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opening extract from

The Adventures of Tintin: Volume Four

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Hergé

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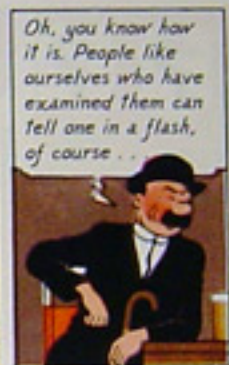
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THE CRAB WITH THE GOLDEN CLAWS





THE SHOOTING STAR





Very odd! Why did they ring off so abruptly? ... Grumbs, how hot it is! Phew! ...



I can't believe my eyes! It's getting bigger every minute!



All very peculiar ... and I'm going to get to the bottom of it. Come on, Snowy ... to the Observatory.



Definitely, it's bigger than ever! ...



I'd like to have a word with the Director, please.

Impossible. The Director is engaged.



?



That's the limit! Slamming the door in my face!

What a nerve!



You again? ... I told you before, the Director's engaged. That doesn't matter now ... The Observatory's on fire!



Good gracious! Where? Here, come and look ...



?!



How strangely quiet and empty it all is ... as if there weren't a soul ...



Ah, there's somebody.

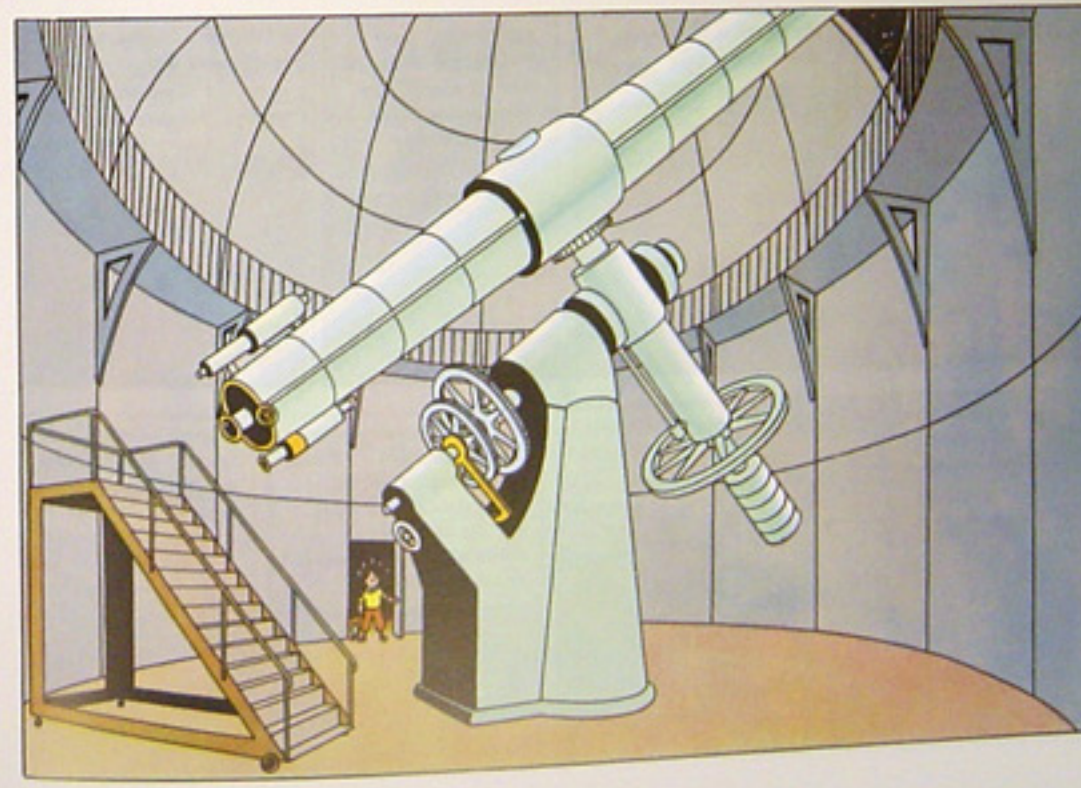
A judgement! Woe!



Excuse me, sir, could you tell me ... That's what I told them: 'It's a judgement!'



A judgement! Yea! ... A judgement, and don't you forget it!



THE SECRET OF THE UNICORN



NEWS IN BRIEF

AN alarming rise in the number of robberies has been reported in the past few weeks. Daring pickpockets are operating in the larger stores, the cinemas and street markets. A well-organised gang is believed to be at work. The police are using their best men to put a stop to this public scandal.

We must keep our eyes open, and catch these crooks.



How about starting in the Old Street Market? Tintin said he was going there this morning. Perhaps we'll meet him.



Why, there are Thomson and Thompson.



Hello! ... How are you?

Look who's here!

Tintin!

What are you doing here? Looking for bargains?

Sh! ... Highly confidential! ... Special operation: pickpockets.

But that didn't stop us from finding this job: lot of walking sticks ...



How much?

Eight bob for the lot.



Six shillings.

Seven ... but I'm robbin' meself ...



