

- HERGÉ -  
★  
THE ADVENTURES OF  
TINTIN

# THE BLUE LOTUS



HERGÉ

THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

# THE BLUE LOTUS



MAMMOTH

## HISTORICAL NOTE

Hergé first published *Le Lotus Bleu* in the magazine *Le Petit Vingtième* in Brussels in 1934-5: the story itself is set in 1931. At that time Japanese troops were occupying parts of the Chinese mainland, and Shanghai, the great seaport at the mouth of the Yangtze Kiang, possessed an International Settlement, a trading base in China for Western nations, administered by the British and Americans. Hergé based his narrative freely upon the events of the time, including the blowing-up of the South Manchurian railway, which led to further incursions by Japan into China and ultimately to Japan's resignation from the League of Nations in 1933.

### The TINTIN books are published in the following languages:

|                 |                                                                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Afrikaans:      | HUMAN & ROUSSEAU, Cape Town.                                          |
| Arabic:         | DAR AL-MAAREF, Cairo.                                                 |
| Basque:         | MENSAJERO, Bilbao.                                                    |
| Brazilian:      | DISTRIBUIDORA RECORD, Rio de Janeiro.                                 |
| Breton:         | CASTERMAN, Paris.                                                     |
| Catalan:        | JUVENTUD, Barcelona.                                                  |
| Chinese:        | EPOCH, Taipei.                                                        |
| Danish:         | CARLSEN IF, Copenhagen.                                               |
| Dutch:          | CASTERMAN, Dronen.                                                    |
| English:        | U.K.: METHUEN CHILDREN'S BOOKS, London                                |
|                 | Australia: OCTOPUS AUSTRALIA, Melbourne.                              |
|                 | Canada: GENERAL PUBLISHING, Toronto.                                  |
|                 | New Zealand: OCTOPUS NEW ZEALAND, Auckland.                           |
|                 | Republic of South Africa: TRANS S.A. BOOK DISTRIBUTORS, Johannesburg. |
|                 | Singapore: OCTOPUS ASIA, Singapore.                                   |
|                 | Spain: EDICIONES DEL PRADO, Madrid                                    |
|                 | Portugal: EDICIONES DEL PRADO, Madrid                                 |
|                 | U.S.A. ATLANTIC, LITTLE BROWN, Boston.                                |
| Esperanto:      | CASTERMAN, Paris.                                                     |
| Finnish:        | OTAVA, Helsinki.                                                      |
| French:         | CASTERMAN, Paris-Tournai.                                             |
|                 | Spain: EDICIONES DEL PRADO, Madrid                                    |
|                 | Portugal: EDICIONES DEL PRADO, Madrid                                 |
| Galician:       | JUVENTUD, Barcelona.                                                  |
| German:         | CARLSEN, Reinbek-Hamburg.                                             |
| Greek:          | ANGLO-HELLENIC, Athens                                                |
| Icelandic:      | FJÖLVI, Reykjavík.                                                    |
| Indonesian:     | INDIRA, Jakarta.                                                      |
| Iranian:        | MODERN PRINTING HOUSE, Teheran.                                       |
| Italian:        | GANDUS, Genoa.                                                        |
| Japanese:       | FUKUINKAN SHOTEN, Tokyo.                                              |
| Korean:         | UNIVERSAL PUBLICATIONS, Seoul.                                        |
| Malay:          | SHARIKAT UNITED, Pulau Pinang.                                        |
| Norwegian:      | SEMIC, Oslo.                                                          |
| Picard:         | CASTERMAN, Paris.                                                     |
| Portuguese:     | CENTRO DO LIVRO BRASILEIRO, Lisboa.                                   |
| Provençal:      | CASTERMAN, Paris.                                                     |
| Spanish:        | JUVENTUD, Barcelona.                                                  |
|                 | Argentina: JUVENTUD ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires.                          |
|                 | Mexico: MARIN, Mexico.                                                |
|                 | Peru: DISTR. DE LIBROS DEL PACIFICO, Lima.                            |
| Serbo-Croatian: | NIRO, Beograd.                                                        |
| Swedish:        | CARLSEN IF, Stockholm.                                                |
| Welsh:          | GWASG Y DREF WEN, Cardiff.                                            |

Translated by Leslie Lonsdale-Cooper  
and Michael Turner

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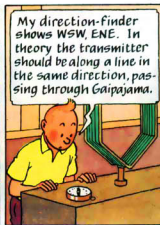
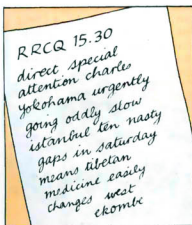
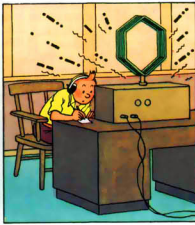
# THE BLUE LOTUS

## 藍蓮花

TINTIN AND SNOWY are in India, guests of the Maharaja of Gaipajama, enjoying a well-earned rest. The evil gang of international drug-smugglers, encountered in *Cigars of the Pharaoh*, has been smashed and its members are behind bars. With one exception. Only the mysterious gang-leader is

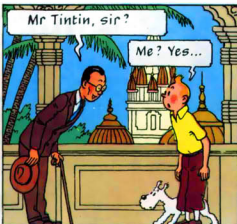
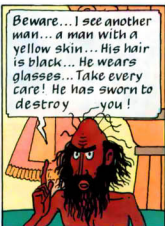
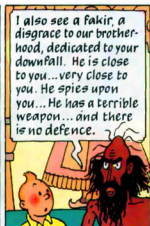
unaccounted for: he disappeared over a cliff.

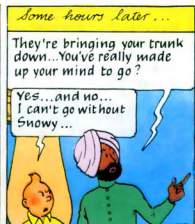
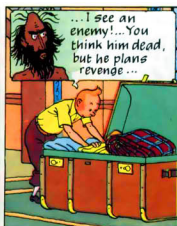
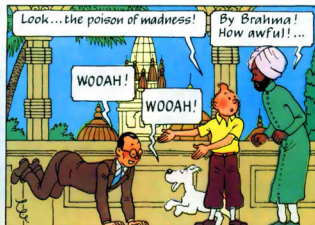
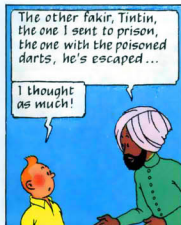
But questions have still to be answered. What of the terrible Rajaijah juice, the 'poison of madness'? Where were the shipments of opium going, hidden in the false cigars? And who really was the master-mind behind the operation?



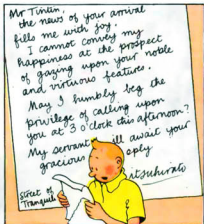
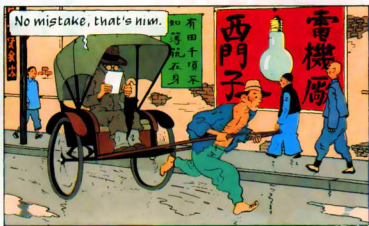
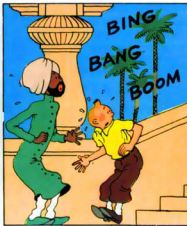








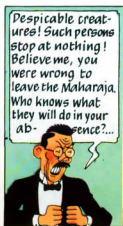




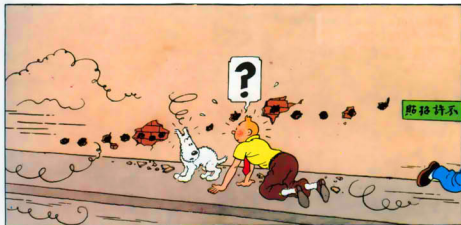
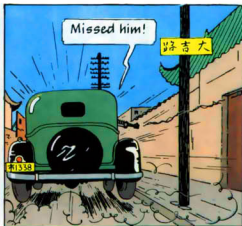
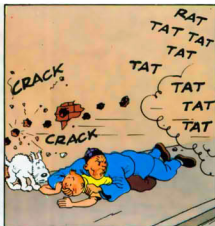


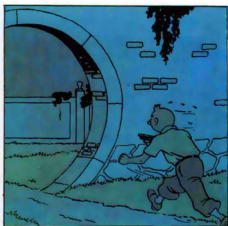






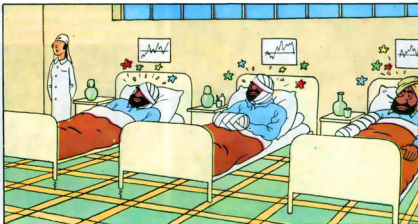
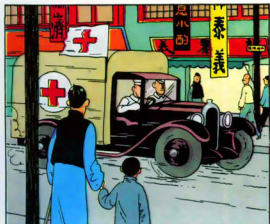
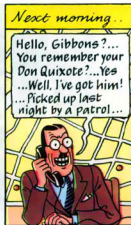


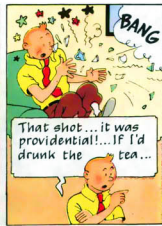
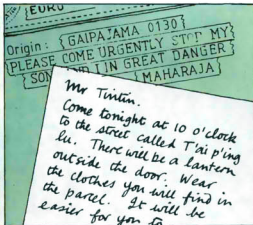




The shots came from  
this direction ...

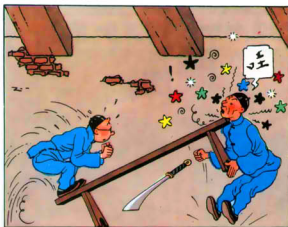












That night...

Are you coming Snowy?  
Let's take a stroll  
round the deck...

Allright. I'll  
catch you up...

There! It's done!...You haven't  
used too much chloroform, have you?

Put some on another handkerchief.

That's it!...  
Here goes!

SPLOSH







Didi! ... Stop that! ...



Leave us... and behave!

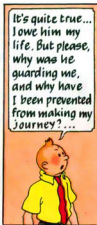
Yes, Papa ...



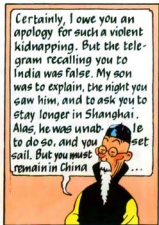
Allow me to introduce myself: Wang Chen-ye. I am the father of the poor soul you saw just now. He was attacked by our enemies and lost his mind the night he arranged to meet you in Shanghai. He was guarding you.



So it was him!



It's quite true... I owe him my life. But please, why was he guarding me, and why have I been prevented from making my journey? ...



Certainly, I owe you an apology for such a violent kidnapping. But the telegram recalling you to India was false. My son was to explain, the night you saw him, and to ask you to stay longer in Shanghai. Alas, he was unable to do so, and you must remain in China ...



I must remain in China? ... But why? ...

Will you come with me? ... You will understand ...



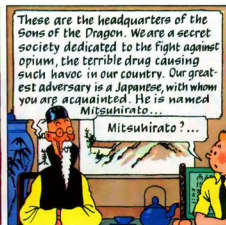
You stay here, Snowy, and behave yourself!



Here is the friend who will be of infinite help ...



Now Mr Tintin, it is time to give you an explanation ...



These are the headquarters of the Sons of the Dragon. We are a secret society dedicated to the fight against opium, the terrible drug causing such havoc in our country. Our greatest adversary is a Japanese, with whom you are acquainted. He is named Mitsuhirato ...

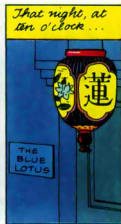
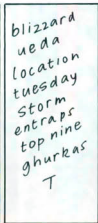
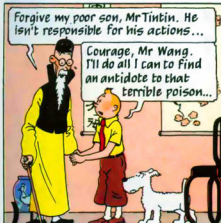
Mitsuhirato? ...



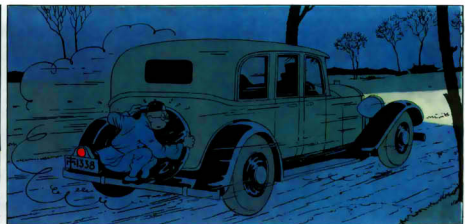
Well, well! Why don't I practise on him?

What does he want with me?





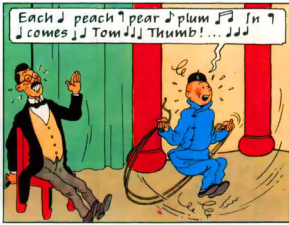
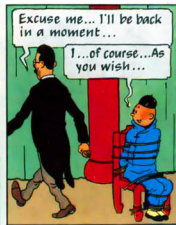
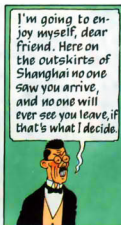
















Seven suffering Samurais! That's not Rajaijah... So what did I...?



Chang went to watch the house of Mitsuhiro, Venerable... He has returned...



Send him here at once!

I was hidden in the next room. I put coloured water in place of the Rajaijah, and I've brought you the real poison. I took care of his knife and his gun too...



I'll soon find him. He can't have gone far...



There!!...



I could have sworn my gun was loaded... Anyway, I still have my knife!...



Kamikaze! The blade's made of rubber!



And perhaps that's made of rubber as well!...



An hour later...



Major, I'm Japanese... I've been half murdered by a young European, a Chinese spy! His name is Tintin!



Now we must go back to Mr Wang...

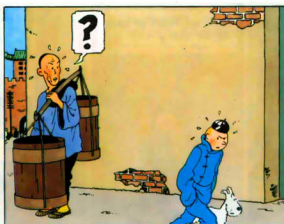


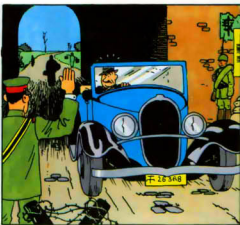
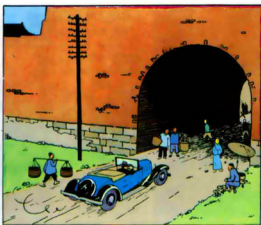
5000 YEN REWARD  
FOR THE  
TINTIN  
MURDERER



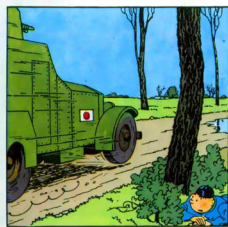
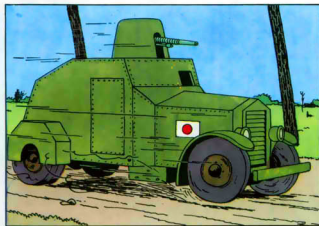
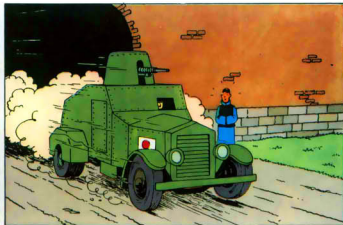
There isn't a moment to lose... I must get out of the city...



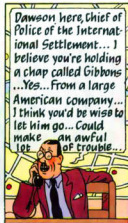


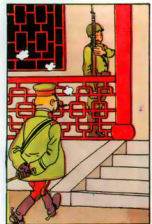














Full of charm, isn't he? And that's our new general!



Major, there's a little man who insists upon seeing you. He claims to be the general.

Bring him in. I'll give him 'general'!



But... but the general has just left!



And I'm telling you, block-head, that I'M General Haranochi!... I was attacked on the road by a young Chinese who stripped me of my uniform!...



No one about?... Good!



Here we go! ...



Two ...

And three!



Now let's release my false stomach... All right, Snowy?



Now to the International Settlement... And make it snappy!



All's well. We made it!



Halt! ... Your papers!



My identity papers? ...I'm afraid I haven't got them with me... But my name's Tintin and I...

Sorry! ... Nothing doing!



But look! You can see I'm a European...

Nothing doing!



What's the problem?

The boy hasn't any papers, sir...

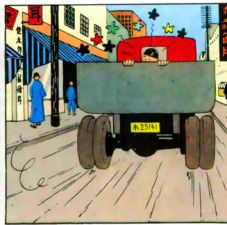
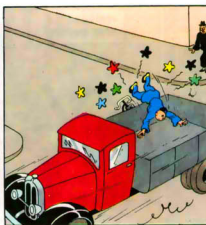
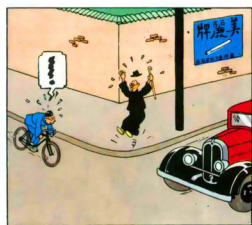
Please...

No use arguing, sonny. Must have proper papers to enter the Settlement...

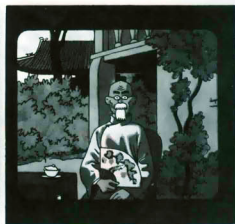
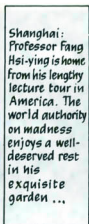
Now what?... Crumbs! A Japanese patrol! I must get in. If I don't...

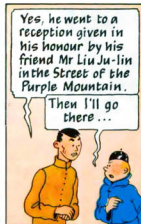
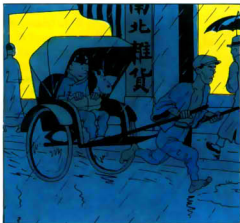


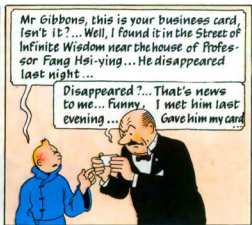










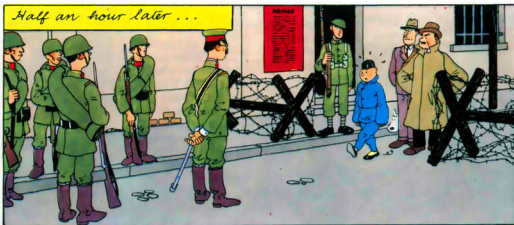
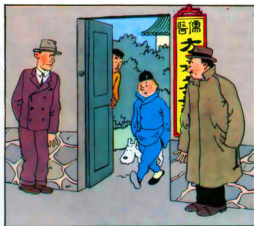






Dear Chen,  
I have been seized by Chinese gangsters demanding a ransom of 50,000 dollars. It is essential the police do not look for them. If they are alarmed they will kill me.

The ransom is to be left, within a fortnight, at the old temple about an hour's journey from Hukow on the right bank of the Yangtze Kiang. As I do not possess sufficient money







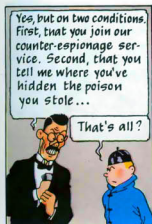
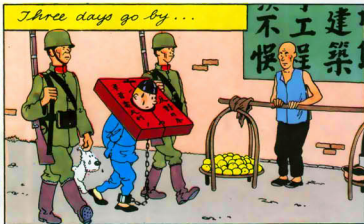
**NOTICE**

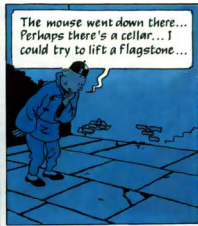
The Council of War of the Fifth Army of Occupation have CONDEMNED to DEATH the prisoner TINTIN, found guilty of:

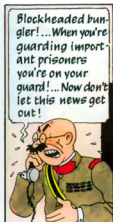
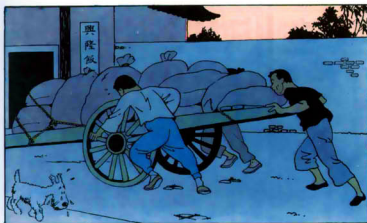
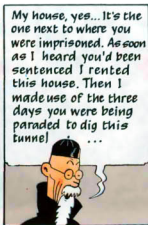
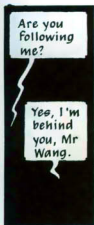
1. Espionage
2. Attempted murder of a Japanese
3. Assaulting a senior officer
4. Illegally wearing a uniform and medals

For three days preceding the execution the condemned man will wear the tablet and be paraded through the streets of the city as a warning to the population.

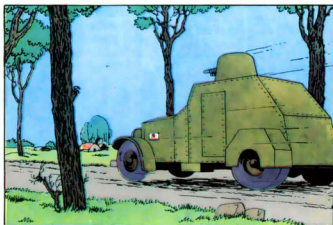
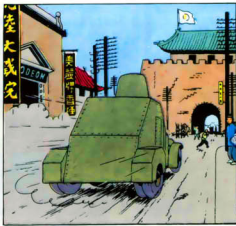
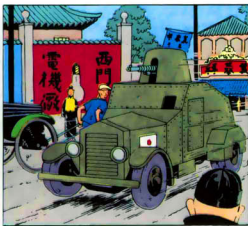
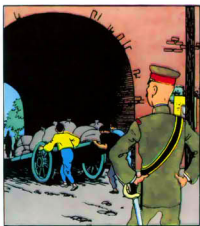
日本軍第五師團捕獲罪犯  
一、間諜  
二、行刺日本海兵  
三、襲擊日本要員  
四、非法穿著日本軍服  
罪犯丁丁於處決前之三日  
應穿著此標記  
日本軍第五師團



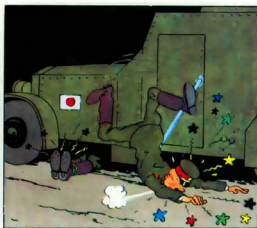


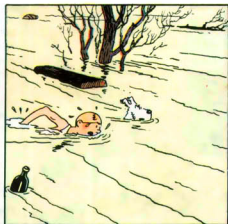


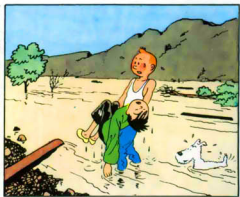












He's alive!

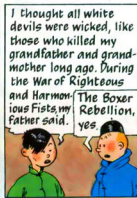


That's better, eh? You almost swallowed half the river!... What's your name? ...I'm Tintin...



I am Chang Chong-chen... But ...why did you save my life?

?



I thought all white devils were wicked, like those who killed my grandfather and grandmother long ago. During the War of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, my Father said.

The Boxer Rebellion, yes.



But Chang, all white men aren't wicked. You see, different peoples don't know enough about each other. Lots of Europeans still believe...



...that all Chinese are cunning and cruel and wear pig-tails, are always inventing tortures, and eating rotten eggs and swallows' nests...



The same stupid Europeans are quite convinced that all Chinese have tiny feet, and even now little Chinese girls suffer agonies with bandages...



...designed to prevent their feet developing normally. They're even convinced that Chinese rivers are full of unwanted babies, thrown in when they are born.



So you see Chang, that's what lots of people believe about China!

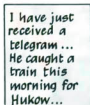
They must be crazy people in your country!!



Meanwhile...

I have news for you, General, about Tintin...

You know where he is?

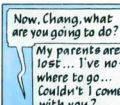


I have just received a telegram ... He caught a train this morning for Hukow...



Hukow?... But that's deep into Chinese territory. So long as he's there we can't touch him...

Excuse me, General, there is one way ...It's this ...



Now, Chang, what are you going to do?

My parents are lost... I've nowhere to go... Couldn't I come with you?...



It's just... I may be running into great danger...

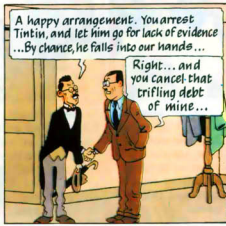
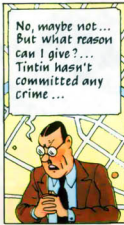
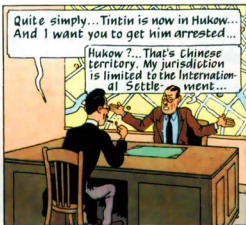
But two of us would be far stronger...



OK, then! ... OFF to Hukow!

I know a short cut...









Of course... What greater happiness! My friend's son under my humble roof...



You already have travel permits. This is a safe-conduct from the Chinese authorities. It will facilitate your mission...

公安總局

軍警當局務  
與以臂助於  
此執照者持

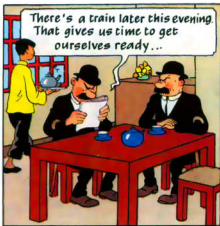
POLICE HEADQUARTERS

All Chinese authorities are hereby directed to render whatever assistance may be required by the bearer of this pass.

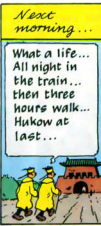


A rotten job!

Just our luck!... Ordered to arrest a friend!



There's a train later this evening. That gives us time to get ourselves ready...



Next morning...

What a life... All night in the train... then three hours walk... Hukow at last...



Just as well we came in disguise... Precisely!

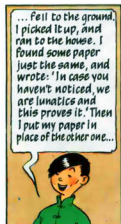
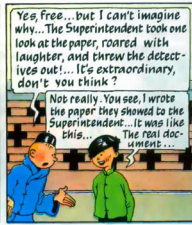
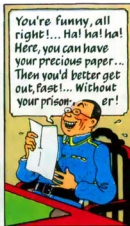


Imagine the sensation we'd have caused, coming to a place like this in European clothes...

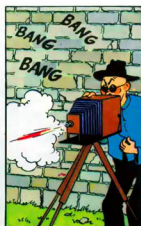
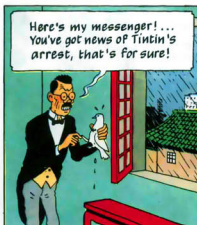


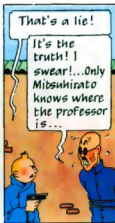
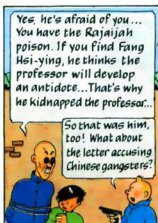
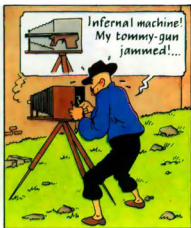
Don't look now, but something tells me we're being followed...

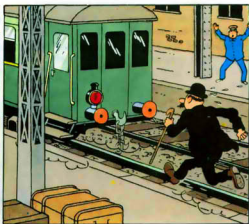














Next morning...

That's the last of the passengers... and still no sign of Tintin...

No luck, chief... He wasn't on the train. I reckon he hopped off en route...

Infuriating! Wretched little brat! ...Always outwits us at the last minute!

It's dark now... We can risk it...



Good thing we jumped when the train slowed outside the station. I'm sure someone would have been waiting at the bar.



Mr Mitsuhirato? ...Yes, it's me... I'm afraid not... slipped through our fingers!... Yes, I'm as sorry as you are... What do you expect? I did my best...



Policemen!... I suppose I'll have to do it myself, for the umpteenth time!



Come in!



Master, Tintin is in Shanghai!... I saw him with a Chinese boy. They got into a taxi, but I couldn't hear the address they gave the driver...



Pity!... Listen, Yamato... Get busy... Try to discover where he's gone to ground, and who's hiding him. Understand?



The gods be praised! We meet again!... You must rest for a few days... Give your wound a chance to heal...

I will... Then we must deal with Mitsuhirato!



A week later...

You're sure it doesn't hurt any more?

Not a bit, Chang... Look, all back to normal...



That night

There's Mitsuhirato's house. While I get inside, you keep guard...

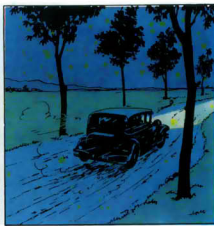
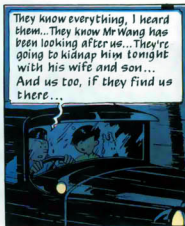
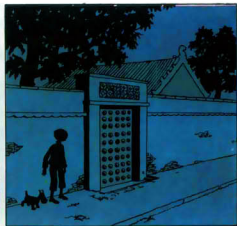
OK...



No one!... So far so good...



You're sure Tintin is there right now?...

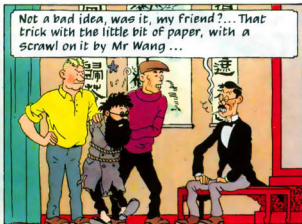




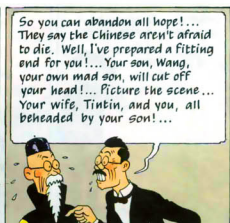




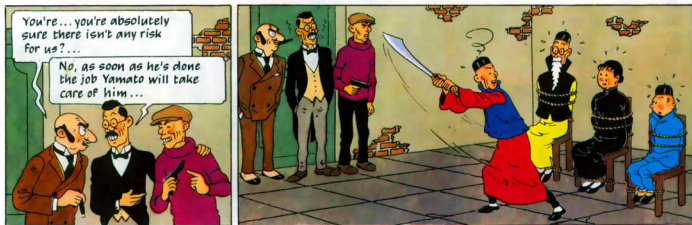
The Blue Lotus?... It's an opium den in Shanghai... How do I get in without being recognised?... In disguise?...

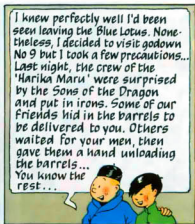
















# SHANGHAI NEWS

## 上海報

### FANG HSI-YING FOUND: Professor Prisoner in Opium Den

SHANGHAI, Wednesday:

Professor Fang Hsi-ying has been found! The good news was flashed to us this morning.

Last week eminent scholar Fang disappeared on his way home from a party given by a friend. Police efforts



Professor Fang Hsi-ying pictured just after his release.

to trace him were unavailing. No clues were found.

Young European reporter Tintin joined in the hunt for the missing man of science. Earlier we reported incidents involving Tintin and the occupying Japanese forces. Secret society Sons of the Dragon aided Tintin in the rescue. Fang Hsi-ying was kidnapped by an international gang of drug smugglers, now all safely in

police custody.

A wireless transmitter was found by police at Blue Lotus opium den. The transmitter was used by the drug smugglers to communicate with their ships on the high seas. Information radioed included sea routes, ports to be avoided, points of embarkation and unloading.

Home of Japanese subject Mitsuhiro was also searched. No comment, say police on reports of seizure of top-secret documents. Unconfirmed rumours suggest the papers concern undercover political activity by a neighbouring power. Speculation mounts that they disclose recent Shanghai-Nanking railway incident as a pretext for extended Japanese occupation. League of Nations officials in Geneva will study the captured documents.

### TINTIN'S OWN STORY

This morning, hero of the hour Mr Tintin, talked to us about his adventures.



Tintin, rescuer of Professor Fang Hsi-ying, with Snowy, his faithful companion.

When we called, our hero, young and smiling, greeted us wearing Chinese dress.

Could this really be the scourge of the terrible Shanghai gangsters? After our greetings and congratulations, we asked Mr Tintin to tell us how he succeeded in smashing the most dangerous organisation.

Mr Wang, a tall, elderly, venerable

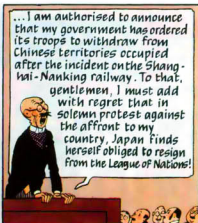
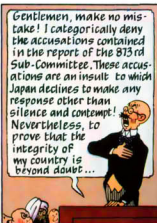
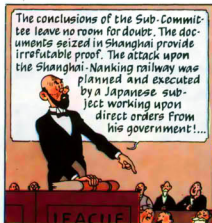
man with an impish smile said:

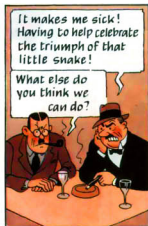
"You must tell the world it is entirely due to him that my wife, my son and I are alive today!"

With these words our interview was concluded, and we said farewell to the friendly reporter and his kindly host.

L.G.T.

Young people carry posters of Tintin through Shanghai streets.





*Some days later...*

... I raise my glass to your precious health, Tintin. Your courage and nobility have restored happiness to this humble house. Your memory will be engraved upon our hearts as in finest crystal...



There is one who, if such is possible, will miss you even more than I. Chang, who has already known the sadness of losing his parents. Chang, who found in you a brother. If he wishes, he will be my son, the brother of my own poor son to whom our honourable friend Fang Hsi-ying has restored his reason...



What is the matter, Chang?

There is a rainbow in my heart, Venerable Lady... I weep because Tintin is going but the sunshines because I have a new mother and father!



Farewell, noble Tintin. May other friendships lighten your days in your country in the West, and accompany you along the way!



*The next morning...*

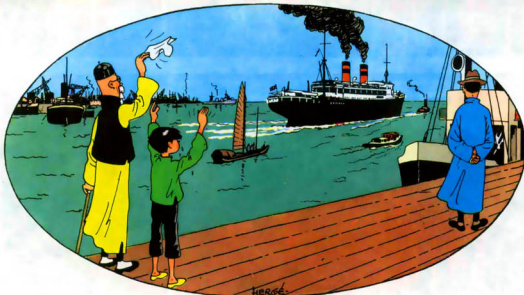


Goodbye, Tintin ... Good luck go with you!

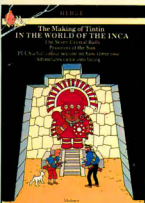
I wish the same for you, Chang! ... Goodbye!



ToooooT







# THE ADVENTURES OF TINTIN

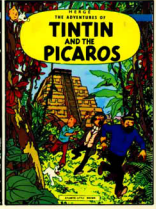
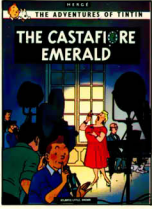
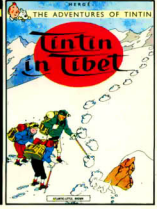
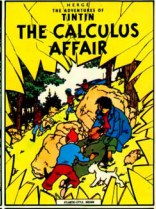
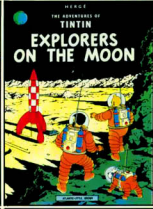
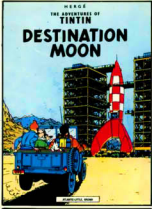
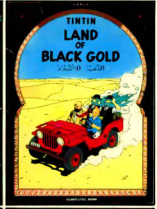
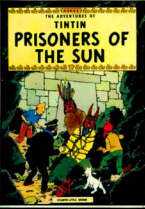
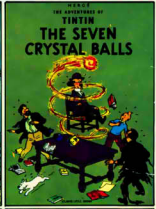
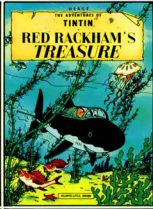
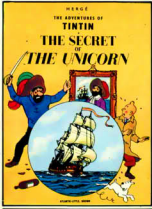
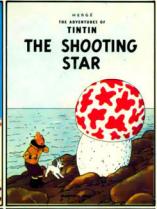
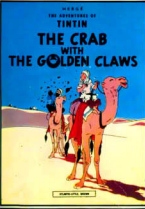
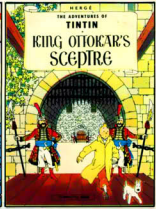
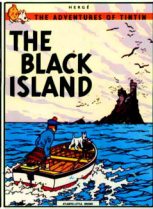
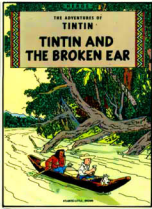
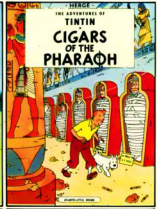
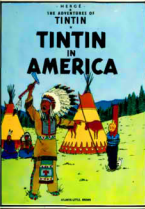
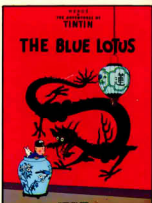
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