



The Adventures of Hergé

By Jose-Louis Bocquet, Jean-Luc Fromental

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A GRAPHIC BIOGRAPHY OF *TINTIN*'S CREATOR by Jose-Louis Bocquet and Jean-Luc Fromental, Illustrated by Stanislas Barthélémy

The Adventures of Hergé is a biographical comic about the world-renowned comics artist Georges Prosper Remi, better known by his pen name, Hergé. Meticulously researched, with references to many of the Tintin albums and complete with a bibliography and mini-bios for each of the main "characters," the biography is appropriately drawn in Hergé's iconic clear line style as an homage to the Tintin adventures that have commanded the attention of readers across the world and of many generations.

Seven-year-old Hergé first discovered his love of drawing in 1914 when his mother gave him some crayons to stay out of trouble. He continued drawing in school when he fatefully met the editor of *XXe Siècle* magazine, where *Tintin* first appeared. His popularity skyrocketed from the 1930s through post-World War Two. Hergé was perceived by some to have aided the Nazi government in Belgium by continuing to publish *Tintin* in a government-sanctioned magazine, and he was briefly imprisoned in the aftermath of the war and narrowly escaped execution. Also covered are his marriage troubles in the 1950s and subsequent affair with Fanny Vlamynck, who went on to become his lifelong partner; his late career in the 1960s, as his interest in *Tintin* waned and he occasionally "disappeared" for weeks at a time as he contemplated giving up his career to become a fine-arts painter; and a recounting of a humorous encounter with Andy Warhol.

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Editorial Review

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The Belgian cartoonist Georges Remi—better known by his pen name, Hergé—is celebrated worldwide for his creation of the comics character Tintin. He has been the subject of numerous biographies, but this one is presumably the first done in the comics format. The necessarily simplified account of Hergé's eventful life chronicles his youthful exploits as a scout patrol leader, which would inform his later work; his hiring by a Catholic newspaper where Tintin debuted in 1929 and swiftly became an international sensation; his postwar imprisonment as a collaborator for having worked for a Nazi-sanctioned publication; his troubled marriage and his affair with a colorist in his studio; and his debilitating psychological and health problems. Illustrator Barthélémy uses a variation of the French-Belgian *ligne claire* (clear line) style popularized by Hergé; while not as meticulous or graceful as that of its subject, his looser approach has a panache of its own. Steven Spielberg's recent Tintin movie—an earlier attempt by the director to buy the film rights is recounted in this book—may heighten interest in the character's creator. --Gordon Flagg

About the Author

JOSE-LOUIS BOCQUET is a French novelist, journalist, and essayist. He has written more than twenty books, including biographies of other cartooning legends such as René Goscinny (*Astérix*) and Yves Chaland. **JEAN-LUC FROMENTAL** is the author of more than thirty French graphic novels. He has collaborated with many key figures in French comics, including Yves Chaland and Blexbolex. **STANISLAS BARTHÉLÉMY** has drawn graphic novels and children's books in France since 1986. He is one of the founding members of the French seminal publishing house L'Association.

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