

AN ASTERIX
ADVENTURE

Asterix

THE GLADIATOR



DARGAUD

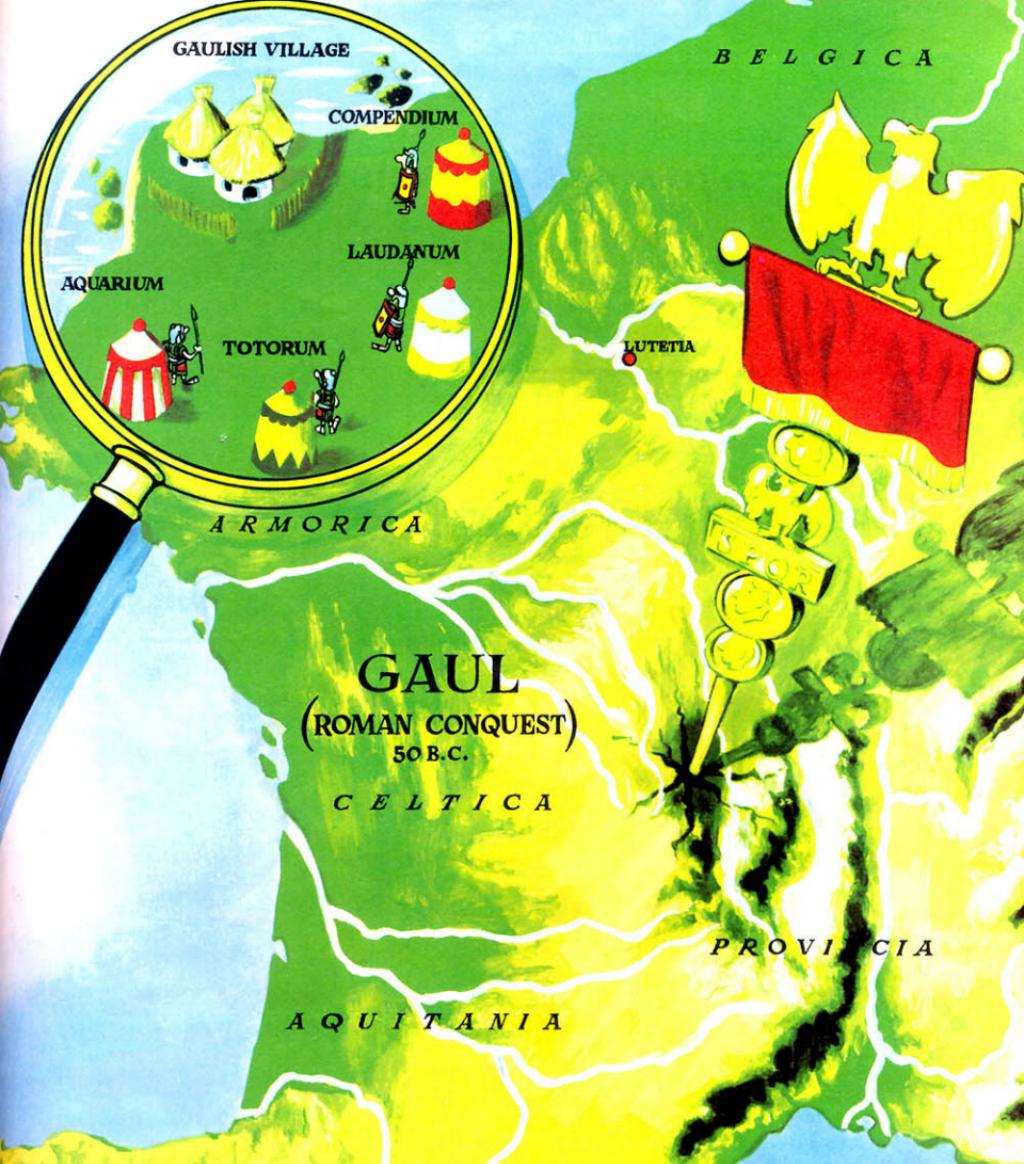
ASTERIX THE GLADIATOR

TEXT BY GOSCINNY

DRAWINGS BY UDERZO

TRANSLATED BY ANTHEA BELL AND DEREK HOCKRIDGE



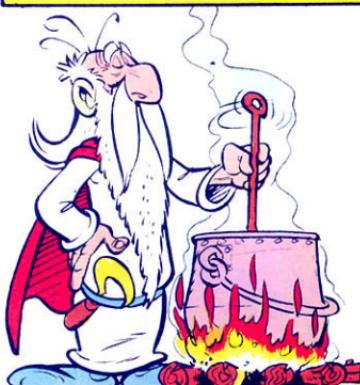


The year is 50 BC. Gaul is entirely occupied by the Romans. Well, not entirely... One small village of indomitable Gauls still holds out against the invaders. And life is not easy for the Roman legionaries who garrison the fortified camps of Totorum, Aquarium, Laudanum and Compendium...



a few of the Gauls

Asterix, the hero of these adventures. A shrewd, cunning little warrior; all perilous missions are immediately entrusted to him. Asterix gets his superhuman strength from the magic potion brewed by the druid Getafix...



Getafix, the venerable village druid. Gathers mistletoe and brews magic potions. His speciality is the potion which gives the drinker superhuman strength. But Getafix also has other recipes up his sleeve...



Cacofonix, the bard. Opinion is divided as to his musical gifts. Cacofonix thinks he's a genius. Everyone else thinks he's unspeakable. But so long as he doesn't speak, let alone sing, everybody likes him...



Obelix, Asterix's inseparable friend. A menhir delivery-man by trade; addicted to wild boar. Obelix is always ready to drop everything and go off on a new adventure with Asterix – so long as there's wild boar to eat, and plenty of fighting.



Finally, Vitalstatistix, the chief of the tribe. Majestic, brave and hot-tempered, the old warrior is respected by his men and feared by his enemies. Vitalstatistix himself has only one fear; he is afraid the sky may fall on his head tomorrow. But as he always says, 'Tomorrow never comes.'

THE ROMAN CAMP OF CONFIDENCE IS IN A FERMENT.
THE PREFECT OF GAUL, ONLIS ASPARAGUS, IS PAYING A
CALL ON CENTURION GRACCHUS ARMISURPUS.
THE PREFECT ARRIVES FROM THE NEARBY COAST
WHERE HIS GALLEY HAS PUT IN...

PRESENT...
PILUM!...



AVE, PREFECT!
THIS IS A GREAT
HONOUR FOR
ME!

AVE, CENTURION!
YOU'RE TELLING
ME!



AND NOW FOR THE
PURPOSE OF MY VISIT, CENTURION!
I'M GOING TO ROME ON LEAVE,
AND CUSTOM DECREES THAT I TAKE
CAESAR A HANDSOME PRESENT...
SOMETHING UNUSUAL AND
VERY VALUABLE...



... I DID THINK OF TAKING
HIM A PRESENT FROM
LUTETIA, MAYBE A MARBLE
MEMO TABLET FOR HIM TO
CARVE DOWN HIS
APPOINTMENTS, BUT THAT'S
TOO ORDINARY...



THEN I HAD A BRILLIANT IDEA!
WHY NOT TAKE CAESAR ONE OF THE
INVINCIBLE GAULS FROM HEREABOUTS?



BUT, PREFECT, ABOUT
THESE INVINCIBLE GAULS
... THERE'S JUST ONE
SNAG!



THEY HAPPEN
TO BE
INVINCIBLE!

THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM
SO VALUABLE! GET ME ONE OF
THESE GAULS, AND YOU
WONT REGRET IT!



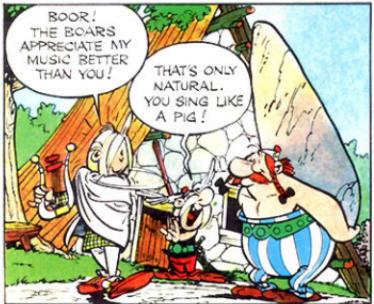
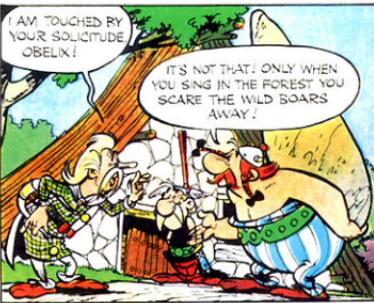
THERE'S CERTAINLY ONE
WHO'S A BIT MORE HARMLESS
THAN THE OTHERS... CACOFONIX
THE BARD. HE OFTEN GOES FOR
WALKS IN THE FOREST BY HIMSELF
LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION!

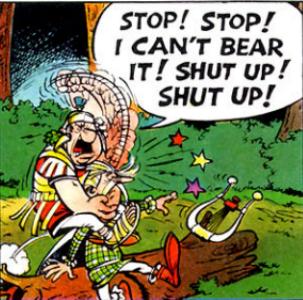


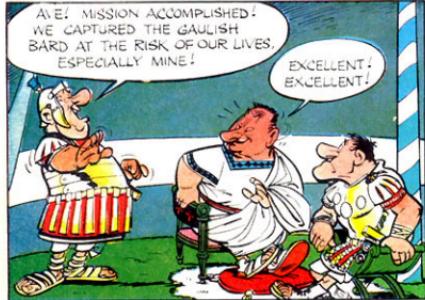
AND IN THE GAULISH
VILLAGE...



SCANNED BY SOLOMONGRUNDIFIK — E PLURIBUS HACSA!!!









A GAUL MUST KNOW
HOW TO MAKE HIS ENEMY
RESPECT HIM! WE SHALL
ORGANIZE A PUNITIVE
EXPEDITION! LET THE DRUID
PREPARE THE MAGIC POTION!

SOON AFTERWARDS THE GAULISH
WARRIOR ARE DRINKING THE
MAGIC POTION WHICH GIVES THEM
INVINCIBLE STRENGTH ...



IN THE ROMAN CAMP OF
COMPENDIUM THE TROOPS
HAVE BEEN ALERTED...



THIS IS THE FIRST TIME CACOFONIX HAS EVER GIVEN US ANY ENTERTAINMENT!

I SAY ASTERIX!
HOW ABOUT A BET?
THE ONE WHO KNOWS OUT MOST LEGIONARIES WINS, AND WE HAVE TO COLLECT THEIR HELMETS AS PROOF!

AT THIS VERY MOMENT,
AT CONPIDIUM...

PUT YOUR HELMETS ON!!!

THE GAU...GAULS!
SOUND THE ALARM!

HELP! THEY'RE COMING!

AND INSIDE THE CAMP WE OBSERVE THE IMPRESSIVE SPECTACLE OF LEGIONARIES MANOEUVRING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMOUS PRECISION OF THE ROMAN ARMY...

COHORTS INTO THREE LINES... FORM!

SOUND THE HORNS, TRUMPETS AND BUCINAS!

PILUM AT THE READY!

MANOEUVRE,
BY JUPITER!!!

WE CAN'T!
THE GAULS ARE IN THE WAY!

WHOOOOOSH!

THE BATTLE IS SHORT...



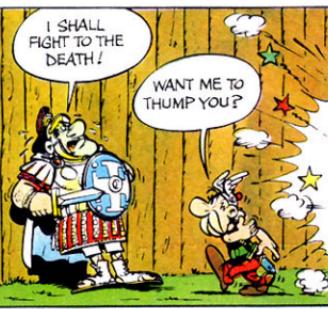
BUT SHARP...



I CAN'T FIND
CACOFONIX
ANYWHERE...
AH, THERE'S THE
ROMAN COMMANDER!



I SHALL
FIGHT TO THE
DEATH!



OH ALL RIGHT! ALL IS LOST!
I SURRENDER! ALEA JACTA EST!

AND LET IT BE
A LESSON TO YOU!
NOW, GIVE US BACK
OUR BARD, AND
DON'T DO IT
AGAIN!



THE FACT IS... YOUR
BARD ISN'T HERE ANY
MORE. AT THIS MOMENT
HE'S ON BOARD A GALLEY,
SAILING FOR ROME TO
BE GIVEN TO CAESAR
AS A PRESENT...



WE'RE WASTING
OUR TIME...

A PRESENT?
THAT'S A
REALLY FUNNY IDEA!



LOOK AT THIS, ASTERIX! I'M
SURE I'VE WON OUR BET!
AND ONE LEGIONARY WAS
FIGHTING BARE-HEADED
TOO. IT'S AGAINST ALL THE
RULES OF WARFARE TO
GO INTO BATTLE IMPROPERLY DRESSED. I'VE A
GOOD MIND TO REPORT
HIM!



THE GAULS WITHDRAW,
LEAVING BEHIND THEM THE
AFTERTHOUGH OF BATTLE...

THEY REALLY
LET US HAVE
IT, EH,
SIR?



LATER, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

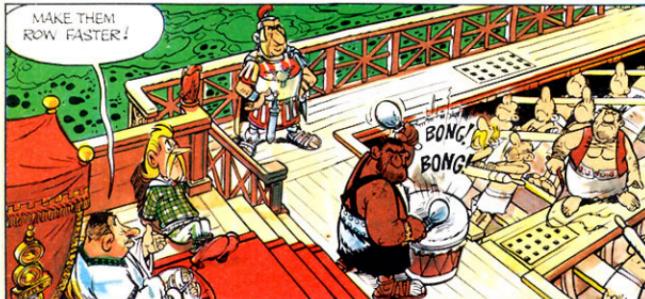
POOR CAEOFONIX,
PRISONER ON BOARD
A ROMAN GALLEY!

HE WAS SO NICE!
SCRUNCH! SO WELL
BROUGHT UP! NEVER
SANG WITH HIS MOUTH
FULL! SCRUNCH! PITY HE
DIDN'T EAT MUCH...
SCRUNCH!

MEANWHILE...



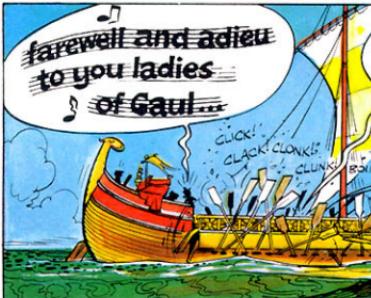
MAKE THEM ROW FASTER!



*farewell and adieu
to you fair Celtic ladies...*



*farewell and adieu
to you ladies
of Gaul...*



STOP!
MERCY!

WE'D RATHER HAVE THE WHIP!

OUR WORK ISN'T ALL FUN
AND GAMES, BUT THIS IS
INHUMAN! IF THE GAUL WILL
SHUT UP WE PROMISE TO
ROW OUR HARDEST!



YOU IGNORANT LOT! YOU BRUTES!
YOU'LL ALL END UP IN THE...WELL,
YOU ALREADY HAVE!



I'M BEGINNING
TO WONDER IF
CAESAR REALLY DOES
DESERVE THIS...



OEEELIX! WE
MUST GO TO ROME
AND RESCUE
CACOFONIX!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT BY
ME... SCRUNCH! SCRUNCH!
...BUT HOW DO WE GET THERE?
IT'S A LONG WAY! SCRUNCH-

...AND SO WELL
GO DOWN TO THE
BEACH AND TAKE
THE FIRST
BOAT FOR
ROME!

IT'S RISKY,
ASTERIX, BUT YOU'RE
RIGHT; WE CAN'T LEAVE
OUR BARD IN THE LURCH.
HE SINGS ATROCIOUSLY,
BUT HE'S A GOOD
SORT...

AN
EXCELLENT
SORT!

YOU COME WITH
ME, ASTERIX, AND
I'LL MAKE YOU A
GOURD OF MAGIC
POTION...

I'LL JUST GO AND
FIND SOMEONE
TO DELIVER MY
MENHIRS WHILE
I'M AWAY...

I DON'T KNOW
THAT I'M CUT
OUT FOR THIS
SORT OF WORK.

I'M RELYING ON
YOU. YOU NEEDN'T
DELIVER MORE
THAN ONE AT A
TIME TO START
WITH

COME ON,
OEEELIX, IT'S
TIME TO
LEAVE!

COMING,
ASTERIX!

TAKE CARE!

DON'T WORRY!
IF THE ROMANS
AREN'T NICE TO US
WE'LL LEAVE THEIR
CITY FULL OF
RUINS!

N...
ASTERIX, WHAT'S
THE LATIN FOR
WILD BOAR?

SINGULARIS PORCUS.
BUT I DON'T KNOW IF
THEY HAVE THEM IN
ROME

NOW WE HAVE
TO WAIT FOR
A SHIP...

LET'S HAVE A BET WHILE
WE WAIT. WE SEE HOW MANY
DOZEN OYSTERS WE CAN EAT, AND
THE ONE WHO EATS MOST WINS A
SINGULARIS PORCUS.

LOOK!
A SHIP!
WE'RE IN LUCK!

WHY DON'T WE
WAIT FOR THE NEXT ONE?
THEN WE COULD HAVE
OUR BET!

NOW TO STOP
THIS SHIP
SAILING ALONG
THE COAST!



ASTERIX AND OBELIX MAKE THE ANCIENT GALLISH SIGN INDICATING A WISH TO BE TAKEN ON BOARD... NOTE THE FOUR CLENCHED FINGERS AND THE THUMB JERKED IN THE DESIRED DIRECTION. IF YOU WISH TO GO TO ROME, THE DIRECTION OF THE THUMB IS IMMATERIAL, SINCE ALL ROADS LEAD THERE

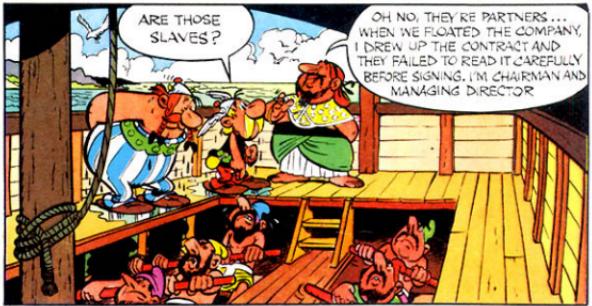
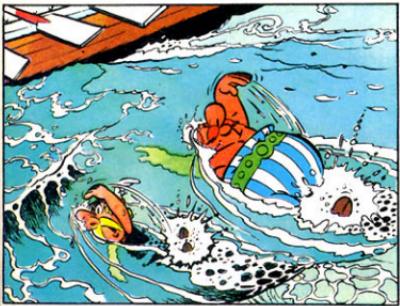
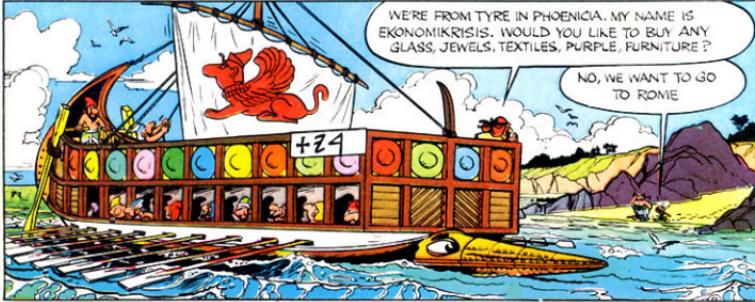


N.B. THIS GESTURE IS STILL EMPLOYED TODAY, THOUGH NOT OFTEN TO STOP SHIPS

IT'S A PHOENICIAN GALLEY. THE PHOENICIANS ARE FAMOUS SAILORS AND MERCHANTS.

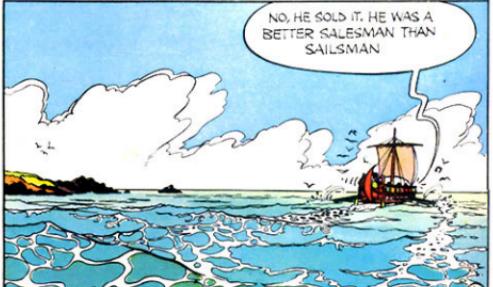


WHAT'S THE PHOENICIAN FOR SINGULARIS PORCUS?

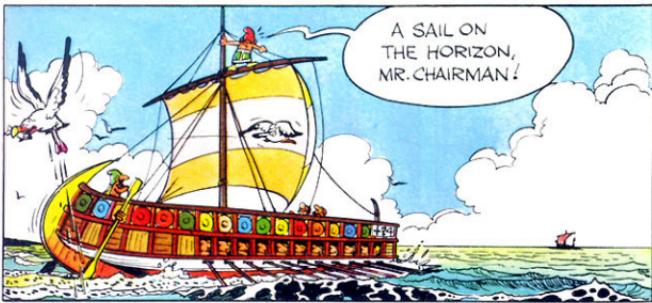


IT'S KIND OF YOU TO TAKE US TO ROME. I HOPE IT DOESN'T MEAN GOING OUT OF YOUR WAY?

AS IT HAPPENS, WE WERE PLANNING TO GO TO ROME. ONE OF MY PREDECESSORS ABANDONED HIS SHIP THERE...



NO, HE SOLD IT. HE WAS A BETTER SALESMAN THAN SAILSMAN

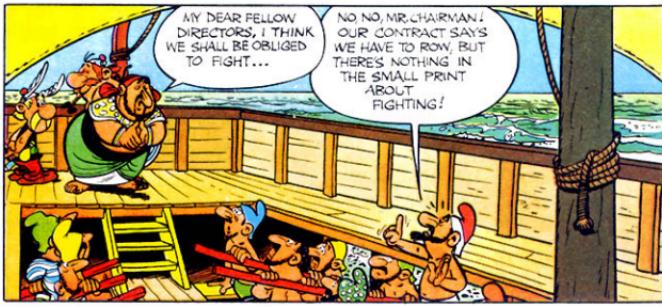


SURE ENOUGH, ON BOARD THE PIRATE GALLEY...

SHIVER ME TIMBERS,
WE'VE GOT 'EM ME HEARTIES.
PULL AWAY! THAT HEAVY
PHOENICIAN SHIP WITH
ALL ITS CARGO
WILL NEVER
ESCAPE US!

LET'S PUSH
THE BOAT
OUT!

'REMBEE
HEEE!



NOW, I SUGGEST WE CHANGE
THE CONTRACT. I HAVE AN
IMPORTANT MODIFICATION TO
MAKE

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

ME TOO!

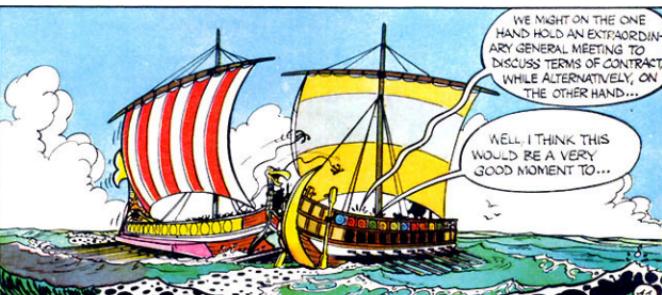
ME TOO!

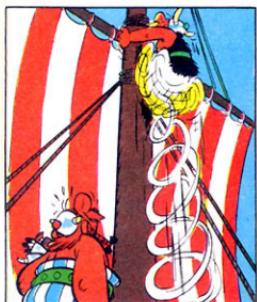
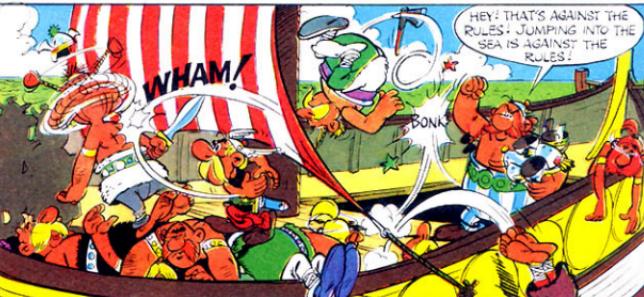
WE CAN'T COUNT
ON THESE CHATTER-
BOXES TO FIGHT.
WE'LL HAVE TO
DEAL WITH THIS
ON OUR OWN

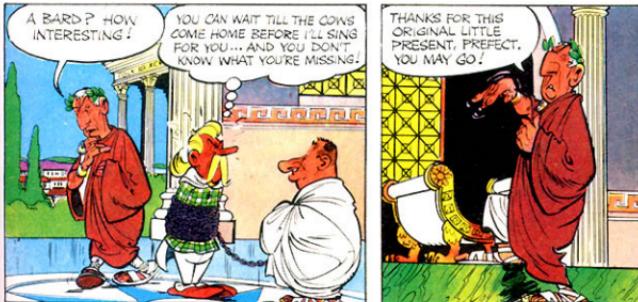
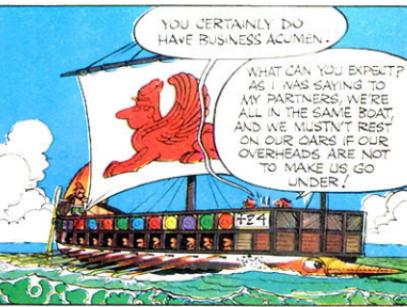
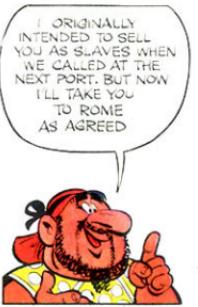
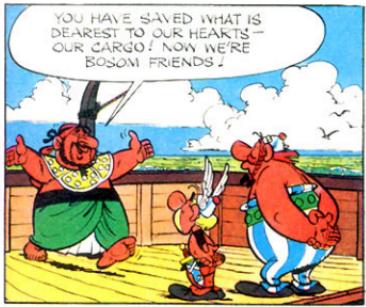
GOODY! THERE'LL BE
MORE ROOM! LOOK, HERE
COME THE PIRATES.
POOR THINGS!

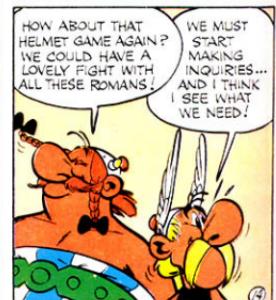
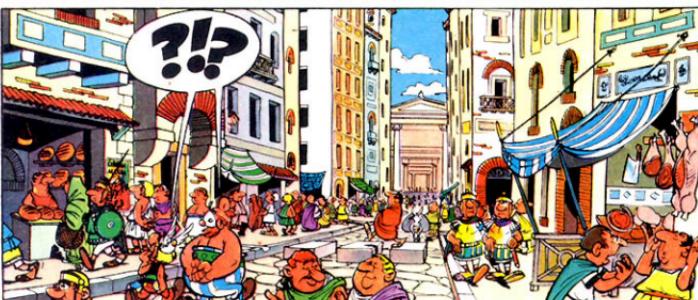
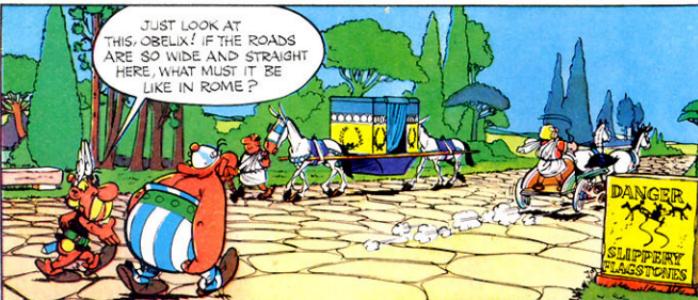
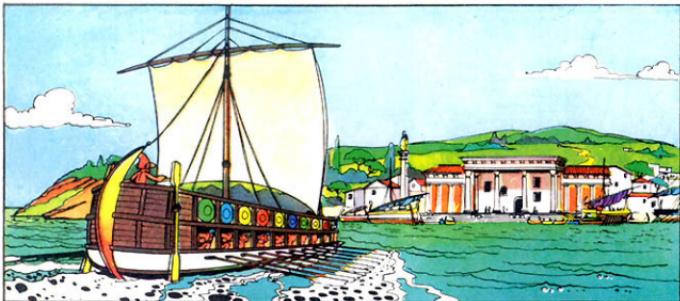
THEY'RE WEARING HELMETS!
WE CAN HAVE ANOTHER BET LIKE
WE DID WITH THE LEGIONARIES!

+29









WE SHALL FIND SOME
OF OUR FELLOW
COUNTRYMEN IN
THERE!

AND
WILD ROAR!

GAULISH RESTAURANT

RECLINE AT THIS
TABLE. I'LL BE WITH
YOU IN A MINUTE



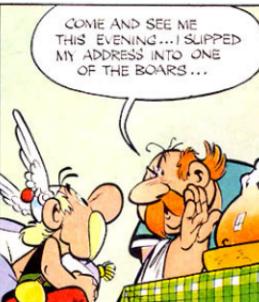
I'M TRYING TO SAVE
UP, AND THEN I SHALL
OPEN A ROMAN
RESTAURANT IN
LUTETIA



WE'RE LOOKING FOR
A FRIEND, A BARD WHO
WAS GIVEN TO JULIUS
CAESAR AS A PRESENT



???



COME AND SEE ME
THIS EVENING... I SLIPPED
MY ADDRESS INTO ONE
OF THE BOARS...



OH, THAT MUST HAVE
BEEN THE BIT THAT WAS
DIFFICULT TO SWALLOW...
BRING US YOUR ADDRESS AGAIN
INSIDE ANOTHER BOAR!

???

WELL, SO WE'VE GOT A DATE AT INSTANTMIX'S PLACE THIS EVENING. WHAT DO WE DO TILL THEN?

WE COULD GO BACK AND HAVE SOME MORE BOAR!

BOAR ON THE SPIT

THE BATHS! I'VE OFTEN HEARD ABOUT THE ROMAN BATHS! LET'S GO AND HAVE A BATH!

THE THERMAE

GO AND GET UNDRESSED IN THE APOTISTERIA

THAT MUST MEAN THE CHANGING ROOM...

THIS WAY, NOBLE LORDS!

IS IT US HE MEANS?

WE HAVEN'T GOT MUCH ON. I HOPE WE DON'T CATCH COLD!

APOTISTERIA

SYPATORIA

IT'S HOT IN HERE!

I WONDER IF WE COULD OPEN A WINDOW

LOOK, CAIUS FATOUS! YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR GLADIATORS - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THOSE TWO MEN?

INTERESTING. ESPECIALLY THE FAT ONE

LET'S TRY IN HERE... IT MAY BE COOLER

THIS WAS A FUNNY IDEA OF YOUR ASTERIX, BY TOUTATIS!

HE SAID, BY TOUTATIS... THEY'RE GAULS...

WE MAY BE HARD-BOILED, BUT THIS IS OVERDOING IT!

YOU SEEM TO BE STRANGERS HERE. I'LL GUIDE YOU ROUND THE BATHS. I COME HERE REGULARLY FOR MY HEALTH, THOUGH IT IS A BIT OF A SWEAT...

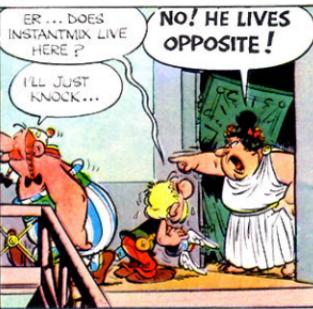
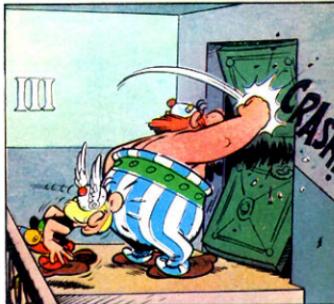
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE FRIGIDARIUM AND DIVE INTO THE POOL OF ICY WATER

ICY WATER? I'M ON MY WAY!

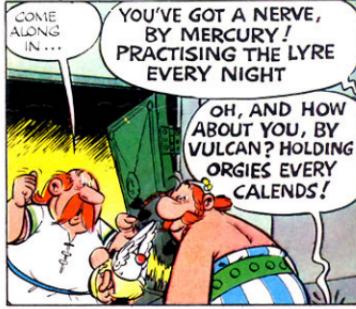
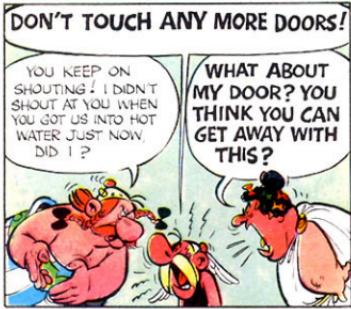
WATCH ME DIVE, ASTERIX! WATCH ME DIVE!

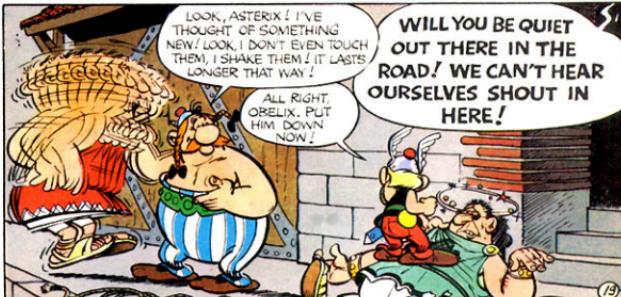
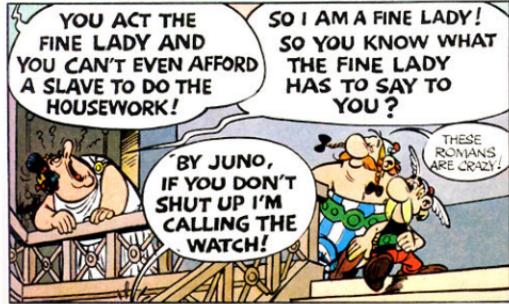
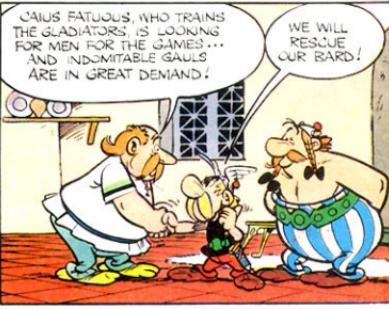






NO! HE LIVES OPPOSITE!





THIS INN OPPOSITE
THE CIRCUS WILL SUIT
US NICELY. LET'S SEE
IF THEY HAVE
ANY ROOM

RIGHT

CIRCUS
INN

I WONDER IF
THEY'LL LET US IN
AT THIS TIME
OF NIGHT...

I'LL JUST
KNOCK...

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

THAT WILL BE 20 SESTERTII
FOR THE NIGHT AND
40 SESTERTII FOR THE DOOR

MEANWHILE IN THE HOUSE OF
CAIUS FATUOUS THE GLADIATOR TRAINER...

ER... NO, ROSS... THEY
DON'T WANT TO COME

I MUST HAVE
THOSE TWO MEN!
JUMP
TO IT, EVERY-
ONE!

AND
NEXT
MORNING...

SLEEP WELL,
ASTERIX?

YES, THANK
YOU, OBELIX. LET'S
GO AND HAVE
BREAKFAST NOW

WE MUST TRY TO GET INTO
CONVERSATION WITH ONE OF
THE CIRCUS GUARDS AND FIND
OUT EXACTLY WHERE
CACOFONIX IS IMPRISONED!

WAITER! HAVE
YOU BY ANY CHANCE
GOT SOME PARSLEY?

PARSLEY?
WHAT
FOR?

FOR PUTTING IN
MY EARS! I'VE GOT
A PRISONER WHO
KEEPS ON SINGING
SOMETHING
HORRIBLE!

THAT'S CACOFONIX!
THE
DESCRIPTION FITS
ANYWAY!

LET'S TRY A FEW CRAFTY QUESTIONS ON THIS GUARD. WE MUSTN'T AROUSE HIS SUSPICIONS...

NO...

HEY, YOU! WHERE'S CAEOFONIX IMPRISONED?

?!

CELL XVIII
FIRST BASEMENT DOWN, BUT IT'S A SECRET!

THERE!

SOON AFTERWARDS...

AND NOW FOR THE CIRCUS, I'LL DRINK A LITTLE MAGIC POTION

HER'S MY PLAN - KNOCK DOWN EVERYTHING AND THEN WE FIND CAEOFONIX AND THEN WE MAKE OFF WITH HIM!

THAT'S A CLEVER PLAN!

HALT!
NO...

ENTRY!

CELL XV...
CELL XVI...
CELL XVII... WE'RE GETTING WARM!

OUR BET ABOUT THE HELMETS IS STILL ON, ISN'T IT?

CELL XVIII IS EMPTY!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

Pop!

WHERE'S THE
BARD GUARD?
THEY CHANGED HIS CELL... HE'S
SOMEWHERE IN THE THIRD
BASEMENT DOWN, NO ONE COULD
BEAR TO HEAR HIM ANY MORE.
PLEASE WOULD YOU KINDLY STOP
HITTING!

BUFF! BUFF! BUFF!
BUFF! BUFF!

SOUND THE ALARM!



LET'S GO AND ASK
OUR FRIEND
INSTANTMIX'S ADVICE...

WELL, WHAT
WERE THOSE
TWO AFTER
ANYWAY?

SOON
AFTERWARDS...

I WARNED YOU!
ONLY CONDEMNED
MEN, LIONS AND
GLADIATORS
GET INTO THAT
CIRCUS!

MEANWHILE, IN THE
HOUSE OF CAIUS FATUOS...

TWO GAULS TRYING TO
REScue THE BARD? THOSE MUST
CERTAINLY BE MY MEN, AND
THEY MUST CERTAINLY BE
INDOMITABLE GAULS!

I WANT THE WHOLE STAFF TO
COMB THE CITY IN GROUPS OF THREE!
I MUST HAVE THOSE TWO GAULS!
BRING THEM TO ME!

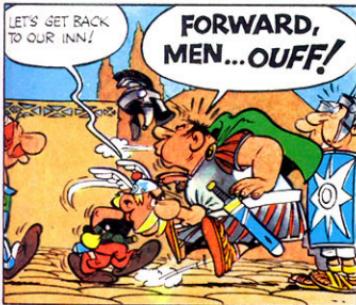
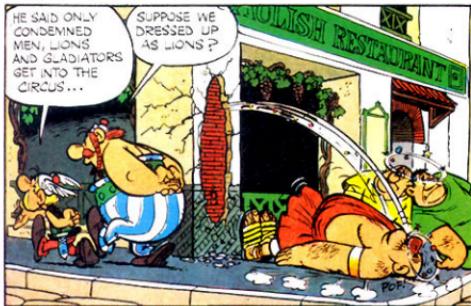
AND IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, PUT
UP NOTICES EVERYWHERE! I'M
OFFERING 10,000 SESTERTI TO ANYONE
WHO CAPTURES THESE TWO INDOMITABLE
GAULS!

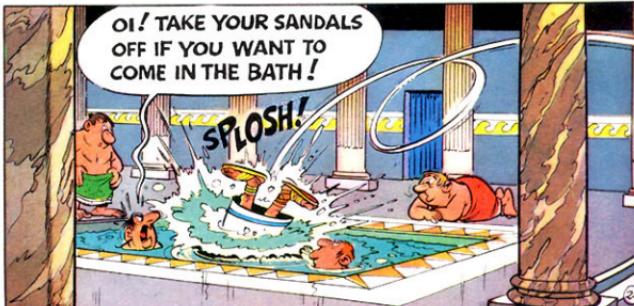
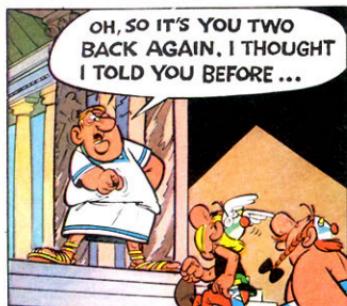
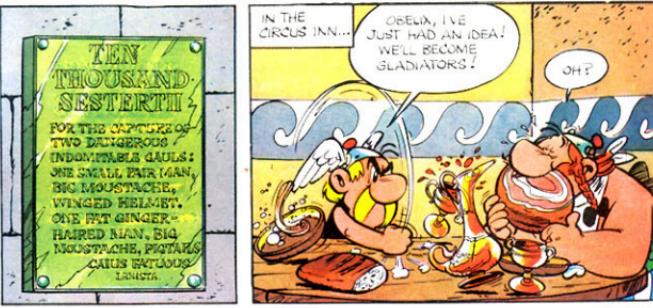
YES,
BOSS!

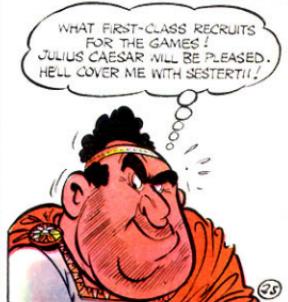
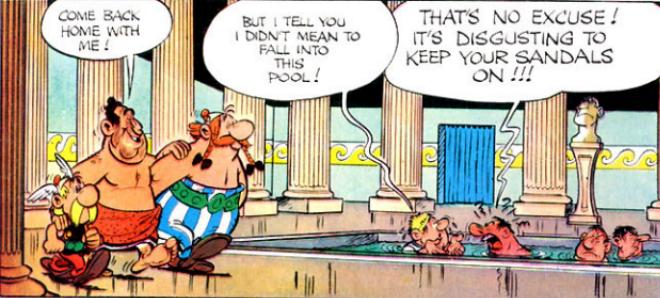
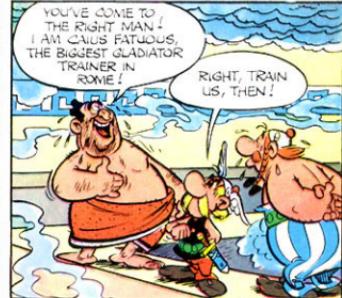
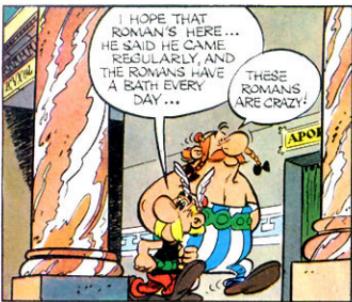
SOON
AFTERWARDS...

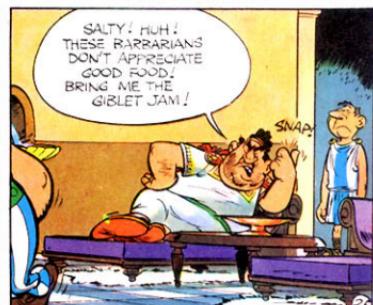
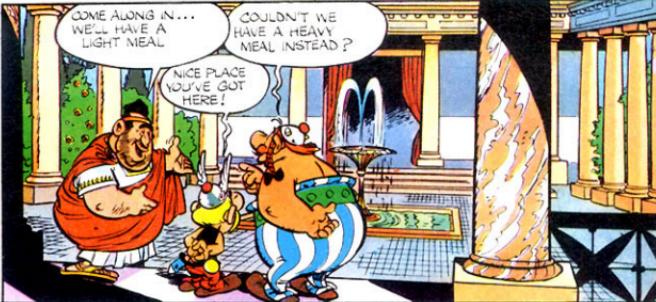
EX
GAULISH RESTAURANT

THERE
THEY ARE!





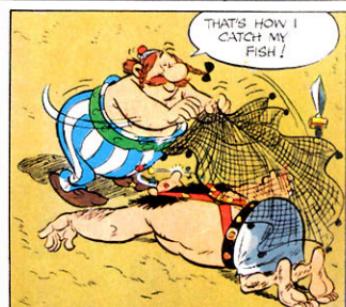
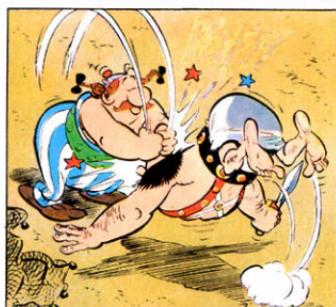


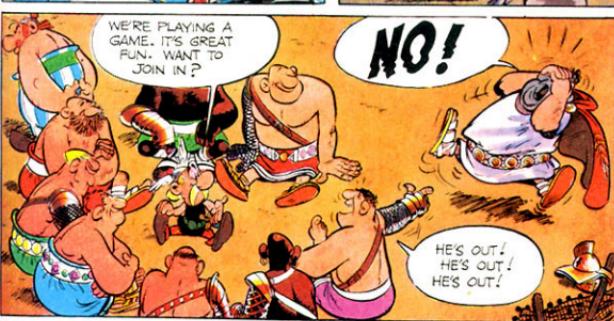
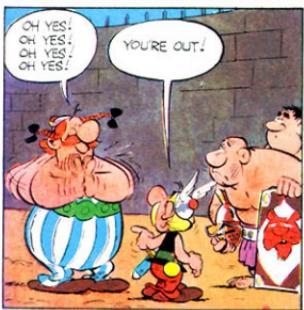


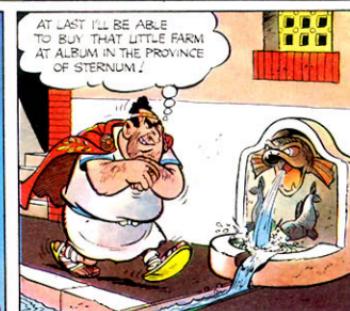
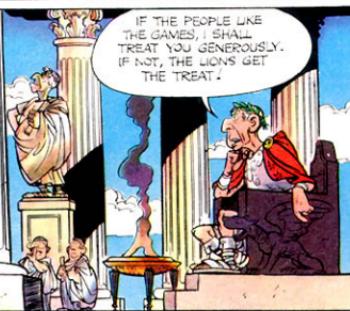
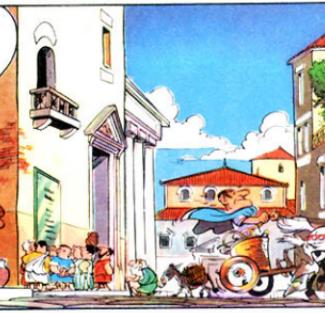
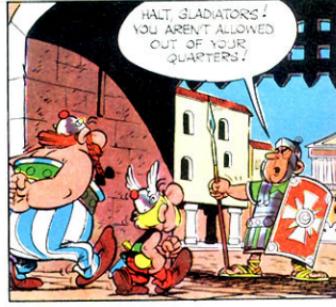
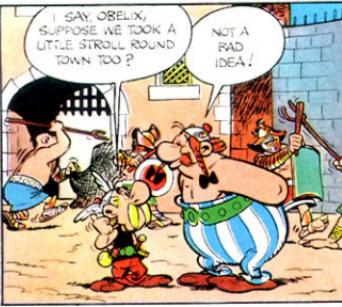




YOU HAVE A TRIDENT -
WE USE A STICK IN
TRAINING - AND A NET.
YOU HAVE TO CATCH
YOUR OPPONENT IN
THE NET LIKE A
FISH







WH... WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'VE GOT OUT??

NOT A BAD
PROGRAMME, BUT WELL
WANT TO MAKE A FEW
ALTERATIONS...

ASTERIX
& OBELIX

HE DOES
SEEM SURPRISED
TO SEE US!
AND PLEASED!

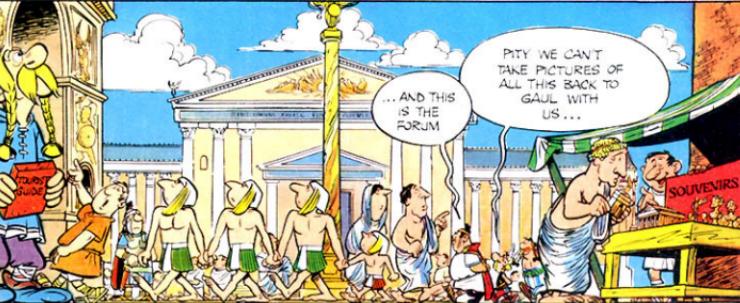
A GUI... A GUI...
A GUIDE!

YOU TURNED UP
JUST AT THE RIGHT
MOMENT! WE WERE
LOOKING FOR A
GUIDE TO SHOW
US THE TOWN...

SLAP!

KEEP A STIFF
UPPER LIP...THE
MAIN THING IS
NOT TO LOSE
SIGHT OF
THEM...

ALL RIGHT



YOU SEEM VERY SURE
YOU'LL GET OUT OF THE
CIRCUS ALIVE!

WELL, OF COURSE!

DON'T YOU WORRY
ABOUT US!

SUPPOSE I WENT
CARVING MY NAME
ON YOUR PYRAMIDS, EH?

NOW LET'S GO
BACK TO YOUR
PLACE FOR
DINNER!

AND NO FURIN
LITTLE PASTIES THIS
TIME - JUST
ROARS!



DINNER IS MUCH ENJOYED
BY EVERYONE - WELL,
NEARLY EVERYONE ...

YUM! GULP!
'SRIGHT!
SCRUNCH!

PATIENCE, PATIENCE!
THEY'LL BE LAUGHING THE
OTHER SIDE OF THEIR
FACES IN THE ARENAL!

COME ALONG, IT'S TIME TO
GO BACK TO OUR QUARTERS!
I HOPE WE HAVEN'T OVERSTAYED
OUR WELCOME?

I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR
THE ROMANS, THEY KNOW
HOW TO ENTERTAIN! ISN'T
THAT RIGHT, OBELIX?



TIME PASSES BY AND THE GLADIATORS ARE PUTTING ON WEIGHT...

MY FIRST IS A HUNDRED.
MY SECOND IS A SIGN OF THE
ZODIAC. MY THIRD IS A HIBERNATOR,
MY FOURTH IS THE EGYPTIAN GOD OF
THE SUN AND JULIUS CAESAR
LOVES MY WHOLE!
WHO AM I?

WHILE CAIUS
FATIGUES IS
LOSING IT...

THERE THEY GO AGAIN!
PLAYING DOTT C GAMES
INSTEAD OF TRAINING, A FINE
CROSS THIS IS GOING TO BE!

IT'S C
LEO, PAT, RA...
CLEOPATRA.

THAT WAS A
DIFFICULT ONE
THAT WAS.

THE GAMES ARE
FIXED FOR TOMORROW.
THIS WILL BE
YOUR LAST NIGHT
IN THE CIRCUS.
YOU USELESS
LOT!

WE DON'T REALLY
WANT TO FIGHT
ANY MORE,
ASTERIX.

DON'T WORRY! I PROMISE YOU WON'T
HAVE TO RISK YOUR LIVES
IN THE ARENA!

AND A VERY RELAXED GROUP
OF GLADIATORS ARRIVES AT THE CIRCUS...

HA HA!
HO HO.

STOP
PUSHING,
WILL YOU?
PORPUS IS A BEAST!
PASS IT ON!

WHAT'S THE
MATTER WITH
THEM?

NO IDEA,
LOCK THEM
UP DOWN BELOW!

I'M NOT A
PORTER
AND YOU
CAN'T!

VERY WELL.
THEN, WE SHALL
TEAR OUT THESE
BARS ONE BY
ONE UNTIL
YOU
CO-OPERATE!

GO AHEAD
AND TRY!

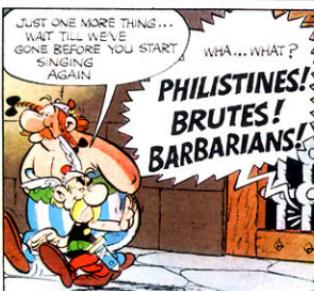
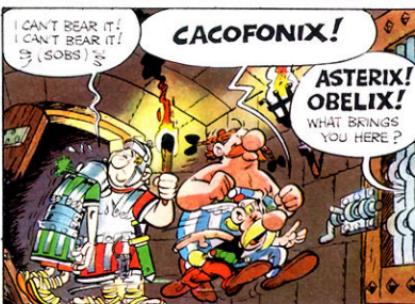
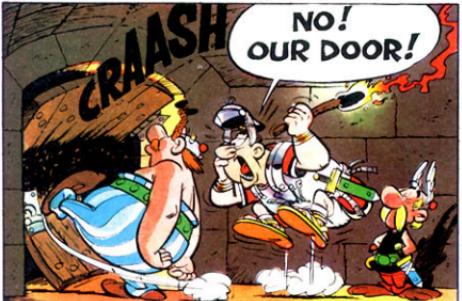
PLINNNK!

PLONNNK!

PLUNNNK!

STOP! LEAVE THE FIXTURES
ALONE!

AM ABOUT TIME TOO!
WHAT'S SERVING!



A HUGE CROWD IS FORMING
OUTSIDE THE CIRCUS...

WASH YOUR TOGAS
IN SUPER PERSIC! SUPER
PERSIC WASHES EVEN
PURPLER!

SCORE CARD!
SCORE CARD!

CUSHIONS!
CUSHIONS!

CHIOPALATE!
CANES CALIDI!
CHIOPALATE!



AND INSIDE THE IMPOSING ARENA,
THE TRUMPETS ANNOUNCE THE ARRIVAL
OF CAESAR IN THE IMPERIAL BOX...

TANTAN
TARA!!!

PANEM ET CIRCENSIS

LONG
LIVE
CAESAR!

CAESAR
FOR
EVER!

EVERYONE
APPLAUDS THE
DICATOR...

CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!
CLAP! CLAP!

ET TU
BRUTE!

* YOU TOO, BRUTUS!

THAT BRUTUS... I CAN SEE
I'M GOING TO HAVE
TRouble WITH HIM *

CLAPCLAP
CLAPCLAP
CLAPCLAP
CLAPCLAP

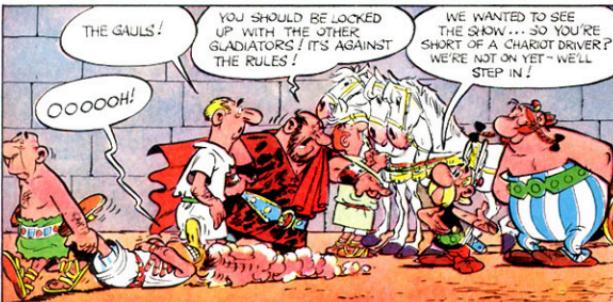
THIS WILL BE A
GREAT SHON,
O CAESAR!

I HOPE SO,
CAUS FATUOS.
IF NOT, YOU'LL BE
IN ON THE ACT

LET THE GAMES
BEGIN!

* AN EXAMINATION OF ACT III, SCENE 1
OF JULIUS CAESAR BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE WILL INDICATE THE
PROPHETIC NATURE OF THIS REMARK

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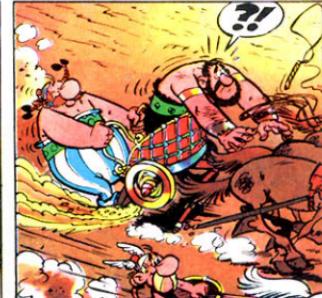


THE CHARIOTS
ARE OFF...

THAT ONE IN FRONT
WON'T LET US
OVERTAKE!

AAAAARGH!

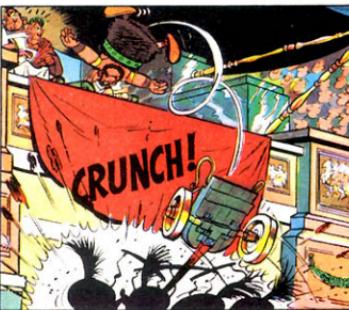
IF THOSE TWO COME NEAR
ME, BY MERCURY, THEY'LL
GET A TASTE OF MY WHIP!



LET GO, WILL
YOU! LET
GO THIS
MINUTE!

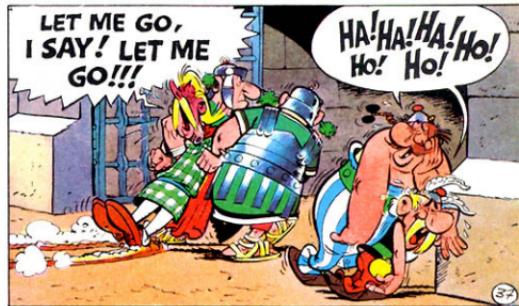
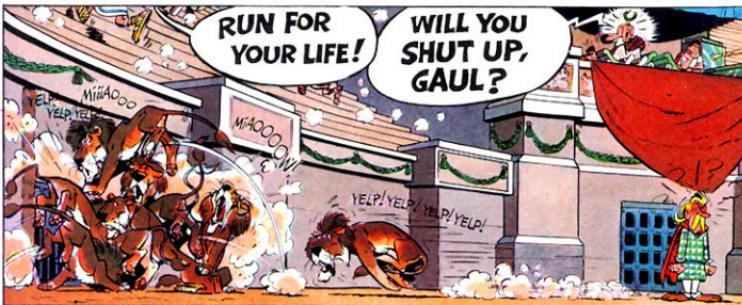
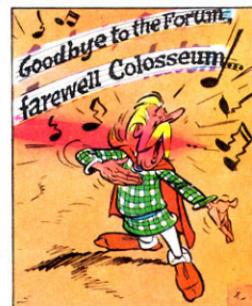
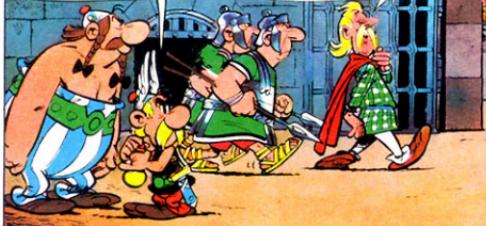
YOU CAN LET GO NOW,
OBELEX. I'VE WON!

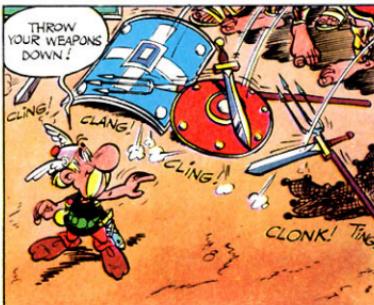
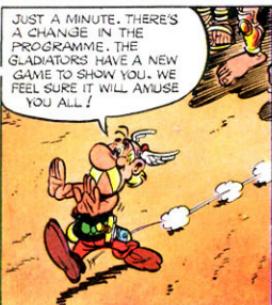
NOOOOO!

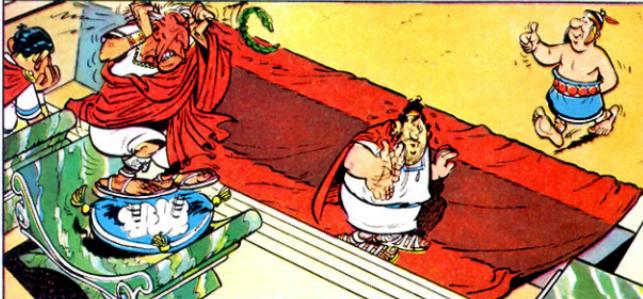
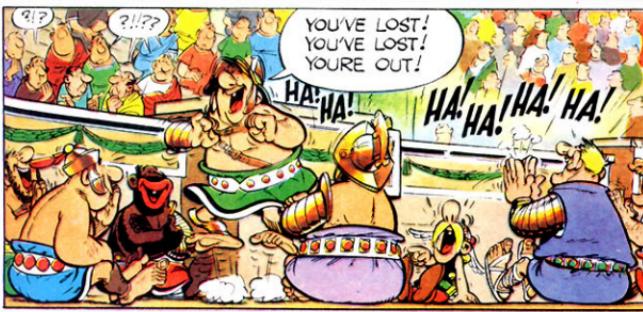
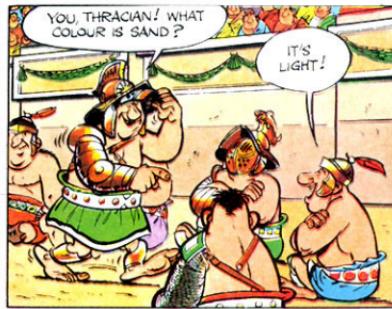


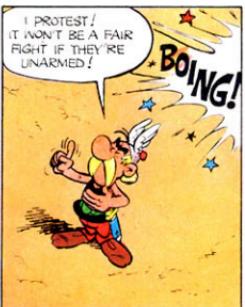
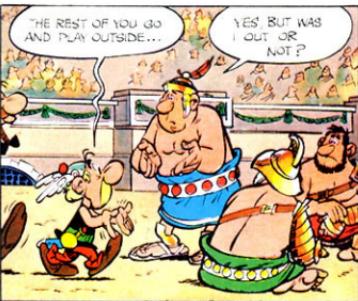
WE'LL WAIT HERE, READY TO STEP IN! I'M GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE MAGIC POTION, JUST IN CASE...

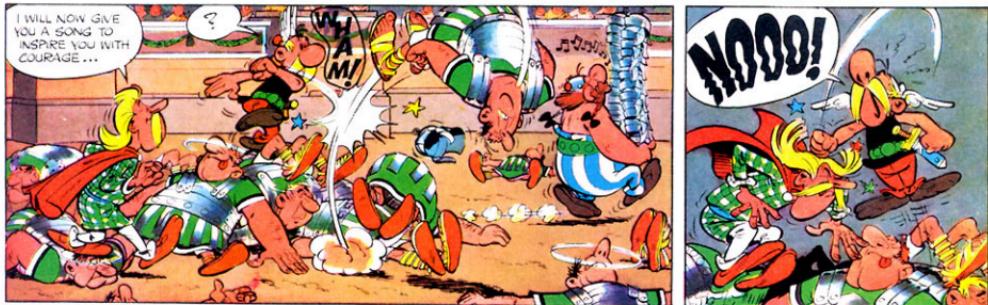
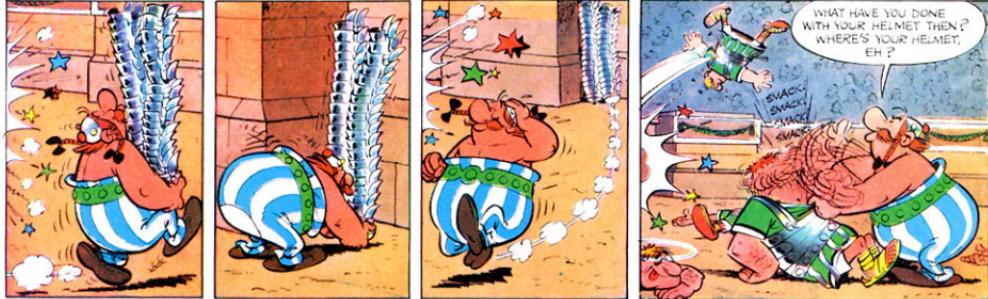
DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALWAYS ALL RIGHT ON THE NIGHT. I'VE GOT A TOUCH OF STAGE FRIGHT, THAT'S ALL...

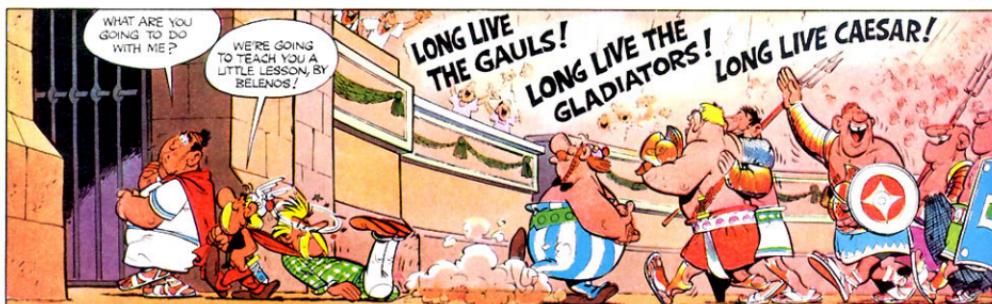
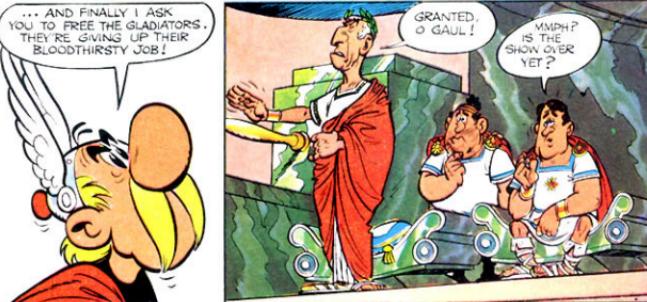
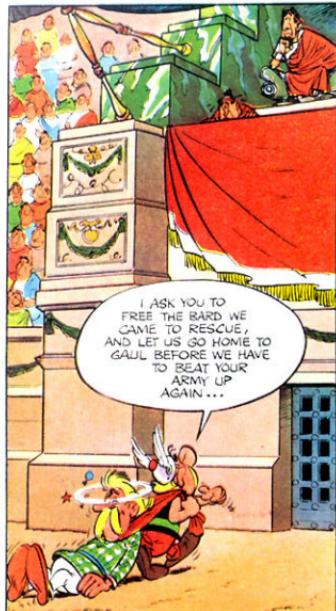












AND AFTER A FEW HOURS'
WALK...

O EKONOMIKRISIS,
PHOENICIAN MERCHANT,
WILL YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE
AND TAKE US BACK TO
GAUL?

MY OLD FRIENDS
THE GAULS!!!

COME ABOARD FRIENDS!
BUSINESS WAS GOOD,
I HAVE SOLD EVERYTHING,
AND NOW I HAVE TO
STOCK UP AGAIN!

A LITTLE SURPRISE
FOR YOUR
ROWING PARTNERS!

WHY DON'T I SING A
LITTLE SOMETHING TO
LIVEN HIM UP?

NOOOO!

I FEEL WE
MIGHT MAKE
THIS ROMAN
A PARTNER!

AN EXCELLENT
NOTION,
MR. CHARMAN!

DO I... DO I HAVE TO
ROW ALL BY MYSELF?
ALL THE WAY BACK
TO GAUL?

THIS WILL TEACH YOU
TO DO A DIRTY JOB AND
LIVE OFF OTHER
PEOPLE'S MUSCLE!

HE'S
GREAT!

WHAT AN
OARSMAN!

HEAR,
HEAR!

SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT, SPLAT,

THE VOYAGE IS UNEVENTFUL, EXCEPT FOR A
SNRISH WITH THE PIRATES...

BAH!

CHEER UP,
CAP'N! WE'RE
ALL IN THE
SAME BOAT!

AT LAST WE
HEAR THE LONG
AWAITED SHOUT...

GAUL!!!

HURRAH,
BY TOUTATIS!

THANKS FOR THE
TRIP ECONOMIKRISI,
PROMISE TO TAKE THE
ROMAN HOME SAFE AND
SOUND AND NOT SELL
HIM ON THE WAY!

WHAT, SELL
A PARTNER?

A
FRIEND?
WE'RE VERY FOND
OF CAUS FATOUIS.
HE KEEPS US ALL
GOING!

RIGHT... OFF WE
GO, PARTNER! LET'S
SPEED OUR ENTERPRISE
ON IT'S WAY!



THE GAULISH VILLAGE CELEBRATES
THE RETURN OF ITS HEROES WITH A
GREAT FEAST... BUT FOR THE
FACT THAT CADORONIX WAS THE
IN VOLUNTARY VICTIM OF A TECHNICAL
HITCH, HE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE
GIVEN THEM A SONG...

