

European and American comic books with depictions of India

Print Collection 57

Finding aid prepared by Ann Ho, JS Wu, and Jenna Nordness.

Last updated on June 26, 2019.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2019 April 19

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
Title	European and American comic books with depictions of India
Call number	Print Collection 57
Date [inclusive]	1909-1981
Extent	1 linear foot (1 box)
Language	Spanish
Language Note	This collection consists of material in Flemish Dutch, English, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.
Abstract	This collection contains European and American comic books depicting adventures in India and India in the 20th century, both before and after Indian independence. There are American, Belgian, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish publications in the collection. There are a variety of formats represented: landscape comics, periodicals, illustrated serials, two blank journals with illustrated covers, a French children's book, a single piece of sheet music, and two image paste-in collection books.

Cite as:

European and American comic books with depictions of India, 1909-1981, Print Collection 57, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

India's spices and exotic goods brought traders from Europe as early as the 5th century, but interactions between East and West increased significantly during the 15th century. The Portuguese and Spanish largely controlled trade until 1588 when the British defeated the Spanish Armada, and not long after, the East India Company, incorporated by royal charter on December 31, 1600, was the primary trading corporation. In 1858, British Crown rule was established in India and continued until 1947, when India won its independence.

Comic books emerged in the 19th century, gaining popularity in the 20th. While comic books were most prevalent in the United States, they were created throughout the world, including Europe during the early 20th century. Sensationalist stories are frequently the focus of comic books and graphic novels regardless of topic, country of origin, or timeframe. The European and American comic books depicting adventures in India are therefore consistent with the genre; however, imagery from the time often identifies with colonialism, crude stereotypes, imperialism, highly romanticized exoticism, and savagery.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains European and American comics depicting India in the 20th century, both before and after Indian independence. There are American, Belgian, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish publications in the collection. There are a variety of formats represented: landscape comics, periodicals, illustrated serials, two blank journals with illustrated covers, a French children's book, a single piece of sheet music, and two image paste-in collection books.

The paste-in books included collected images that the reader then placed into the appropriate blank spaces in the book. The paste-in images for the French publication, *Voyage Autour du Monde: Asie*, (box 1 folder 5) were acquired through the purchases of Casino chocolates and were numbered 1 through 250. In *Camões* (box 1, folder 9), the images are of characters portrayed in "Os Lusíadas," a Portuguese epic poem, which celebrates the discovery of a sea route to India by the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama (1469–1524).

Some points of interest include: a large collection of Emilio Salgari comics, a rich collection of Spanish comic portrayals of India, the same issue of a Belgian Marc Sleen comic in two languages (Flemish and French), and varying editions of Willy Vandersteen's *Bob et Bobette*. Together, this collection presents 20th century European pop depictions of Orientalist and colonial imagery.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Finding aid prepared by Ann Ho, JS Wu, and Jenna Nordness.

Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research use.

Use Restrictions

Copyright restrictions may exist. For most library holdings, the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania do not hold copyright. It is the responsibility of the requester to seek permission from the holder of the copyright to reproduce material from the Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Source of Acquisition

These comic books were sold by Kevin Jackson.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

At the University of Pennsylvania:

1984-1988 issues of the East German comic book Mosaik relating to India

1949 issues of an Italian comic book series called Dixy Scott - most issues involve his adventures in India/South Asia:

Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Blankbooks
- Comic books

- Graphic novels
- Sheet music

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- India -- Juvenile literature

SUBJECT(S)

- Colonialism
- Imperialism
- Stereotypes (Social psychology)

Collection Inventory

SERIES I. BELGIUM.

	Box	Folder
Bob Mau, <i>Clary Nett et Cie</i> , number 4 of <i>Mon journal présente</i> (Paris : Editions Aventures et voyages), 1973.	1	1
Bob Mau, <i>De Zwart Tijger</i> , number 2 of <i>Een avontuur van Pits en Kaliber</i> (Edegem N.V. Uitgeverij Algemene Pers), 1959.	1	1
Marc Ratal, <i>Vers Kaboul : les aventures de Puck, reporter</i> (Bruxelles : Campéador), probably 1947.	1	1
Marc Sleen, <i>De matras van Madras</i> , number 8 of <i>De avonturen van Nero en Co</i> (Antwerpen ; Amsterdam : Standaard) (Flemish version), 1967.	1	2
Marc Sleen, <i>De matras van Madras</i> , number 8 of <i>De avonturen van Nero en Co</i> (Editions Erasme Anvers) (French version), 1968.	1	2
Samedi-Jeunesse, editor, <i>Aventure au Tibet</i> , number 31 of <i>Une Édition Mensuelle de "Samedi Jeunesse"</i> , 1960 May.	1	2
Samedi-Jeunesse, editor, <i>Le Cobra Courbé</i> , number 88 of <i>Une Édition Mensuelle de "Samedi Jeunesse"</i> , 1965 February.	1	3
Willy Vandersteen, <i>Bob et Bobette: Le Tombeau Hindou</i> (Anvers : Editions Standaard), 104, 1998.	1	3
Willy Vandersteen, <i>Bob et Bobette: Le Casque Tartare</i> (Anvers : Editions Erasme), 114, 1978.	1	3

Willy Vandersteen, <i>Bob et Bobette: Lambique Baba</i> (Anvers : Editions Standaard), 230, 1996.	1	3
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SERIES II. FRANCE.

	Box	Folder
<i>Bibi Fricotin et la Statuette Ensorcelée</i> , by Pierre Lacroix, number 44 of Les Beaux albums de la jeunesse joyeuse (Paris : Société parisienne d'édition), 1971.	1	4
<i>Bibi Fricotin aux Indes: Sitting bull : Bob Flapi artisan : Patrick le Dynamique : Ko Ka Oh le petit Indien</i> , by Pierre Lacroix, number 68 of Les Beaux albums de la jeunesse joyeuse (Paris : Société parisienne d'édition), 1960.	1	4
<i>Bibi Fricotin en Inde</i> , by Pierre Lacroix, number 91 of Les Beaux albums de la jeunesse joyeuse (Paris : Société parisienne d'édition), 1974.	1	4
<i>Le Rire: Journal Humoristique Paraissant le Samedi: "Les Animaux Féroces,"</i> Nouvelle Série, number 327, 1909 May 8.	1	4
<i>Les Aventures acrobatiques de Charlot "Charlot aux Indes,"</i> by Thomen, number 12 (Paris : Société parisienne d'édition), undated.	1	4
<i>Natacha et le Maharadjah</i> , by F. Walthéry (Paris : Dupuis), 1973.	1	4
	Box	Folder
"Wamba: Le Justicier de la Brousse," in <i>Pic et Nic: Le magazine des jeunes</i> , number 16, 1946 November 14.	107	
	Box	Folder
<i>Sambo et le Petit Noir</i> , by Hélène Bannerman, number 18 of Petit livre d'or	1	5

([Paris] : Cocorico), 1989.

"Tintin" in <i>Le Journal de Jeunes</i> , number 529, 1958 December 11.	1	5
<i>Voyage Autour du Monde: Asie</i> , by Casino ([France] : Chocolat Casino), probably 1958.	1	5

SERIES III. ITALY.

	Box	Folder
Albi dell Intrepido, number 247, <i>Bandiere al Vento</i> , 1950.	1	6
Albi dell Intrepido, number 552, <i>Kindra di Hamampore</i> , 1956.	1	6
Albi dell Intrepido, number 289, <i>Sabu dalle lunghe zanne</i> , 1948.	1	7
Emilio Salgari, <i>I misteri della jungla nera</i> , Episodio 1 (Roma : Editrice Comic Art), 1975.	1	6
Emilio Salgari, <i>I misteri della jungla nera</i> , Episodio 2 (Roma : Editrice Comic Art), 1975.	1	6
Emilio Salgari, <i>Le Due Tigri</i> (Roma : Editrice Comic Art), 1975.	1	6
Emilio Salgari, <i>Le Tigri Di Mompracem</i> , Episodio 1 (Roma : Editrice Comic Art), 1975.	1	6
Emilio Salgari, <i>Le Tigri Di Mompracem</i> , Episodio 2 (Roma : Editrice Comic Art), 1975.	1	6
I Tre Boy-Scouts Avventure Meravigliose, number 21, <i>La cospirazione tenebrosa degli Indu</i> , by Jean de la Hire (Milan : Casa Editrice Sonzongno),	1	6

undated.

I Tre Boy-Scouts Avventure Meravigliose, number 128, *Zomba-Budda*, by Jean de la Hire (Milan : Casa Editrice Sonzogno), undated. 1 6

Nick Carter: Il Gran Poliziotto Americano, 191, "Morte di Dazaar" (Firenze : Casa editrice Nerbini), 1923. 1 6

Ricimero: Il Cavaliere Misterioso, "Il Prigioniero di Bombay" ([Firenze] : Nerbini), undated. 1 7

La Caverna dei Thugs, by Testo di G.L. Bonneli, number 313 in Tex, 1986. 1 7

Labirinto Mortale, by Testo di G.L. Bonneli, number 313 in Tex, 1986. 1 7

journal, Quaderno (two blank notebooks), undated. 1 8

Loose illustration plates, undated. 1 8

SERIES IV. PORTUGAL.

	Box	Folder
<i>Camões</i> (Agência Portuguesa de Revistas), 1966.	1	9
"O Jejum de Gandhi," in Maria Rita, number 24, 1932 October 1.	1	9
Emilio Salgari, <i>O Tigre de Mompracém</i> , number 1 of Sandokan (Lisboa : Agencia Portuguesa de Revistas), 1976.	1	10
Emilio Salgari, <i>e Mistérios da Floresta Negra</i> , number 3 of Sandokan (Lisboa : Agencia Portuguesa de Revistas), 1977.	1	10

Emilio Salgari, <i>Os Dois Tigres</i> , number 4 of Sandokan (Lisboa : Agencia Portuguesa de Revistas), [1977].	1	10
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Emilio Salgari, <i>A Vingança Dos Tughs</i> , number 5 of Sandokan (Lisboa : Agencia Portuguesa de Revistas), undated.	1	10
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SERIES V. SPAIN.

	Box	Folder
Adventuras Ilustradas: <i>Alarma en la Selva</i> , by E. M.Fariñas (Barcelona : Ferma), 1966.	1	11
Adventuras Ilustradas: <i>Los Misterios de Ranang-Vat</i> , by E. M.Fariñas (Barcelona : Producciones Editoriales), undated1980.	1	11
Biblioteca Oro, number 179, <i>La Joya de Mahabar</i> , by Edison Marshal (Barcelona : Molino, impr.), 1945.	1	12
Biblioteca Oro, number 212, <i>BHA</i> , by J.V. Travesi (Barcelona : Molino, impr.), 1947.	1	12
Biblioteca Oro, number 283, <i>La Ruta Secreta</i> , by John Ferguson (Barcelona : Molino, impr.), 1951.	1	12
<i>El Bravo Libertador con El Hijo de la Jungla</i> , number 18 (Valencia : Editorial Valenciana), undated.	1	13
<i>El Charro Temerario</i> , "Extraña Revelación," number 2 (Barcelona : Grafidea), undated.	1	13
<i>El Charro Temerario</i> , "El Falso Amuleto," number 5 (Barcelona : Grafidea), undated.	1	13

<i>El Charro Temerario</i> , "La Maldad de Hatama," number 7 (Barcelona : Grafidea), undated.	1	13
<i>El Cosaco Verde</i> in Super Aventuras series (Barcelona : Bruguera), 1960.	1	13
<i>El Diamante Luna</i> , by Wilkie Collins, in Coleccion Amarilla" series (Barcelona : Ed. Maucci), undated.	1	14
<i>El Misterio de Cloomber</i> , by A. Conan Doyle (Madrid : La Novela Quincenal), 1941.	1	14
<i>El Tirano: El Tigre de la India</i> , in Sinmiedo series, (Sevilla : Ediciones Acropolis), 1962.	1	14
Emilio Salgari, <i>El Tigre en Labuan</i> (Bilbao : Ediciones Laida), 1976.	1	15
Emilio Salgari, <i>Los Misterios de la Jungla Negra</i> (Barcelona : Editorial Bruguera, S.A.), 1983.	1	15
<i>Juan Centella El Templo de los Dragones</i> , number 14, after 1967.	1	16
<i>Juan Centella en la Selva</i> , number 20, after 1967.	1	16
<i>Junior Films</i> , "Revuelta en la India", Volume 1, Number 14, 1946 October 31.	1	18
Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "En las Garras del Tigre," number 1, undated.	1	17
Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "Los Bandidos de la Selva Virgen," number 2, undated.	1	17
Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "La Acometida de los Rhanus," number 3, undated.	1	17
Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "Guerra sin Cuartel," number 4, undated.	1	17
Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "El Desfiladero de la Muerte," number 5, undated.	1	17

Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "Un Salvamento Milagroso," number 6, undated.	1	17
Khabir el Hijo del Rajah, "La Muerte del Traidor," number 7, undated.	1	17
<i>Lord Lister, Aventuras de John C. Raffles</i> , "El inigma Indio," number 29 (Barcelona : F. Granada), undated.	1	18
<i>Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin, El Hombre de la Montaña</i> , number 128, 1978.	1	19
<i>Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin, El Tenebroso Señor Scot</i> , number 129, 1978.	1	19
<i>Contrabando de Armas: Una Aventura Completa con Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin</i> , number 229, undated.	1	20
<i>El Fakir Diabólico con Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin</i> , number 305, undated.	1	20
<i>Gondo el Usurpador con Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin</i> , number 329, undated.	1	20
<i>El Ojo de Fuego: Una Aventura Completa con Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin</i> , number 550, 1963.	1	21
<i>El Consejo de los Inmortales: Una Aventura Completa con Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin</i> , number 562, 1963.	1	21
<i>La Emboscada: Una Aventura Completa con Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin</i> , number 580, 1963.	1	21
<i>Roberto Alcazar y Pedrin, "Shari": Una Aventura Completa</i> , number 899, 1969.	1	21
Super-Totem: <i>Tigres de Bengala</i> , by Guido Buzzelli (Madrid : Nueva Frontera), 1981.	1	22
<i>Tres Jovenes Lloran</i> , by J.M. Guivernau, number 214 of <i>Colleccion Mis Cuentos</i> (Barcelona : Ediciones Toray), undated.	1	22

SERIES VI. UNITED STATES.

	Box	Folder
Classic Illustrated, Rudyard Kipling, <i>Kim</i> , number 143, 1958 March.	1	23
Classic Illustrated, Talbot Mundy, <i>King of the Khyber Rifles</i> , number 107, 1953 May.	1	23
<i>The Traitor</i> , number 791 in the 77th Bengal Lancers series (New York : Dell Publishing), 1957.	1	23
<i>The Maharaja of Magodor</i> , sheet music, with words and music by Lewis Harris and John Jacob Loeb, (New York : Mutual Music Society, Inc.), 1948.	1	23