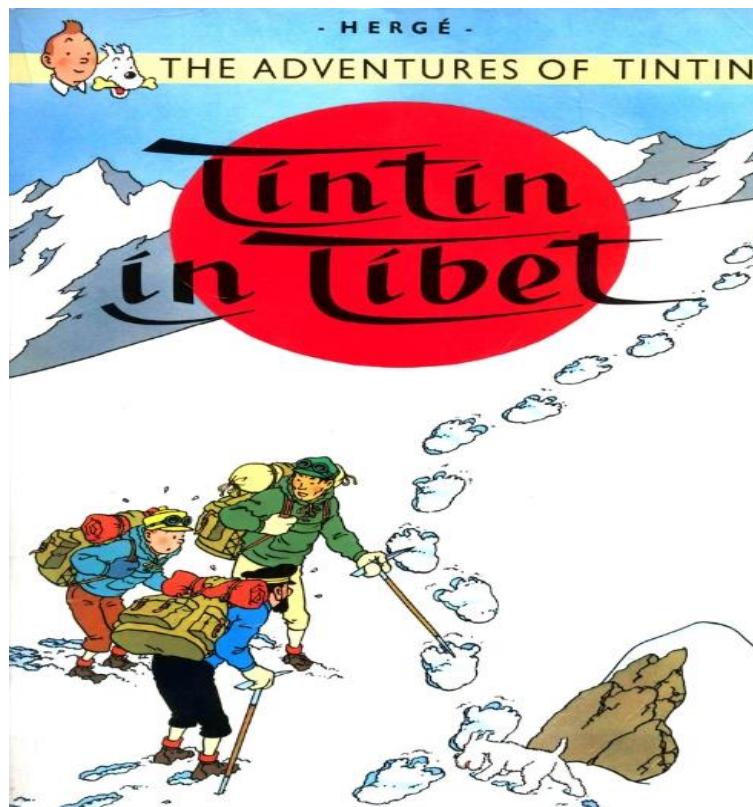


The Department of English

RAJA N.L. KHAN WOMEN'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
Midnapore, West Bengal

Course material- 1 on

Tintin in Tibet (General Introduction)



For
English Hons.
Semester- IV
Paper- HCC10 (*Popular Literature*)

Prepared by

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Tintin in Tibet

Tintin, the young, dashing and flamboyant Belgian reporter has been a familiar figure across the globe since decades now. With his passion for unveiling the truth, Tintin has become a global sensation for his intense desire to solve mysteries, his love for adventure, his unscathed honesty and his love for his friends and companions. Conceived as a character drawn to entice a readership comprising primarily of children, Tintin and his escapades charmed the young-adult and the adult readers too. A childhood hero for many, Tintin, through his numerous adventures, had travelled to places around the world, thus exposing the readers to a varied range of cultures and rituals that makes the narratives all the more interesting. Immensely favoured by readers of all age, it was only a matter of time that Tintin's antics would feature prominently in any course of popular literature. And here we are, in a post-colonial country, reading *Tintin in Tibet* in a class of under-graduate students, and I guess, enjoying it?

Meet Herge, the creator!

The Belgian cartoonist Georges Prosper Remi won accolades under his pen name Herge, and one could wonder whether Herge had any idea that his pen name would go on to be immortalized when he used it to claim his comics. Having a catholic background and boy-scout training, it was no surprise when he collaborated with Father Norbert Wallez who published *Le Vingtieme Siecle* (*Le XXe Siecle*). It was during this phase that Herge met his first wife Germaine Kiekens who worked under Father Wallez. When it was decided that Herge would be working on the children supplement of the magazine, *Le Petit Vingtieme*, Germaine became his first work assistant. His career as a cartoonist was launched when he began publishing the illustrations of his first comic series *The Adventures of Totor* in a scouting magazine *Le Boy-Scout Belge* in 1926. However, he had to wait for fame and recognition till he created the daring teenage reporter, Tintin, the guy with a quiff, sometime around 1929 and began chronicling his peculiar adventures along with his companion Snowy, a white Fox Terrier. Their adventure debuted on 10th

Januray, 1929 when the first installment of *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets* was published, which went on to be serialized until May, 1930 in *Le Petit Vingtieme*. The first few adventures of Tintin were supposed to be conceived as a conservative propaganda for children, but after their publication in the book form, Tintin had already become the most loved fictitious character in and around Belgium. *Quick & Flupke* (1930-1940) and *The Adventures of Jo, Zette and Jacko* (1936-1957) are two other popular comic series penned by Georges Prosper Remi, aka Herge. Herge is also known for perfecting a unique style of drawing in his illustration, ‘ligne claire’, a term coined by Joost Swarte, which is the French for “clear line”. This form of sketching uses strong lines of same width without any prominent hatching. While maintaining proper contrast and featuring strong use of colours, the characters in the illustrations are displayed against realistic background to create a sense of familiarity.

Les Adventures de Tintin

Les Adventures de Tintin or *The Adventures of Tintin* broke into the Belgian literary scene with a bang and an intent to change the very texture of the literary scene in years to come. By far, this series of twenty four comic albums has been widely recognized as the most popular European comics. Such was its feat of success that this series has been published in seventy different languages across the world and had undergone numerous radio, television, theatre and film adaptations. Journeying though the decades, beginning with *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets*, the road was not always as smooth as it appeared to readers after the turn of the century. Collaborating successfully with *Le Petit Vingtieme*, the story of publication of the series was a swift and smooth one until Belgium came under German occupation and the catholic magazine was closed in 1940. Herge, thereby, shifted his allegiance towards *Le Soir*, a popular newspaper governed by the Nazi regime, which would publish Tintin’s adventures. However, this union was not a long lasting one as well and the liberation of Belgium in 1944 meant *Le Soir* would also be closed down. Amidst difficulties in handling the accusations of a Nazi alliance charged against Herge, he collaborated with a friend of his, Raymond Leblanc, to establish *Tintin* magazine in

1946, that would, henceforth, dedicatedly publish Tintin's adventures. Gradually, his relationship with Leblanc became fraught with complexities and in 1950, he established 'Studios Herge', which would be dedicated exclusively for the production of Tintin.

The Adventures of Tintin include:

1. *Tintin in the Land of the Soviets (Tintin au pays des Soviets)* (1929-1930)
2. *Tintin in Congo (Tintin au Congo)* (1930-1931)
3. *Tintin in America (Tintin en Amerique)* (1931-1932)
4. *Cigars of the Pharaoh (Les Cigares du Pharaon)* (1932-1934)
5. *The Blue Lotus (Le Lotus bleu)* (1934-1935)
6. *The Broken Ear (L'Oreille cassee)* (1935-1937)
7. *The Black Island (L'île noire)* (1937-1938)
8. *King Ottokar's Sceptre (Le Sceptre d'Ottokar)* (1938-1939)
9. *The Crab with the Golden Claws (Le Crabe aux pinces d'or)* (1940-1941)
10. *The Shooting Star (L'Etoile mysterieuse)* (1941-1942)
11. *The Secret of the Unicorn (Le Secret de la Licorne)* (1942-1943)
12. *Red Rackham's Treasure (Le Tresor de Rackham le Rouge)* (1943)
13. *The Seven Crystal Balls (Les Sept boules de cristal)* (1943-1946)
14. *Prisoners of the Sun (Le Temple du soleil)* (1946-1948)
15. *Land of Black Gold (Tintin au pays de l'or noir)* (1948-1950)
16. *Destination Moon (Objectif Lune)* (1950-1953)
17. *Explorers on the Moon (On a marche sur la luna)* (1950-1953)
18. *The Calculus Affair (L'affaire Tournesol)* (1954-1956)
19. *The Red Sea Sharks (Coke en stock)* (195-1958)
20. *Tintin in Tibet (Tintin au Tibet)* (1958-1959)
21. *The Castafiore Emerald (Les Bijoux de la Castafiore)* (1961-1962)
22. *Flight 714 to Sidney (Vol 714 pour Sidney)* (1966-1967)
23. *Tintin and the Picaros (Tintin et les Picaros)* (1975-1976)
24. *Tintin and Alph-Art (Tintin et l'Alph-Art)* (left unfinished and published posthumously in 1986)

On creation of Tintin, Hergé writes on 15th November, 1966, “The idea for the character of Tintin and the sort of adventures that would befall him came to me, I believe, in five minutes, the moment I first made the sketch of the figure of this hero: that is to say, he had not only haunted my youth nor even my dreams. Although it’s possible that as a child I imagined myself in the role of a sort of Tintin.”

History of Publication

<i>Tintin in Tibet</i> (<i>Tintin au Tibet</i>)	
Cover of the English edition	
Publisher	Casterman
Date	1960
Series	<i>The Adventures of Tintin (Les aventures de Tintin)</i>
Creative team	
Writer(s)	Hergé
Artist(s)	Hergé
Original publication	
Published in	<i>Tintin</i>
Date(s) of publication	17 September 1958 – 25 November 1959
Language	French
ISBN	2-203-00119-4
Translation	
Publisher	Methuen
Date	1962
ISBN	0-316-35839-8
Translator(s)	Leslie Lonsdale-Cooper and Michael Turner
Chronology	
Preceded by	<i>The Red Sea Sharks</i> , 1958
Followed by	<i>The Castafiore Emerald</i> , 1963