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opening extract from

The Adventures of Tintin: Volume Six

written by

Hergé

published by

Egmont Children's Books

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TRANSLATED BY LESLIE LONSDALE-COOPER AND MICHAEL TURNER

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First published in this edition 2007 by Egmont UK Limited
239 Kensington High Street, London W8 6SA

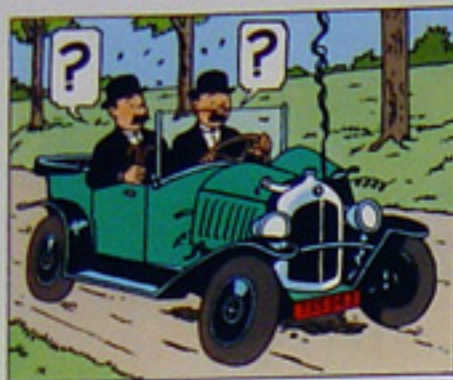
ISBN 978 1 4052 2899 2

Printed in Spain
3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

LAND OF BLACK GOLD

الذَّهَبُ الاسْوَدَّ





Now I understand why they call it an internal combustion engine!
This is no time for cheap jokes! We need a breakdown gang...

Precisely... But where from?
Hmm... yes

Saved! ... Look! ... There's a telephone box.



Hello... Autocart to the rescue! ... Yes... Yes... the B0493... 8 miles... Yes... Mr Thompson.

Well? ... A breakdown truck will be here in half an hour.

Let's have a cigarette while we wait...

Thanks.

CLICK



Next morning...
'Crisis deepens - official' 'On the brink of war?' 'Are we prepared?'... 'Call-up for army reserve' 'Forces on standby' Things look bright, I must say

RRRRING
RRRRING
Yes... Tintin here... Oh, hello Captain... How are you?... Any news?

I've just had Admiralty orders: 'Captain Haddock. Immediate. Proceed to assume command of merchant vessel blank blank' (the name's secret, of course) 'at blank, where you will receive further orders.' So that's that... I've been mobilised! ... No, there won't be time to see you. I'm off right away... I'll keep in touch... 'Bye, Tintin.

Goodbye, Captain, and good luck. Let's hope it's only a false alarm...
RRRRING

Hello!
Good morning. What news?

What news! Plenty! Something very odd has just happened!
To be precise... we just happen to be very odd!
Really? Tell me about it. Come on in...

Well, we'd just filled up with petrol and were driving peacefully along, when all of a sudden, without a word of warning... our car went...



It seems to be catching!

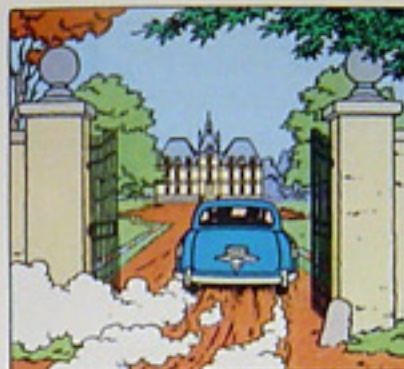
It certainly is... That's exactly what happened to us!
Yes. And that's not all...

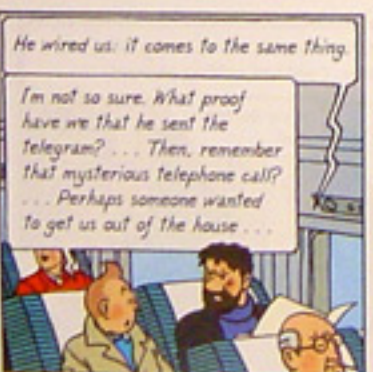
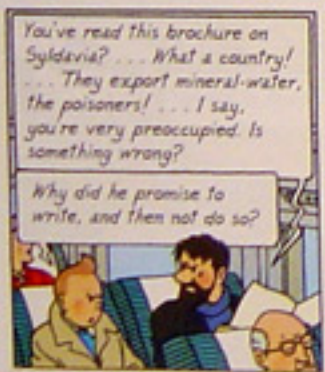
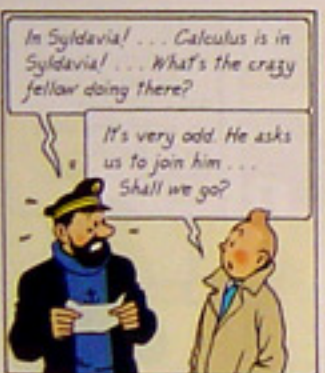
A few minutes later my cigarette lighter, filled at the same pump, blew up in my hands...
The petrol... it must have been...

... doctored, yes! ... That's what suddenly occurred to us... And if it was doctored, it must have been done by someone with an interest in wrecked cars. Remember the old police maxim: Who profits from the crime?

Now, who stands to gain from this business? ... Who, eh? ... I'll tell you! ... The breakdown people, Autocart!

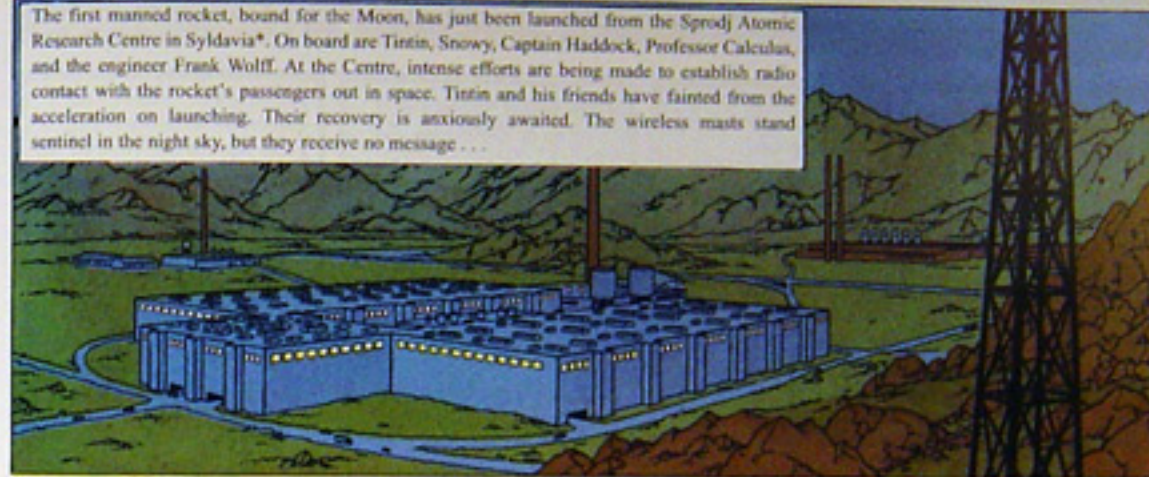
DESTINATION MOON





EXPLORERS ON THE MOON

The first manned rocket, bound for the Moon, has just been launched from the Sprodj Atomic Research Centre in Syldavia*. On board are Tintin, Snowy, Captain Haddock, Professor Calculus, and the engineer Frank Wolff. At the Centre, intense efforts are being made to establish radio contact with the rocket's passengers out in space. Tintin and his friends have fainted from the acceleration on launching. Their recovery is anxiously awaited. The wireless masts stand sentinel in the night sky, but they receive no message . . .



* See Destination Moon

