forty-six years of separation, the year of their reunion. To celebrate Hergé's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Belgian Astronomical Society names a small planet just recently discovered between Mars and Jupiter after him. Hergé passes away on March 3, 1983.



M O U L I N S A R T

[www.tintin.com](http://www.tintin.com)