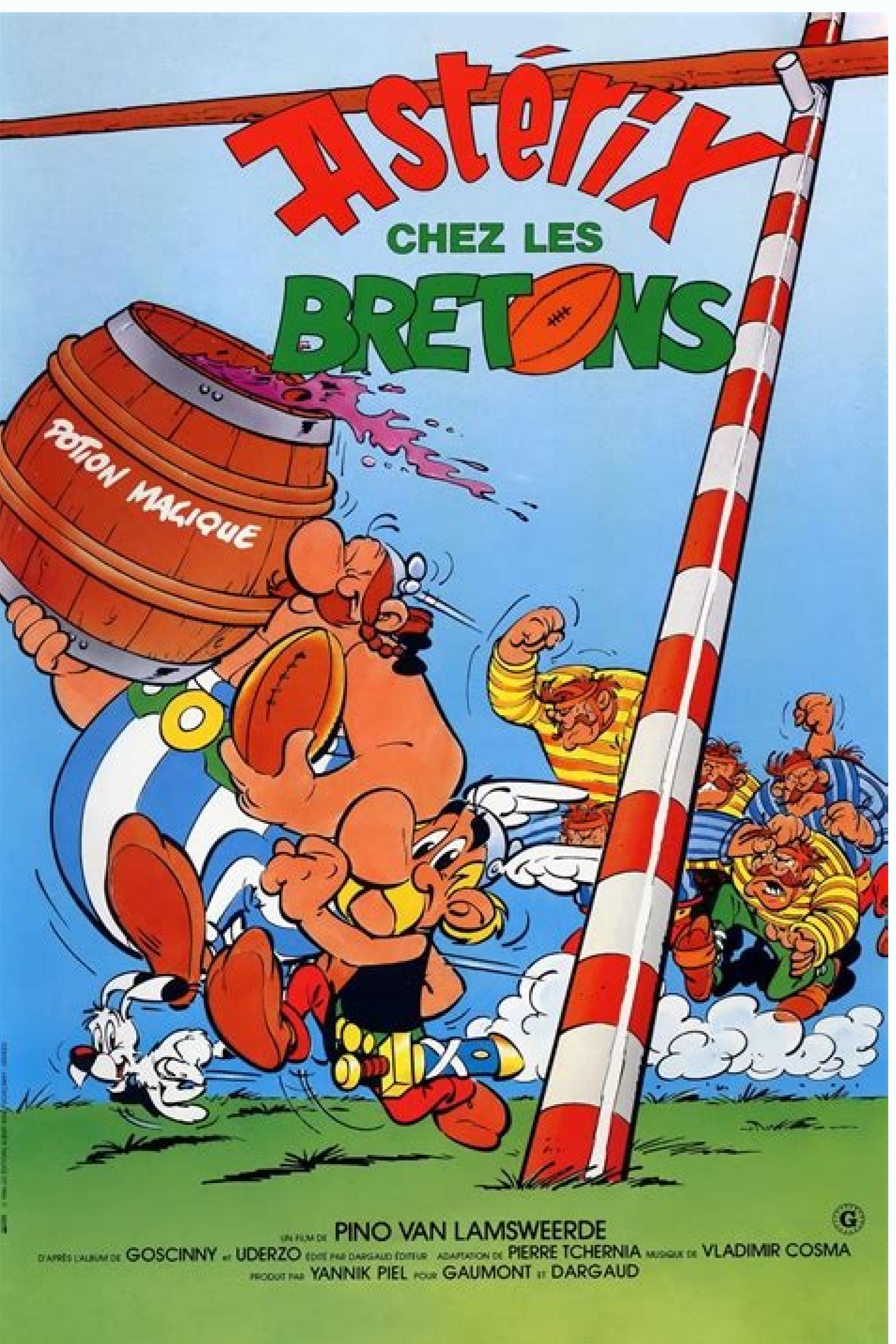
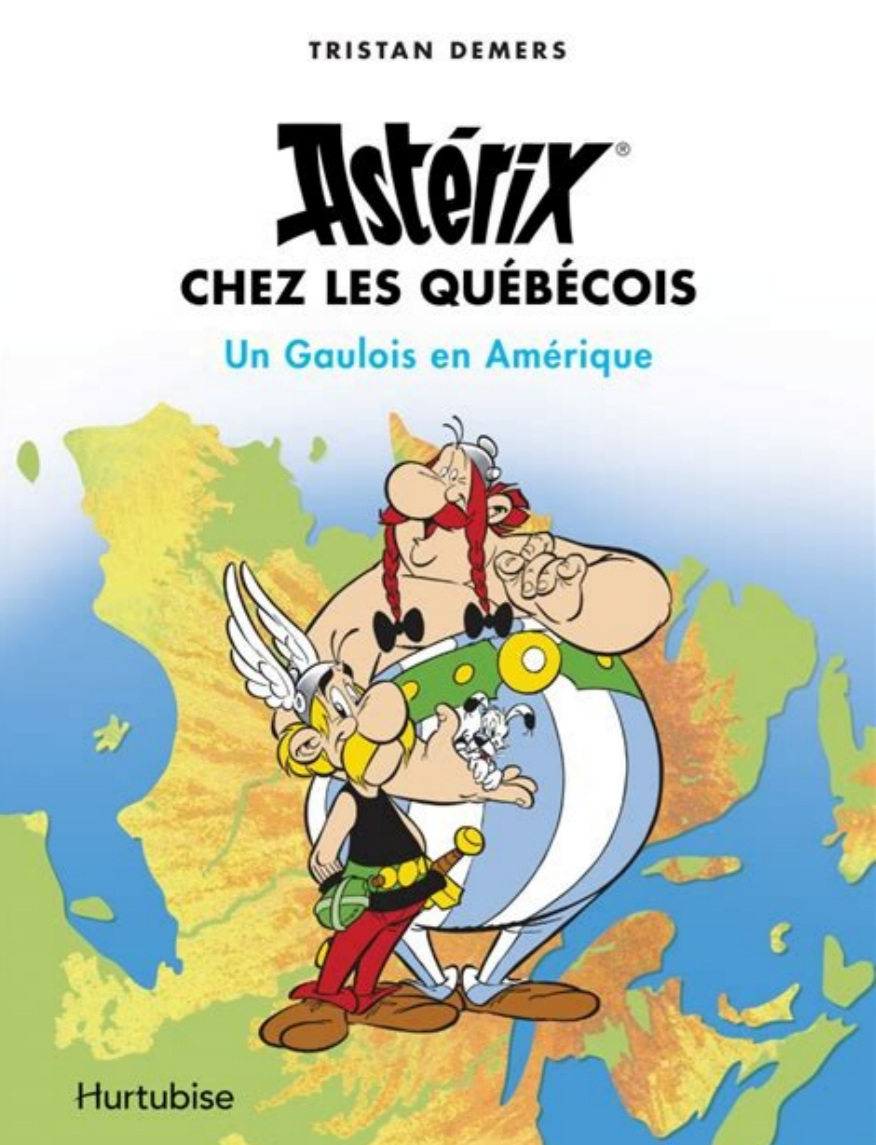


I'm not robot!





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Series of French comic books This article is about the comic book series. For its main character, see Asterix (character). For the star-shaped symbol (*), see asterisk. For other uses, see Asterix (disambiguation). Asterix(Astérix le Gaulois)/Created by René Goscinny Albert Uderzo Publication informationPublisherDargaud, Éditions Albert René, Hachette for canonical volumes in French; others for non-canonical volumes (1976–1996) in French; Hodder, Hachette and others for non-canonical volumes (1976–1996) in English Title(s) Asterix the Gaul Asterix and the Golden Sickle Asterix and the Goths Asterix the Gladiator Asterix and the Banquet Asterix and Cleopatra Asterix and the Big Fight Asterix in Britain Asterix and the Legionary Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield Asterix at the Olympic Games Asterix and the Cauldron Asterix in Spain Asterix and the Roman Agent Asterix in Switzerland The Mansions of the Gods Asterix and the Laurel Wreath Asterix and the Soothsayer Asterix in Corsica Asterix and Caesar's Gift Asterix and the Great Crossing Obelix and Co. Asterix in Belgium Asterix and the Great Divide Asterix and the Black Gold Asterix and Son Asterix and the Magic Carpet Asterix and the Secret Weapon Asterix and Obelix All at Sea Asterix and the Actress Asterix and the Class Act Asterix and the Falling Sky Asterix and Obelix's Birthday: The Golden Book Asterix and the Picts Asterix and the Missing Scroll Asterix and the Chariot Race Asterix and the Chieftain's Daughter Asterix and the Griffin FormatsOriginal material for the series has been published as a strip in the comics anthology(s) Pilote.Genre Comedy Satire Publication date29 October 1959–present (original); 1969–present (English translation)Creative teamWriter(s) René Goscinny (1959–1977) Albert Uderzo (1980–2009) Jean-Yves Ferri (2013–present) Other authors for non-canonical volumes (1976–1996) Artist(s) Albert Uderzo (1959–2009) Didier Conrad (2013–present) Other illustrators for non-canonical volumes (1976–1996) Translators English: Anthea Bell, Derek Hockridge (1961–2013); Anthea Bell (2013–2016); Adriana Hunter (2017–present) Asterix or The Adventures of Asterix (French: Astérix ou Astérix le Gaulois [astɛʁiks lu ɡolwa], "Asterix the Gaul") is a bande dessinée comic book series about a village of indomitable Gaulish warriors who adventure around the world and fight the Roman Republic, with the aid of a magic potion, during the era of Julius Caesar, in an historical telling of the time after the Gallic Wars. The series first appeared in the Franco-Belgian comic magazine Pilote on 29 October 1959. It was written by René Goscinny and illustrated by Albert Uderzo until Goscinny's death in 1977. Uderzo then took over the writing until 2009, when he sold the rights to publishing company Hachette; he died in 2020. In 2013, a new team consisting of Jean-Yves Ferri (script) and Didier Conrad (artwork) took over. As of 2021[update], 39 volumes have been released, with the most recent released in October 2021. Description Some of the many characters in Asterix. In the front row are the regular characters, with Asterix himself in the centre. Asterix comics usually start with the following introduction: The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...[1][2] The series follows the adventures of a village of Gauls as they resist Roman occupation in 50 BC. They do so using a magic potion, brewed by their druid Getafix (Panoramix in the French version), which temporarily gives the recipient superhuman strength. The protagonists, the title character Asterix and his friend Obelix, have various adventures. The "ix" ending of both names (as well as all the other pseudo-Gaulish "ix" names in the series) alludes to the "rix" suffix (meaning "king") present in the names of many real Gaulish chieftains such as Vercingetorix, Orgetorix, and Dumnorix. In some of the stories, they travel to foreign countries, while other tales are set in and around their village. For much of the history of the series (volumes 4 through 29), settings in Gaul and abroad alternated, with even-numbered volumes set abroad and odd-numbered volumes set in Gaul, mostly in the village. The Asterix series is one of the most popular Franco-Belgian comics in the world, with the series being translated into 111 languages and dialects as of 2009[update].[3] The success of the series has led to the adaptation of its books into 15 films: ten animated, and five live action (two of which, Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra and Asterix and Obelix vs. Caesar, were major box office successes in France). There have also been a number of games based on the characters, and a theme park near Paris, Parc Astérix. The very first French satellite, Astérix, launched in 1965, was named after the character. As of 20 April 2022, 385 million copies of Asterix books had been sold worldwide and translated in 111 languages making it the world's most widely translated comic book series.[4] with co-creators René Goscinny and Albert Uderzo being France's best-selling authors abroad.[5][6] In April 2022, Albert and René's general director Cécile Surugue hosted a 45-minute talk titled "The Next Incarnation of a Heritage Franchise: Asterix" and spoke about the success of the Asterix franchise of which he noted "The idea was to find a subject with a strong connection with French culture and while looking at the country's history, they ended up choosing its first defeat, namely the Gaul's Roman colonisation". He also went on to say how since 1989, Parc Astérix attracts an average of 2.3 million visitors per year. Other notable mentions were how the franchise includes 10 animated movies, which recorded over 53 million viewers worldwide. The inception of Studios Idéfix in 1974 and the opening of Studio 58 in 2016 were among the necessary steps to make Asterix a "100% Gaulish production", considered the best solution to keep the creative process under control from start to finish and to employ French manpower. He also noted how a new album is now published every two years, with print figures of 5 million and an estimate readership of 20 million.[7] History Evariste Vital Luminai's (1821–1896) paintings of Gaul had been rather popular in France and are a possible model for the Asterix series.[8] Prior to creating the Asterix series, Goscinny and Uderzo had previously had success with their series Oumpah-pah, which was published in Tintin magazine.[9] Asterix was originally serialised in Pilote magazine, debuting in the first issue on 29 October 1959.[10] In 1961 the first book was put together, titled Asterix the Gaul. From then on, books were released generally on a yearly basis. Their success was exponential; the first book sold 6,000 copies in its year of publication; a year later, the second sold 20,000. In 1963, the third sold 40,000; the fourth, released in 1964, sold 150,000. A year later, the fifth sold 300,000; 1966's Asterix and the Big Fight sold 400,000 upon initial publication. The ninth Asterix volume, when first released in 1967, sold 1.2 million copies in two days. Uderzo's first preliminary sketches portrayed Asterix as a huge and strong traditional Gaulish warrior. But Goscinny had a different picture in his mind, visualizing Asterix as a shrewd, compact warrior who would possess intelligence and wit more than raw strength. However, Uderzo felt that the downsized hero needed a strong but dim companion, to which Goscinny agreed. Hence, Obelix was born.[11] Despite the growing popularity of Asterix with the readers, the financial backing for the publication Pilote ceased. Pilote was taken over by Georges Dargaud.[11] When Goscinny died in 1977, Uderzo continued the series by popular demand of the readers, who implored him to continue to issue new volumes of the series, but on a less frequent basis. Many critics and fans of the series prefer the earlier collaborations with Goscinny.[12] Uderzo created his own publishing company, Éditions Albert René, which published every album drawn and written by Uderzo alone since then.[11] However, Dargaud, the initial publisher of the series, kept the publishing rights on the 24 first albums made by both Uderzo and Goscinny. In 1990, the Uderzo and Goscinny families decided to sue Dargaud to take over the rights. In 1998, after a long trial, Dargaud lost the rights to publish and sell the albums. Uderzo decided to sell these rights to Hachette instead of Albert-René, but the publishing rights on new albums were still owned by Albert Uderzo (40%), Sylvie Uderzo (20%) and Anne Goscinny (40%).[citation needed] In December 2008, Uderzo sold his stake to Hachette, which took over the company.[13] In a letter published in the French newspaper Le Monde in 2009, Uderzo's daughter, Sylvie, attacked her father's decision to sell the family publishing firm and the rights to produce new Astérix adventures after his death. She said: ... the co-creator of Astérix, France's comic strip hero, has betrayed the Gaulish warrior to the modern-day Romans - the men of industry and finance.[14][15] However, René Goscinny's daughter, Anne, also gave her agreement to the continuation of the series and sold her rights at the same time. She is reported to have said that "Asterix has already had two lives: one during my father's lifetime and one after it. Why not a third?".[16] A few months later, Uderzo appointed three illustrators, who had been his assistants for many years, to continue the series.[12] In 2011, Uderzo announced that a new Asterix album was due out in 2013, with Jean-Yves Ferri writing the story and Frédéric Mébariki drawing it.[17] A year later, in 2012, the publisher Albert-René announced that Frédéric Mébariki had withdrawn from drawing the new album, due to the pressure he felt in following in the steps of Uderzo. Comic artist Didier Conrad was officially announced to take over drawing duties from Mébariki, with the due date of the new album in 2013 unchanged.[18][19] In January 2015, after the murders of seven cartoonists at the satirical Paris weekly Charlie Hebdo, Astérix creator Albert Uderzo came out of retirement to draw two Astérix pictures honouring the memories of the victims.[20] List of titles Main article: List of Asterix volumes Numbers 1–24, 32 and 34 are by Goscinny and Uderzo, Numbers 25–31 and 33 are by Uderzo alone, Numbers 35–39 are by Jean-Yves Ferri and Didier Conrad. Years stated are for their initial album release. Asterix the Gaul (1961)[21] Asterix and the Golden Sickle (1962)[21] Asterix and the Goths (1963)[21] Asterix the Gladiator (1964)[21] Asterix and the Banquet (1965)[21] Asterix and Cleopatra (1965)[21] Asterix and the Big Fight (1966)[21] Asterix in Britain (1966)[21] Asterix and the Normans (1966)[21] Asterix the Legionary (1967)[21] Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield (1968)[21] Asterix at the Olympic Games (1968)[21] Asterix and the Cauldron (1969)[21] Asterix in Spain (1969)[21] Asterix and the Roman Agent (1970)[21] Asterix in Switzerland (1970)[21] The Mansions of the Gods (1971)[21] Asterix and the Laurel Wreath (1972)[21] Asterix and the Soothsayer (1972)[21] Asterix in Corsica (1973)[21] Asterix and Caesar's Gift (1974)[21] Asterix and the Great Crossing (1975)[21] Obelix and Co. (1976)[21] Asterix in Belgium (1979)[21] Asterix and the Great Divide (1980)[21] Asterix and the Black Gold (1981)[21] Asterix and the Magic Carpet (1982)[21] Asterix and the Secret Weapon (1991)[21] Asterix and Obelix All at Sea (1996) Asterix and the Actress (2001) Asterix and the Class Act (2003) Asterix and the Falling Sky (2005) Asterix and Obelix's Birthday: The Golden Book (2009)[22] Asterix and the Picts (2013) Asterix and the Missing Scroll (2015) Asterix and the Chariot Race (2017) Asterix and the Chieftain's Daughter (2019) Asterix and the Griffin (2021) [23] Non-canonical volumes: Asterix Conquers Rome, to be the 23rd volume, before Obelix and Co. (1976) - comic How Obelix Fell into the Magic Potion When he was a Little Boy (1989) - special issue album Uderzo Croqué par ses Amis (Uderzo sketched by his friends) (1996) - tribute album by various artists The Twelve Tasks of Asterix (2016)[24] - special issue album, illustrated text Obelix usually accompanied by Dogmatix, his little dog. (Except for Asterix and Obelix, the names of the characters change with the language. For example, Obelix's dog's name is "Dogmatix" in English, but "Idéfix" in the original French edition.) Asterix and Obelix (and sometimes other members of the village) go on various adventures both within the village and in far away lands. Places visited in the series include parts of Gaul (Lutetia, Corsica etc.), neighbouring nations (Belgium, Spain, Britain, Germany etc.), and far away lands (North America, Middle East, India etc.). The series employs science-fiction and fantasy elements in the more recent books; for instance, the use of extraterrestrials in Asterix and the Falling Sky and the city of Atlantis in Asterix and Obelix All at Sea. With rare exceptions, the ending of the albums usually shows a big banquet with the village's inhabitants gathering - the sole exception is the bard Cacofonix restrained and gagged to prevent him from singing (but in Asterix and the Normans the blacksmith Fulliautomatix was tied up). Mostly the banquets are held under the starry nights in the village, where roast boar is devoured and all (but one) are set about in merrymaking. However, there are a few exceptions, such as in Asterix and Cleopatra. Humour The humour encountered in the Asterix comics often centers around puns, caricatures, and tongue-in-cheek stereotypes of contemporary European nations and French regions. Much of the humour in the initial Asterix books was French-specific, which delayed the translation of the books into other languages for fear of losing the jokes and the spirit of the story. Some translations have actually added local humour: in the Italian translation, the Roman legionaries are made to speak in 20th-century Roman dialect, and Obelix's famous *ils sont fous* cœs romains ("These Romans are crazy") is translated properly as *Sono pazzi questi romani*, humorously alluding to the Roman abbreviation SPQR. In another example: Hiccupps are written onomatopoeically in French as hips, but in English as "hic", allowing Roman legionaries in more than one of the English translations to decline their hiccupps absurdly in Latin (*hic, haec, hoc*). The newer albums share a more universal humour, both written and visual.[27] Character names All the fictional characters in Asterix have names which are puns on their roles or personalities, and which follow certain patterns specific to nationality. Certain rules are followed (most of the time) such as Gauls (and their neighbours) having an "ix" suffix for the men and ending in "a" for the women; for example, Chief Vitalstatistix (so called due to his portly stature) and his wife Impedimenta (often at odds with the chief). The male Roman names end in "-us", echoing Latin nominative male singular form, as in Gluteus Maximus, a muscle-bound athlete whose name is literally the butt of the joke. Gothic names (present-day Germany) end in "-ic", after Gothic chiefs such as Alaric and Theoderic; for example Rhetoric the interpreter. Greek names end in "-os" or "-es"; for example, Thermos the restaurateur. British names usually end in "-ax" or "-os" and are often puns on the taxation associated with the later United Kingdom; examples include Mykingdomforanos, a British tribal chieftain, Valueddextax the druid, and Selectivemyemploymenttax the mercenary. Names of Normans end with "-af", for example Nescaf or Cenotaf. Egyptian characters often end in "-is", such as the architects Edifis and Artifis, and the scribe Exlibris. Indic names, apart from the only Indic female characters Orinjade and Lemuhnade, exhibit considerable variation; examples include Watzzinneh, Watzit, Owzaf, and Howdoo. Other nationalities are treated to pidgin translations from their language, like Huevos y Bacon, a Spanish chieftain (whose name, meaning eggs and bacon, is often guidebook Spanish for tourists), or literary and other popular media references, like Dubbleloxis (a sly reference to James Bond's codename "007").[28] Most of these jokes, and hence the names of the characters, are specific to the translation; for example, the druid named Getafix in English translation ("get a fix", referring to the character's role in dispensing the magic potion - is Panoramix in the original French and Miraculix in German.[29] Even so, occasionally the wordplay has been preserved: Obelix's dog, known in the original French as Idéfix (from idée fixe, a "fixed idea" or obsession), is called Dogmatix in English, which not only renders the original meaning strikingly closely ("dogmatic") but in fact adds another layer of wordplay with the syllable "dog" at the beginning of the name. The name Asterix, French from *astérisque*, meaning "asterisk", which is the typographical symbol "*" indicating a footnote, from the Greek word ἀστὴρ (*astēr*), meaning a "star". His name is usually left unchanged in translations, aside from accents and the use of local alphabets. For example, in Esperanto, Polish, Slovene, Latvian, and Turkish it is Asteriks (in Turkish he was first named Bıcur meaning "shorty", but the name was then standardised). Two exceptions include Icelandic, in which he is known as Astríkur ("Rich of love"), and Sinhala, where he is known as ඔබ්ලික්ස් (Soora Pappa), which can be interpreted as "Hero". The name Obelix (Obélix) may refer to "obelisk", a stone column from ancient Egypt, but also to another typographical symbol, the obelisk or obelus (†). For explanations of some of the other names, see List of Asterix characters. Ethnic stereotypes Many of the Asterix adventures take place in other countries away from their homeland in Gaul. In every album that takes place abroad, the characters meet (usually modern-day) stereotypes for each country, as seen by the French. Italics (Italians) are the inhabitants of Italy. In the adventures of Asterix, the term "Romans" is used by non-Italics to refer to all inhabitants of Italy, who at that time had extended their dominion over a large part of the Mediterranean basin. But as can be seen in Asterix and the Chariot Race, in the Italic peninsula this term is used only to refer to the people from the capital, with many Italics preferring to identify themselves as Umbrians, Etruscans, Venetians, etc. Various topics from this country are explored, as in this example, Italian gastronomy (pasta, pizza, wine), art, famous people (Pavarotti, Berlusconi, Mona Lisa), and even the controversial issue of political corruption.Romans in general appear more similar to the historical Romans, than to modern-age Italians. Goths (Germans) are disciplined and militaristic, they are composed of many factions that fight amongst each other (which is a reference to Germany after Otto von Bismarck, and to East and West Germany after the Second World War), and they wear the Pickelhaube helmet common during the German Empire. In later appearances, the Goths tend to be more good-natured. Helvetians (Swiss) are neutral, eat fondue, and are obsessed with cleaning, accurate time-keeping, and banks. The Britons (English) are phlegmatic, and speak with early 20th-century aristocratic slang (similar to Bertie Wooster). They stop for tea every day (making it with hot water and a drop of milk until Asterix brings them actual tea leaves), drink lukewarm beer (Bitter), eat lunch with mint sauce (Rosbif), and live in streets containing rows of identical houses. In Asterix and Obelix: God Save Britannia the Britons all wore woollen pullovers and Tam o' shanters. Hibernians (Irish) inhabit Hibernia, the Latin name of Ireland and they fight against the Romans alongside the Britons to defend the British Isles. Iberians (Spanish) are filled with pride and have rather choleric tempers. They produce olive oil, provide very slow aid for chariot problems on the Roman roads and (thanks to Asterix and Obelix) adopt bullfighting as a tradition. When the Gauls visited North America in Asterix and the Great Crossing, Obelix punches one of the attacking Native Americans with a knockout blow. The warrior first hallucinates American-style emblematic eagles; the second time, he sees stars in the formation of the Stars and Stripes; the third time, he sees stars shaped like the United States Air Force roundel. Asterix's inspired idea for getting the attention of a nearby Viking ship (which could take them back to Gaul) is to hold up a torch; this refers to the Statue of Liberty (which was a gift from France). Corsicans are proud, patriotic, and easily aroused but lazy, making decisions by using pre-filled ballot boxes. They harbour vendettas against each other, and always take their siesta. Greeks are chauvinists and consider Romans, Gauls, and all others to be barbarians. They eat stuffed grape leaves (dolma), drink resinated wine (retsina), and are hospitable to tourists. Most seem to be related by blood, and often suggest some cousin appropriate for a job. Greek characters are often depicted in side profile, making them resemble figures from classical Greek vase paintings. Normans (Vikings) drink endlessly, they always use cream in their cuisine, they don't know what fear is (which they're trying to discover), and in their home territory (Scandinavia), the night lasts for 6 months. Their depiction in the albums is a mix of stereotypes of Swedish Vikings and the Norman French. Cimbres (Danes) are very similar to the Normans with the greatest difference being that the Gauls are unable to communicate with them. Their names end in "-sen", a common ending of surnames in Denmark and Norway akin to "-son". Belgians speak with a funny accent, snub the Gauls, and always eat sliced roots deep-fried in bear fat. They also tell Belgian jokes. Lusitanians (Portuguese) are short in stature and have a very large nose. Indians have elephant trainers, as well as gurus who can fast for weeks and levitate on magic carpets. They worship thirty-three million deities and consider cows as sacred. They also bathe in the Ganges river. Egyptians are short with prominent noses, endlessly engaged in building pyramids and palaces. Their favorite food is lentil soup and they sail feluccas along the banks of the Nile River. Persians (Iranians) produce carpets and staunchly refuse to mend foreign ones. They eat caviar, as well as roasted camel and the women wear burqas. Hittites (Turks), Sumerians, Akkadians, Assyrians, and Babylonians (the last four peoples: Iraqis) are perpetually at war with each other and attack strangers because they confuse them with their enemies, but they later apologize when they realize that the strangers are not their enemies. This is likely a criticism of the constant conflicts among the Middle Eastern peoples. The Jews are all depicted as Yemenite Jews, with dark skin, black eyes, and beards, a tribute to Marc Chagall, the famous painter whose painting of King David hangs at the Knesset (Israeli Parliament). Numidians, contrary to the Berber inhabitants of ancient Numidia (located in North Africa), are obviously Africans from sub-Saharan Africa. The names end in "-tha", similar to the historical king Jugurtha of Numidia. The Picts (Scots) wear a typical dress with a kilt (skirt), have the habit of drinking "malt water" (whisky) and throwing logs (caber tossing) as a popular sport and their names all start with "Mac-". Sarmatians (Ukrainians), inhabit the North Black Sea area, which represents present-day Ukraine. Their names end in "-ov", like many Ukrainian surnames. When the Gauls see foreigners speaking their foreign languages, these have different representations in the cartoon speech bubbles: Iberian: Same as Spanish, with inversion of exclamation marks ("¡") and question marks ("¿") Goth language: Gothic script (incomprehensible to the Gauls, except Getafix, who speaks Gothic) Viking (Normans and Cimbres): "O" and "A" instead of "O" and "A" (incomprehensible to the Gauls) Amerindian: Pictograms and sign language (generally incomprehensible to the Gauls) Egyptians and Kushites: Hieroglyphs with explanatory footnotes (incomprehensible to the Gauls) Greek: Straight letters, carved as if in stone Sarmatian: In their speech balloons, some letters (E, F, N, R, ...) are written in a mirror-reversed form, which evokes the modern Cyrillic alphabet. Translations The various volumes have been translated into more than 100 languages and dialects. Besides the original French language, most albums are available in Bengali, Estonian, English, Czech, Dutch, German, Galician, Danish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Spanish, Catalan, Basque, Portuguese, Italian, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, Turkish, Slovene, Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Latvian, Welsh,[30] as well as Latin.[31] Selected albums have also been translated into languages such as Esperanto, Scottish Gaelic, Irish, Scots, Indonesian, Persian, Mandarin, Korean, Japanese, Bengali, Afrikaans, Arabic, Hindi, Hebrew, Frisian, Romansch, Vietnamese, Sinhala, Ancient Greek, and Luxembourgish.[30] In Europe, several volumes were translated into a variety of regional languages and dialects, such as Alsatian, Breton, Chimi (Picard), and Corsican in France; Bavarian, Swabian, and Low German

