HALF A CENTURY! THAT MIGHT SEEM A LONG TIME TO ORDINARY PEOPLE. ONLY THE HEROES OF STORIES, IN THE CINEMA, THE THEATRE, LITERATURE — OR EVEN IN STRIP CARTOONS, OUR SUBJECT HERE — ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THE PASSING OF TIME WITHOUT A WRINKLE, AND CHEERFULLY CONSIDER THIS PHENOMENON PERFECTLY NORMAL. IT'S OBVIOUS, OF COURSE, THAT THEY OWE THEIR LONG LIVES TO THE PUBLIC, ONLY THE PUBLIC DECIDES WHETHER HEROES LIVE OR DIE, AND IF THE PUBLIC DOESN'T LIKE YOU, YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT. LET'S SUPPOSE, JUST FOR A CHANGE, THAT ASTERIX AND HIS FRIENDS FEEL THE WEIGHT OF THE YEARS LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. LET'S IMAGINE THAT LIKE THE AUTHOR OF THESE LINES THEY ARE NOW FIFTY YEARS OLDER. WE COULD FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF SHAPE THEY'RE IN PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ... SO OFF WE GO TO THE VILLAGE WHERE, WE ASSUME, THE INDOMITABLE GAULS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE ROMAN INVADERS.

IT HAS TO BE ADMITTED THAT, IN THE YEAR AD, THE FENCE AROUND THE GAULISH VILLAGE HAS NOT HELD OUT TOO WELL AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF TIME ...

Hey, Thony-boy, what am I that you're making? Push off, dad, I've just invented.

... iron teeth for old crocks like you who've lost their own.

Take your dad for a little walk, Son, it'll do his gout good. Okay, Ma!

It worked again, laddie! Off to the Brewerix for a bar with my old mates!
Hi, Chief!

How's tricks?

Your usual? A nice barley beer?

Good to see you all again!

You saw us yesterday? Losing your memory?

Come back for me later, son!

Okay, dad. Go easy on the beer, or ma won't like it!

HENPECKED THESE DAYS, CHIEF? I'D NEVER KNOCKLE UNDER TO MY...

GERIATRIX!

WHO SAID YOU COULD GO OUT BEFORE FINISHING THE WASHING UP?!!!

HO! HO! HO! HEE! HEE! HI HA! HA! HA!

DOE, A DEER, A FEMALE DEEEEER...

WHAT DOES WE CALL THAT?

BONG!

BONG!

BONG!

RAY, I'M A ROCK AND ROLLING BARD...

BONG!

BONG!

BONG!

AND THAT WATH A ROCKED AND ROLLED-OVER BARD!

THOSE TWO! STILL AT IT HAMMER AND TONGS!

WHAT WAS THAT, BUT GLAMOUR AND SONGS?
HELLO, WHY SO DOWN IN THE DUMPS?

THIS PLACE REALLY IS A DUMP NOW, O DRUID. GETAPIN, OBERLIX IS RIGHT. LIFE LOSES IT'S SPARKLE AS TIME GOES BY!

I'D BE THE FIRST TO AGREE WITH YOU. IT S O HAPPENS THAT THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR FLIGHT IS ABOUT TO VISIT US.

Hi there, Old Friends! I've just done something unheard of in a strip cartoon!

I've aged you to what you'd be like fifty years on! Funny, isn't it?

AND HE THINKS IT'S FUNNY, TOO!

SO A LITTLE ARTWORK, AND WE'RE BACK IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF ASTERIX, THE YEAR 50 BC.

I HAD A VERY STRANGE DREAM, OBERLIX. I WAS SURROUNDED BY CROWDS OF CHEERFUL LITTLE KIDS!

YOU'RE LUCKY! IN MY DREAM I HAD NOTHING TO EAT BUT CHICK PEAS. TALK ABOUT A NIGHTMARE!

TCHAK!
MEANWHILE, IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE...

BY TOUTATIS, WHAT ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE DOING?

I THINK VITALSTATISTIX HAS INVITED THEM TO BE OUR GUESTS ON A GREAT OCCASION!

THIS IS A GREAT DAY, SO NO POOLING AROUND, YOU TWO!

HUMP!

FRIENDS, GAULS, COUNTRYMEN! ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR FINDING THAT YOU HAVE ALL ACCEPTED MY INVITATION! SOME OF YOU HAVE TRAVELLED A LONG WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN TODAY'S GREAT EVENT, AND EVERYONE OF YOU HAS COME TO SHOW HOW MIGHTY YOU ARE ON THE TWO HEROES WHOSE BIRTHDAY IT IS TODAY, AND WHO DON'T YET KNOW YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE NOW, CURRENTLY AND AT THIS PRESENT MOMENT IN TIME, THEY ARE OUT BATTLE A WILD BEAR! I AM SPEAKING, YOU WILL HAVE GUESSED, OR...

...ASTERIX... AND OBELEIX!

PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR ASTERIX AND OBELEIX!

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

THAT'S IT! I RESIGN!

O CHEF VITALSTATISTIX, IN HONOUR ON THE DAY I'VE DESIGNED SOME CLOTHES FOR OUR HEROES BETTER SUITED TO THEIR STATION IN LIFE!

CRAC!

WHO CARES!
OBELEX'S WARDROBE
DOESN'T ALWAYS DO
JUSTICE TO HIS TRUE
NATURAL ELEGANCE!

ADMIT IT, YOU'VE
SEEN MORE STYLISH
OUTFITS!

FASHION AND A
GOOD PUNCH-UP ARE NOT
INCOMPATIBLE! SPORT-
ING WRISTBANDS, A
WALRUS MUSTACHE AND A
PONYTAIL WILL
MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION!

COME ON, THEN! COME
ON!

OBELEX MIGHT HAVE BEEN BORN TO WEAR
A CLOCk, DRAPED OVER THE
RIGHT SHOULDER. IT
SUITS HIM.

YOU HAVE TO
DRESS WELL WHEN
YOU GET TO BE
A BIG MAN IN
MENKIRS.

THIS GENEROUSLY CUT TOP
GRACEFULLY
ACCOMODATES ITSELF TO THE
WINCEFUL CURVES OF
OBELEX'S FIGURE.

I — AM
NOT
FAT!

A TONG WITH A
NECKLINE SLASHED TO THE
WAIST, A PLEATED SKIRT AND A SMALL
CAPE — THIS LITTLE NUMBER
IS JUST MADE
FOR OBELEX.

WHO'S
THAT?

PERFECTLY!

WEIL CHosen ACCESSORIES MAKE ALL
THE DIFFERENCE: AN EXTRA-WIDE RUFF
FRAMES A BEAMING FACE, WHILE THE
HANDBAND IS GRACEFULLY WAVES.

KAT'S OFF TO OBELEX! HIS PLUMED FELT HAT, TRUMLRED
WITH A PLEASANT FEATHER, GIVES HIM GREAT PRESENCE
AS HE MAKES HIS BOW!

WITH A POWDERED WHITE WIG ON HIS HEAD, HIS HAIR WORN
IN LITTLE ROLLS OVER HIS EARS AND TIED AT THE BACK,
OBELEX REMINDS TRADITIONAL GALLIc PLATTS.

CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!

GOODY GOODY GUMDROPS!
PROCK COAT, TALL OPERA HAT, A CANE WITH AN ORNATE KNOB - ANTICLIMAX WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE OBELIX AS AN ANCIENT BRITISH GENTLEMAN.

LEATHER GLOVES WORN FOR DRIVING A CHARIOT ELEGANTLY, A POCKET HOURGLASS WITH A ROB ... AND OBELIX EXCHANGES STRIPES FOR ... SOME VERY CLASSY CHECKED BREECHES!

IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT, IN THIS UNDERSTATED YET ELEGANT SUIT, OBELIX MIGHT SET A FASHION FOR BERETS AMONG ... THE GAULS!

MY TAILOR MAKES A GOOD TUNIC OUT OF THIS...

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREECHES!

IMPOSSIBLE IS NOT A GAULISH WORD!

OBELIX IN ARTISTIC MODE! A BAGGY SMOCK TO PROTECT HIS CLOTHES FROM PAINT SO THAT HE CAN EXPRESS HIMSELF FREELY. THIS COULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE ART OF OUR TIMES!

AND IN CASE ASTERIX WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE HIS SPOTS, I'M PLANNING AN EXOTIC OUTFIT FOR HIM ... IT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING.

HOUBA ?

A TRIBUTE TO ANDRE FRANQUIN AND HIS MARCUPILAMI!
SO MUCH FOR PASSION, WHAT ABOUT OUR POST? ANY MESSAGES FOR OUR FRIENDS?

YOU BET! I DELIVERED A MARBLE SLAB TO OBELEIX YESTERDAY. HE WAS SO PLEASED YOU'D HAVE THOUGHT HE'D LOST HIS OWN MARBLES.

SURE ENOUGH, THE 14TH BEFORE...

HI, POSTAL DISTRICT! I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE ARE ANY LETTERS FOR ME!

YOU'RE WRONG THERE, OBELEIX. HERE'S ONE SPECIALY ADDRESSED TO YOU!

A LETTER? A LETTER, ALL FOR ME?

ALL FOR YOU, OBELEIX! STRAIGHT FROM CONDATUM!

FROM CONDATUM?

PINK MARBLE CARVED BY A PRETTY GALAISH GIRL. YOU KNOW HER WELL, YOU SCAMP!

MY GODS!! PANACEA!! PANACEA HAS CARVED ME A LETTER!

SO LONG, AND HAPPIER READING, LOVER BOY!

ER ... NO, NOT TODAY.

I DON'T FEEL TOO GOOD, ASTERIX. I THINK I'LL HAVE A LITTLE LIE-DOWN.

YOU'D BETTER GO AND SEE OUR DRUID. HE'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

GOOD IDEA, ASTERIX! I'M OFF!

THAT'S BUNNY, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE KNOWN OBELEIX TO FEEL UNWELL.

ASTERIX! I WANT YOU TO DO ME A GREAT FAVOUR!
ER... WELL... IT'S LIKE THIS, I WANT YOU TO TEACH ME TO READ, GETARIX!

PANCY THAT! GETTING ROUND TO IT AT LAST, YOUNG MAN!

YOU COULD HAVE LEARNT TO READ LONG AGO INSTEAD OF HUNTING WILD BOAR PIGELETS, OBELEK.

IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF BOYS LIKE YOU THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL SAY THE GAULS COULDN'T READ OR WRITE!

HERE'S AN OLD HOW TO READ BOOK OF MY OWN COMPOSITION! IT WILL SOON TEACH YOU THE ALPHABET, OBELEK!

LOOK, IT'S EASY! A IS FOR ASS...

NOW, B IS FOR BUCK...

C FOR CAT, D FOR DOLMEN, AND SO ON. ALL THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET ARE THERE, WITH PICTURES TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THEM. UNDERSTAND, OBELEK?

I NEVER KNEW IT WAS THAT EASY!

TAKE CARE OF MY BOOK, OBELEK! I VALUE IT.

DON'T WORRY, GETARIX, AND THANKS!

GUESS WHAT, DOGMATIK? GETARIX'S BOOK WILL HELP ME TO READ MY LETTER FROM PANACEA!!

NIGHT HAS FALLEN. APART FROM THE MOON, THERE IS ONLY ONE LIGHT IN THE SLEEPING GAULISH VILLAGE.

RIGHT, LET'S START AGAIN...

D FOR DOLMEN,
E FOR ELK,
A FOR ASS,
R FOR RAT,
G FOR...
AND EARLY IN THE MORNING...

I WONDER IF THE DRUID'S MEDICINE WAS DUE FOR ORIGINS.

OBELIX, YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE ANY BETTER.

OAK, ASTERIX, IF ONLY YOU KNEW HOW UNHAPPY I AM!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, OBELIX? YOU CAN TELL ME! I'M YOUR FRIEND!

I HAVE A GREAT BIG PROBLEM, AND I CAN'T SOLVE IT!

I GOT THIS CARVED SLAB FROM PANACEA! SO I ASKED GETARIA TO TEACH ME TO READ...

I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE IDEA!

HE GAVE ME THIS ALPHABET BOOK, I'M SPENT ALL NIGHT TRYING TO WORK OUT WHAT PANACEA SAYS, AND I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!!

I'VE WORKED OUT WHAT IT SAYS ON THE SLAB, SO SEE IF YOU CAN MAKE SENSE OF IT: "DOLMEN, ELK, AGS, RAT, OTTER, BUCK, ELK, LION, IBIS, A LETTER I DON'T KNOW, HEDGEHOG, AGS, PEACOCK, PEACOCK, YAK, BUCK, IBIS, RAT, TIGER, HEDGEHOG, DOLPHIN, AGS, YAK, PEACOCK, AGS, NIGHTINGALE, AGS, CAT, ELK, AGS."

BR - MAY I HAVE A LOOK AT IT?

IF YOU LIKE!

WHY, IT'S EASY! SHE CARVED: "DEAR OBELIX, HAPPY BIRTHDAY" AND SHE SIGNED IT "PANACEA".

SPLATCH!

SHE COULD HAVE SENT ME A BIRTHDAY SLAB TOO. WE WERE BORN ON THE SAME DAY....

HEY, OBELIX, WHERE ARE YOU GOING....??
Another letter, this time from Alexandria! Ediris is thinking of his friends!

Dear Asterix and Obelix,
thanks to you, my life has changed! I have many more talents now, and at last my dream of building pyramids has come true. I'm making progress every day. Happy birthday!

Ediris

PS: This is a new building designed by my colleague "Leaningtownstones. Amazing, eh?

And this is odd! A message from the high seas by bottle post!

Dear Gauls, you get that sinking feeling when I think of you.

Rhubarb

Wait till you see our new ship! We're keeping your present on ice.

Baba

Qui horre omnes. Hic castigam... Papyg

Asterix and Obelix, you are the kings of the ancient world!

Happy birthday to Gluglulguluglug

Titanic

Pelinis Natalis dies sit tibi!
All these honours heaps on Asterix and Obelix - it's going too far! Those lads aren't heroes.

Asterix was changed. He was nothing much in his youth, believe you me.

Obelix is a fat, lazy warrior who thinks of nothing but stuffing his face with boar.

And as for Asterix... small and weedy. I'll tell you something, our warriors were different at Gerovia.

You're going too far, sweetie-pie!

Oblivious.

No, I'm not! Anyway you didn't know those two in their younger days. They go back a long way.

Asterix has changed. He was nothing much in his youth, believe you me.

And an intellectual, too! We asked ourselves too many questions.

He'd get depressed at the least little setback...

However hard I pick my own brains, I get no answers!

When I look into my inner being...

... all I see is the void voiding and a soulless life.

He felt crushed by the weight of responsibility!

And Obelix doesn't have my utility. You should see him first thing in the morning.

Hero or zero, that is the question... what am I without the magic potion?

Ach, shoo!

They were nothing special. So the druid psychoanalyst stepped in.

First an MRI scan - mixture radiation imaging...

This mixture is really amazing, master!
THEN A PRECISE MORPHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION...

4 feathers
1 feathers
The wings accompany movement and react to expressions

Note: No tendency to adventure or heroism.

THEN STRENUIOUS PHYSICAL EXERCISE: WALKING, RUNNING...

Note: Specimen unsuitable for efficient movement.

WELL, ALMOST PERFECT...

Powerful arms, thick neck, wide shoulders:audacious expression: not hunting, daily
discourses of musclemen, and fun and games with the Romans. His favourite pastimes have given Obelix a perfectly balanced body.

AFTER WHICH, OF COURSE, WE HAD WARRIORS WITH PERFECT PROPORTIONS.

Measures the height of Obelix from the root of the head, and if you relate that to the line defined by his outstretched hands, the breadth will be equal to the height, inscribed in a perfect square, at the centre of which is Obelix'summy-butt. In media
cetis virtue, say the greatest druids of our time approvingly. We may judge a man of

generous proportions, not only considered to be the classic portrait of Hellenic culture, but

after Obelix tasted the anthropomorphic style in flight of a colleague who suggested that his

round tummey lacked a little of the idea of Greek beauty, so one has ventured to say...

After Leonardo da Vinci
Gauls, do you like to travel? If so our guide, written by an Armorican adventurer, is just the book for you!

Of course the Gauls like to travel, by Toutatis! Here in the village, of course, we don’t have far to go. The beach is very close, and there’s the forest just inland. All the pleasures of a good holiday can be found here: the seaside with its pirates, mushroom-picking, boar-hunting, and a good laugh with Roman patrols. Not to mention that here in Armorica we have a very invigorating climate. In short, it’s rather like being on holiday all the year round for the Romans and us.

1 – Lucius Circumbendibus, a big wheel in wheel manufacturing (see Asterix and the Chieftain’s Shield), published this famous guide to the best Gaulish inns.
Those of our countrymen who aren’t so lucky, meaning everyone else, start thinking about their holidays in the month of January onwards. If you want to go away in Quintilis or Sextilis you have to plan in advance. After the month of April there are no seaside villas left to be booked along the coast, and the only subject of conversation is what the weather will be like in summer. (“Mind you, there’s a lot of climate change these days. All those Roman war machines will make the sky fall on our heads one of these days!”)

Some people disapprove of this attitude. “What’s Gaul coming to?” they ask. “In the good old days people thought of work and nothing but work!” But even these sensible souls are not the last to set out for the southern provinces. It’s the beaches of the Middle Sea that attract most tourists: Nicae, Antipolis, Forum Juli, Citharista, Olbia, Heraclea Caccabaria, Carsicius and Athenopolis are full of teeming crowds looking for pleasure all summer. (Particularly Athenopolis, frequented by people from the ancient world, the high society of Lutetia, and the beatnix, those strange barbarians who don’t plait or wash their long hair. Some say they’re like that after getting nicely stoned at Nicae.)

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1 - January
2 - Soon to be called Julius in honour of Caesar, and later July
3 - To be renamed Augustus and then August
4 - April
5 - Respectively: Nice, Antibes, Fréjus, La Ciotat, Hyères, Cavalaire, Cassis
6 - Small Massilian place near present-day Saint-Tropez
Of course, the trouble is that, with everyone leaving at the same time and going the same way, the roads are crowded and, sadly, there are many accidents. Some of those are due to careless drivers hell-bent on high speed, never mind the risk to life and limb. You hear idiots saying: "Yes, old boy, Lutetia to Nicae in only three weeks non-stop!" As if two weeks more or less meant anything in a man's life!

Roman patrols do their best to enforce the Pax Romana on the roads. The laws are being tightened up, and there's talk of throwing those careless drivers who are the worst offenders to the lions, but so far that has come to nothing, and the RPOF (Roman Policing Operations Forum) is trying to impose some semblance of discipline as best it can.

**HOW TO AVOID CROWDED ROADS**

It's not impossible to avoid crowded roads full of holiday traffic and tailbacks. Here's our advice for travelling more easily.

*Take to the air to avoid the holiday crowds; Travel by magic carpet!*

*You can stop now, Obelix! We've got to Lutetia.*

*Travel with Obelix to avoid amphora-needles!*

*Enjoy the peace and calm of the ocean. Travel by canoe and meet new friends.*

*Fly above the clouds, and cure yourself for ever of fearing that the sky will fall on your head!*

20
It has to be said, in defence of road users, that the design of the Roman road network is ancient. The authorities built roads paved with stone slabs which are no longer up to the pressure of modern traffic. They are cluttered up by ox-drawn haulage carts, and overtaking them is always dangerous. Nor do I think that imposing a speed limit of III millia passuum an hour on all vehicles will solve the problem. And I doubt whether sending bad drivers to the Circus is a good idea, although the lions seem to think so. The roads must be widened and ring roads built around towns and villages. Anyone who has driven through Lugdumum will know what I mean.

Meanwhile people go on taking risks and suffering from road rage as they hurl insults at each other. “I’m going to barbecue those oxen of yours!” “Get going, rapa-face!” “I’m not tailgating you for ever, raeda lenta! Let me by!” “I’m working! I’m a slave, I am! I’m not here for fun!” “You’re a slave, eh? If I was your master I’d trade you in for a donkey. Donkeys work better, they’re prettier and more intelligent!” “Want to know what the donkey says to you?” And so on.

It’s not unusual to see what ought to have been a pleasant excursion degenerate into a pitched battle, leading to amphora-necks and tailbacks paralysing the traffic for millia and millia passuum.
And there's one thing the Gauls will never understand: it's not a good idea to eat a heavy meal at lunchtime when you still have some way to travel. But we Gauls are greedy pigs, we feed our faces with wild boar, and we can't resist one last hornful of Aquitanian wine to wash it down! In spite of the marble slabs up beside the roads telling us not to drink and drive, we forget that the amphora can kill as easily as an enemy soldier's pilum. Remember:

"One amphora, fine!
Two amphorae, watch out!"

Almost everyone has his own chariot these days, but how many people are really good drivers? How many of you know, for instance, what distance you need to stop a galloping horse? XX feet! A pair of oxen going full speed ahead will need XXX feet to come to a halt! And if you are travelling by litter, it takes X feet for slaves carrying you at full tilt to pull up.

Furthermore, whether you're in a Roman chariot, an ox cart or a litter, sports-chariot driving is best left to the professional aurigae. Allow me to offer a little advice: you're not Ben Hur. Controlled skids and sharp bends taken at the gallop are not for you. You have a good chariot, you're proud of the power under its yoke, but use that power only to keep yourself out of danger.

Another problem with our roads is that too few service stations are open at night. If you break down after sunset, I suppose you could always try looking for a veterinary surgeon, but you'll be told, "I'm here to sell hay, not doctor the draught animals." In addition, getting spare parts is difficult. If one of your team of oxen needs replacing, you'll be told that the spare part has to come from Charolais, and you may spend your whole holiday waiting for your ox to arrive. Because even when it gets into its stride an ox doesn't move fast!
There are also the inns along your way. It's better not to stop on the off chance, because you may have a nasty surprise when the bill arrives, and your wallet could suffer a sizeable catapult-hole. Of course, if you like fancy cooking you'll find luxury establishments rated by golden sickles in the specialist guides, places where you can eat pâté of ants' thighs, stuffed nightingale tongues and candied trout-heads. But if you prefer simple fare, stop at one of the places with transport carts parked outside. You'll find a friendly atmosphere where they serve you good roast boar, chilled barley beer, and hydromel like Mater makes it.

If you want a place to stay on your way, it's best to reserve in advance, or you may have to sleep the night in your chariot. Many like to go camping, but then you should follow the example of the Romans: never forget to dig a ditch and put up a fence around your tent. That will keep out attacking barbarians, who are sometimes a nuisance and spoil your good night's sleep.

Finally, I must add that only prudent Gauls enjoy their travels, but I wish all of you happy holidays!

PUT YOUR TRAVELS ON THE MAP

Useful accessories to take, souvenirs from foreign lands: everything you need for going away in times of classical antiquity.

I. Ticket for the Regional Eurostella Routes public chariot company.

II. Set of Viking drinking skulls, great fun for merry evenings at home with friends!

III. Postcard slabs, To keep in touch with your loved ones.

IV. Souvenir of the greatest city in the universe.

V. Travel guide, to make sure you don't miss anything!

VI. Gourd of NSP, Don't lose your bearings! This gourd of North Star potion will help you find them again any time. Exclusively brewed by Viking magicians.

VII. Shipwrecked galley, Do you enjoy sport? Prepare to board a pirate ship (optional)

VIII. A few sestertii, Collectors: keep the limes change from every province. Egyptian talents are the most sought after.

IX. Club Middle Sea brochure slab, Lots of leisure activities in idyllic surroundings.

X. Pyramid paperweight, The Great Pyramid in the snow, You dream of it, the Egyptians make it!

XI. Passport, Issued by the imperial authorities. You will need one of these to move freely around all the countries that are part of the Pax Romana.
The scenery is magnificent, but there is a shortage of Romans! Obelix.

Foreign travel is all very well, but rather dull without music.
I KNOW THAT MY MUSICAL OFFERINGS WILL GAIN THE FAVOR OF ALL MY ADMIRERS!

DON'T FORGET THAT YOUR GREATEST ADMIRER HAS YOU BY THE BAR!

AND PULLAUTOMATIX IS A STRIKINGLY GOOD MUSIC CRITIC!

FIRST, SOME AUTOGRAPHED SLEEVES OF MY SLABS FOR MY FRIENDS!

ROMAN ROAD, FOR ASTERIX ...

ROMAN ROAD

To Asterix, a true hero...

FAR YOU, MY DEAR FRIEND. ROMANS THE WAY YOU LIKE THEM AND STEPS BEYOND WORSHIP.

YOUR FRIEND,

CHILLER

Happy Birthday... Asterix and Obelix

FACE THE CREATION.

TOO MANY NOTES, AS THE EMPEROR SAID. NEXT!

ANY SCREAM? I WILL DOOOOOO ...

BRING ON CACOFONIIIIII!

CHILLER

Happy Birthday... Asterix and Obelix

FACE THE CREATION.

TOO MANY NOTES, AS THE EMPEROR SAID. NEXT!

ANY SCREAM? I WILL DOOOOOO ...

BRING ON CACOFONIIIIII!

I HAVE TO SAY YOUR TALENT LEAVES ME LOST FOR WORDS!

THIS IS ONLY THE START. I'M HAVING A REALITY SHOW TO PICK SINGERS FOR A MUSICAL!

THAT BARD'S VERY STERN. I'VE GOT THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES!

DON'T WORRY. IF THEY ALL SING LIKE THAT ONE, THE AUDIENCE WILL HAVE THE HEEBIE-JEEBIES TOO!
Impressed by Cacofonin's ideas for presents, Impedimenta invites the Gaulish ladies in for a nice cuppa.

Come with me! We're going to discuss presents for Asterix and Obelix over goats' milk.

A present for Asterix and Obelix? At their age, they'd do better to get married!

Exactly! Their mothers, Sarsaparilla and Vanilla, have asked me to find pearls of perfection for our heroes.

I'm afraid it's a fact that those two warriors know nothing about tender affection.

And amorous passion has them babbled.

That's quite enough defeatist talk! They need women of character to bring a little order into their lives.

Exceptional women whom they can look up to!
Geriatrix Wins Lutetia Marathon!

Asterix the Gaul Weds!

Let's not give up hope! I'm sure Asterix will have a wonderful fairy-tale wedding some day!

Social Register: All inhabitants of the rural village of indomitable Gauls still building castles against the Roman invaders. Asterix, the most confident of Gauls, whose abilities are questioned by some, must now face the challenge of marrying his loyal girlfriend, Obélix. The wedding is set in the town center, and the festivities are full of comic mishaps and adventures.

Delicacies of Aleria: Special recipe: mussels with clams and the first harvest.

Wild boar classified as a protected species. First sale from endangered species forbidden. "Rampant Saga!"

Cacofonix Farewell Tour: The retired American Idol will return to Lutetia. Tickets are available at "Sheetmoneurs Bistro". Read more on page XVL.

Environmental News: Contour Borneo regions of highly endangered marine life. Please support marine conservation. Know who's who in the Lutetian flora and fauna. Ballot paper is a biosourced renewable... etc.


A tribute to Dany. Dany, real name Daniel Heurtoin, is a Belgian strip cartoon artist. The silhouette shows one of his characters.
AND THE LOVING CARE OF A WIFE COULD CERTAINLY MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO ONE OF THEM!

HERE’S YOUR LITTLE CHICKEN, OBELEN, SWEETIE-PIE! ONLY THREE MORE LITTLE KILOS TO loose AND YOU’LL BE IN PERFECT SHAPE!

BUT IT’S A FACT THAT, AS MY PIE GERIATRIX, HONEY-BUN ALWAYS SAYS, IT’S RARE TO FIND A WIFE LIKE ME.

HAPPY! YES, WELL ... WELL, NONE OF THIS TELLS US WHY THOSE TWO OLD BACHELORS SHOW NO INTEREST IN THE PLEASURES OF MARRIED LIFE!

ASTERIX, DARLING, I’M GOING SHOPPING! DON’T FORGET TO DO THE HOUSEWORK WHEN YOU’VE FINISHED WASHING UP!

SO WE MIGHT AS WELL STOP FEELING SORRY FOR THEM AND THINK OF THE TERRIBLE LIFE THEIR WIVES WOULD LEAD!

YOUR DAD HAS GONE OFF TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AGAIN! WELL, IF HE THINKS ANYONE WILL BE INTERESTED IN HIS ADVENTURES, HE’S MAKING A BIG MISTAKE!

OUGHT TO HAVE LISTENED TO MY MOTHER INSTEAD OF GETTING MARRIED TO A GREAT BIG BOY WHO THINKS OF NOTHING BUT FILLING HIS FACE AND PLAYING WITH ROMAN!

SO LET’S LEAVE THEM IN THEIR BACHELOR STATE. GIRLS WHO COULD BEAR TO MARRY THEM HAVENT YET BEEN BORN!

THEY’D HAVE TO BE OUT OF THE ORDINARY, BUT I MAY HAVE A LITTLE IDEA FOR OBELEN!

GLOP! BLUP! SCRONCH! SCRONCH! SCRONCH! SCRONCH!
Meanwhile, in the village square, there are many ideas in the air...

An ambitious architectural project! That's what we need for Asterix and Obelix.

Will there be a rollercoaster?

Here are my preparatory sketches for a theme park in their honour.

With a big automated statue of Asterix at the centre!

Movement of head

Movement of wings

And wonderful attractions all around him, a cruise on a dolphin's back.

An aquatic big dipper.

Obelix will love it! I'm not so sure about Asterix and Dogmatix.

And puzzles for Obelix: he can't like nobody's business!

Bingo! There will be calmer attractions... noughts and crosses!
There's nothing like a real sensation: on this seesaw you can dance a Gaulish fling.

My distorting mirrors are an invention which will leave Asterix and Obelix flabbergasted.

There'll be sports in the park too. You can learn how to slide on the snow...

**Lesson I**
Learning to Concentrate

**Lesson II**
Not taking yourself too seriously

**Lesson III**
Stopping suddenly

**Lesson IV**
Bending the knees

And a game good for a laugh. Test Obelix's flexibility!

Finally, Roman pilota, a pastime much enjoyed by the indomitable Gauls!
THE PARK WILL BE A GREAT ATTRACTION: THIS WILL GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF ITS SUCCESS.

CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN! THIS ISN'T GERGÓVIA, YOU KNOW.

SEE ALL THESE PEOPLE, ASTÉRIX? IF A WILD SOW LOST HER FIGLETS SHE'D NEVER FIND THEM IN THIS CROWD.

THE LAST TIME I SAW SO MANY HAPPY PEOPLE WAS WHEN OUR BARD LOST HIS VOICE!

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE Gaulish village is worthy of us, by Jupiter! That's what I like about it.
Square on the hypotenuse, your park has inspired me to create some amazing new potions!

I think there's something here, to give our inseparable friends a great surprise!

First, a potion that takes your mind off things... until you almost lose your head, a bundle of laughs!

Then the potion that cures depression by chasing black thoughts away... for good!

The potion that guards against the weight of advancing years... just one drop gives you the flower power of your youth!

Then the potion that gives you self-confidence, nothing and no one will be able to resist you!

That's right! Over here, if you're a man!

Come here if you dare!

And I've kept the best till last: my friend Getafix's famous magic potion... its effects, shown in detail here, are always surprising!

Effects of the magic potion:

Stage 1:
All smiles, the happy recipient waits for his dose.

Stage 2:
Eyes closed, he opens his mouth to drink from the donor's ladle.

Stage 3:
Under the influence of the potion, the subject rules in the air. The wings on his helmet and his feet beat rapidly.

Stage 4:
Now Asterix has the superhuman strength to attack the entire Roman army!

© Year 1 BC — Goscinny
MAGIC POTIONS ARE SO OLD HAT. ASTERIX AND OBELIX DESERVE BETTER. THEY'RE MADE FOR THE ART OF DRAMA ON STAGE OR SCREEN!

LOOK AT THEM! SUCH CHARISMA! SUCH PRESENCE!

THEY HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED TO BE THE MOST FAMOUS HEROES OF OUR TIME! LET'S STAGE THEIR ADVENTURES AS A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE!

GLORY IS AT HAND, I ASSURE YOU!

M"ASTERIX

M"OBELIX

COR, STONE THE CROWS! I'M NOT PLAYING MYSELF IN THE CROW'S NEST!

BUT WHO CAN WE GET TO PLAY THE PARTS OF ASTERIX AND OBELIX? ACTORS? THAT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS, BY ALL THE GODS!

BUT MAYBE WITH MUSIC...

WITH LOTS OF ACTION!

WITH A LOVE INTEREST...

YOURS IS THE ENTHUSIASM OF NOVICES WITH IDEAS OF THEIR OWN. THAT'S ALL VERY WELL, BUT...

... I HAVE SOMETHING BETTER! WE'RE GOING TO IMAGINE A KIND OF DRAMA NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

NOT SO FAST, DARLINGS! YOU CAN'T JUST IMPROVISE IN THE THEATRE!
For a start I'll draw their adventures.

Nothing like this for keeping fit, right, Obelix?

Tchic!

Tchac!

Hold it right there, boys, while I sharpen my pencil.

I'll be careful to avoid mistakes with unfortunate consequences.

It's... it's a shark!?

Quiiiick! Do something!!!

Ooops! I boomed!

I'll get him out of the water and start again, quick!

Toutatis has sent me this dolphin!
THE ROMANS WILL HAVE THEIR PART TO PLAY, SO WE CAN'T DO WITHOUT THEIR GOODWILL.

THE ROMAN!
HE'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT!

NO, OBELIX! DON'T!
I'M ABOUT TO LOSE MY TEMPER!

YOU'RE LOSING YOUR TOUCH, OBELIX! WE'LL TAKE THAT AGAIN!

BONG!

THE ROMAN!
HE'S MAKING A BREAK FOR IT!

NO, OBELIX! DON'T!
I'M ABOUT TO LOSE MY TEMPER!

BONG!

AS A GENERAL RULE, ALL THE ACTORS MUST DO EXACTLY AS I SAY!

OH! THANK YOU! YOU'RE SUCH A SWEETIE, OBELIX!

RIGHT, WE'LL TAKE THAT AGAIN, AND WE'LL STICK TO WHAT I SAID, OKAY?

OH! THANK YOU! YOU'RE SUCH A SWEETIE, OBELIX!

OH! THANK YOU! YOU'RE SUCH A SWEETIE, OBELIX!

PERSONALLY, I SEE THE SCENE MORE LIKE THIS!

CALM DOWN, OBELIX! CALM DOWN!

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE FREE TO DO AS YOU LIKE WITH YOUR PRESENTS, OBELIX!

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WE WILL AVOID ALL FAR-FETCHED INTERPRETATIONS.

Oooh! I feel so dizzy!

SMACK!

HOW DARE YOU?

Puuugger!

Wouha! Ha!

HOW DARE YOU, YOU LITTLE

AND OF COURSE I'M NOT HAVING ANY COMPLAINTS FROM THE ACTORS!

Tchoc!

NOW, CONCENTRATE. WE'LL TAKE THAT AGAIN WITH LESS SELFISHNESS, THANK YOU!

Tchoc!

Hey, Mister Author, I want a stunt double for all these scenes!

We'll think about it, darling!
AND NO CHANGING MY DIALOGUE EITHER!

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OR, ASTERIX?

HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!

GUESS! ****

THAT ASTERIX IS CRAZY!

LEAVE OUT THE BAD LANGUAGE, STICK TO THE SCRIPT!

TAP! TAP! TAP! TAP!

AND THE SHOW WILL BE PUT ON IN A BIG THEATRE SO THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE CAN ATTEND.

YOUNG PEOPLE, YOU ARE ABOUT TO WATCH A HIGH-DEFINITION SUPER-WAGGIC SHOW ABOUT OUR ADVENTURES.

TISSUE! IT'S RUARY ALREADY! SEE THEIR NOSES!

THIS IS GOING TO BE FUNNY, OBELIX!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I WASN'T ASKED TO SING AT THIS EVENT!

WE TOOK OUT INSURANCE AGAINST IT.

WELL... ER... JULIUS CAESAR SENT ME ALONG AS AN OBSERVER.

HEY! YOU, ROMAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
AS THE GAULS QUEUE UP, EXCITEMENT AND IMPATIENCE ARE MOUNTING...

ASTERIX, DO YOU THINK THEY'LL HANG OUT BOAR ICES IN THE INTERVAL?

THEY'LL HAVE MORE TERRIBLE TROUBLE FINDING AN ACTRESS TO PLAY ME!

AND TERRIBLE IS THE WORD FOR IT.

REALLY, ROMAN OBSERVERS! STAND IN LINE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

BUT I AM STANDING IN LINE!

DURING THE PERFORMANCE, THE THEATRE ECCHOS WITH ROARS OF LAUGHTER AND SHOUTS OF OH!

AH AH
AH AH...

AAAAAAAAHAH!

AH AH
AH

OH OH

OH

OH

AH

AH

The show will certainly be the talk of the entire known world.

THE ENDOMITABLE GAULISH THEATRE

STOP giggling in that silly way down there!

WHATEVER AM I GOING TO TELL JULIUS CAESAR WHAT ON EARTH AM I GOING TO TELL HIM?

TELL ME, HONESTLY, DID YOU ENJOY IT, JULIUS CAESAR?

PEEEE!

TELL ME, ASTERIX, I'M NOT REALLY AS WELL-ROUNDED AS THAT ACTOR, AM I?

Tell me, at least there wasn't any music to start a disaster!

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AND THAT'S NOT ALL! I'M DESIGNING GIANT POSTERS TO BRING IN AUDIENCES!

OOF, YES! BIG POSTERS FOR THE ADVENTURES OF OBELIX THE GAUL!

NO, NO, VANILLA... IT'S BOTH THEIR BIRTHDAYS! IT MUST BE THE ADVENTURES OF ASTERIX AND OBELIX!

YOU CAN BET NO ONE WILL BE DOING THAT KIND OF THING FOR OUR HUSBANDS!

GONE WITH OBELIX

HOW THE FASTEST BRAVEST GAUL HOLDS OUT ALONE AGAINST THE ROMAN INVADERS!

DIRECTOR:

Laurensolivius

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY POSTER, ASTERIX?
NO, NO, LAURENSOLIVUS! ASTERIX AND OBELEX ARE DESTINED TO BE GREAT ARTISTS!

THEY ARE A FAMOUS CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP.

AND THE ORACLES ARE CLEAR ABOUT IT: THEY WILL BE FAMOUS ALL OVER THE WORLD!

A MUSEUM WILL BE DEVOTED TO THEM!

AN ASTERIX AND OBELEX MUSEUM! NOW WE'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT GUZZLING WILD BOAR!

APPARENTLY IT'S NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE!

WELL SEE ABOUT THAT

DON'T GO ON LIKE THAT, PEDIMENTA DEAR! HEY, YOU TWO, WATCH YOUR STEP!

THERE WILL EVEN BE A STATUE OF OBELEX AS A THINKER KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD!

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF JUST THEN, MASTER?

ROMAN GARRISONS WERE THIN ON THE GROUND, SO I WAS SAD.

ROMAN GARRISONS WERE THIN ON THE GROUND, SO I WAS SAD.
BUT LUCKILY FOR OBELIX, THE ROMANS ALWAYS COME BACK, AND SO DOES INSPIRATION!

THOSE COLOURS, THAT COMPOSITION... EXPRESSING THE ULTIMATE LIBERTY!
AND WITH OBERLIK AROUND, THE ROMANS
WILL BE PUT THROUGH THE MILL!
THE GODS TELL ME THAT A WHOLE
GALLERY IN THE MUSEUM WILL BE
DEVOTED TO THEM.

APPELLANTLY THIS
ARTISTIC GENRE
IS CALLED A
COMPRESSION.

I CAN SEE WHY.
THO CAN I.
IT KURTH!

WHAT A COLLECTION!
OUR LEGIONARIES
OUGHT TO TOP IT OFF
WITH THE HEADS OF
THOSE GAULS.

THAT’TH
FOR FURE!

AND THIS
ONE’S AN
ACCUMULATION.

AH, SO MODERN!
THIS USE OF COLOUR
WILL REVOLUTIONIZE
PAINTING.

WHAT INGENUITY!
WHAT’S
THE IDEA?

AY FRIEND
THE DRAID WARWILIX
AND I HAVE BREWED A
POTION THAT WORKS
THE SAME WAY!

A RAINBOW
WARRIOR!
I FEEL PAINT!

YOU DIDN’T EAT
ENOUGH DINNER.

OR SOME FISH
THAT WASN’T TOO
FRESH UPSET YOUR
TUMMY!

THERE’S NO
ACCOUNTING
FOR TASTES AND
COLOURS.
THE GAU...
THE GAUGAU...
THE GAULS!!

WHAT A SCREAM!
IT WILL ECHO DOWN
TWENTY CENTURIES,
BY TOUTATIS!

OTHER WORKS, TOO,
WILL PROVIDE FOOD
FOR DISCUSSION,
ESPECIALLY A KIND OF
LIVING SCULPTURE...

WHAT A MELTING
MOMENT! I'M
CHEESED OFF!

DON'T YOU THINK
FORMING A TORTOISE
MIGHT HAVE WORKED
BETTER?

YOU'RE RIGHT.
OUR MILITARY
STRATEGISTS NEEDN'T
THINK THEY'RE SUCH
BIG CHEESES!
Wrapped items, installations, monumental art - there's no limit to Obelix's ideas!

They've got this modern art lark all wrapped up!

I've seen it before, in Egypt. They'd call it a mummy there.

Enveloped like that it can go straight into the post.

Modern art scares me slightly.

Ah, but fear is a source of inspiration too! Look at this amazing portrait of Justforkix.

Menhir prices must be rocketing sky-high!

That's why I'm buying only dolmens. Standing stones are the best investment.

Monumental menhirs, Obelix, 3000 BC.

Young folk these days, always seeking attention.

What a heart-rending portrait. I feel an ode coming on...

You'd better stop it in its tracks if you don't want to be the next man in despair on the canvas!
Further on, a portrait of Asterix made up of all the items brought back from his foreign travels will be a talking point.

Don't you think those ears of wheat look a bit corny?

Maybe, but the obelisk will lend him wings.

After Arcimboldo

A fan of my fish at last! It's gone to his head!
WHAT DAZZLING BEAUTY!

Huh! I could play the great lady too if I wanted to....

I'd like to see you do it!
There'll even be a picture in honour of Caesar.

Geriatric is right. Let Caesar begin by sending Asterix and Obelix a birthday present!

Caesar in a Gaulish museum? We won't see that in a hurry!
MEANWHILE, QUEEN CLEOPATRA’S GALLEY WAS PUT IN TO LAND ON THE ARMORICAN COAST NEAR THE FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP OF COMPENDIUM.

HOW DARE YOU REFUSE THE GAULS’ INVITATION, JULES?

BUT, O MY QUEEN, THOSE GAULS ARE MY WORST ENEMIES, AND I...

THAT WILL DO!!! YOU FORGET THAT BUT FOR THOSE GAULS, YOUR SON CAESARION WOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF THE VILLAINOUS BRUTUS!

I ADMIT THAT, O MY QUEEN, HOWEVER, I...

STOP THAT! YOU JUST DO AS I SAY!!!

OH, ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I GIVE IN. I’LL REPLY TO THE INVITATION RIGHT AWAY, O QUEEN!

AND I’LL SEND THEM A SUITABLE BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

YOU DO THAT! AND JUMP TO IT!

WHEN SOMETHING GETS UP CLEOPATRA’S NOSE – IT’S A PRETTY NOSE, ALL THE SAME – SHE LOSES A LITTLE OF HER REGAL DIGNITY!

BACK AT COMPENDIUM...

GO AND FIND MY MEDICAMENTARUS* THE MAN WHO CONCOCTS MY UNGUENTS! ILlico PRESTO!
At your command, O Great Caesar!
Choleramorgus, I am going to give Asterix and Obelix a birthday present that only you can prepare for me.

My idea is a car containing a choice wine... its ingredients known to none but you!
Teehee! Teehee! Teehee! You'll be satisfied, O Sublime Caesar!

No, no! This way I'll kill two birds with one stone! I'll satisfy Cleopatra and take revenge on those infernal Gauls!

Later...
This is what you wanted, most great Caesar! A vintage that will have those who taste it rolling their eyes! Teehee! Teehee! Teehee!

For your services, Choleramorgus!
May Jupiter protect you to the end of time, most Sublime Caesar!

Summon the centurions from the four fortified camps!
Ave Caesar! Those who are about to serve you salute you!
Yes, ave, ave! I'm sending you on a mission!
You are to be my ambassadors and take this car to the Gaulish village!

Er... the village of madment
That's a... kind of a delicate operation!
Can we at least take our respective centuries with us?

The fact is I'm... I'm not feeling too well just now!

Any more of that and I'll have you served to the lions in the circus as a starter!
JUMP TO IT, AND NO MESSING AROUND! HONESTLY, I ASK YOU!

A ... AVE! THIS JAR OF ... ER, OF GOOD WINE ... ER ... IT'S FROM ... FROM, ER, CAESAR!

HOW VERY KIND OF GOOD OLD JULES!

HMM! I REALLY RELISH THE BOUQUET OF THIS FINE VINTAGE MADE FROM THE GREAT GRAPE VARIETIES OF ROME!

BY WAY OF THANKS TO YOU, LET'S ALL TASTE IT AND DRINK CAESAR'S HEALTH!

BRING DRINKING HURNS FOR THESE GENTLEMEN!

AVE CAESAR! THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO DRINK TO YOUR HEALTH SALUTE YOU!

SO YOU'RE HAVING A PARTY AND NOBODY TOLD ME!

MINES' ALL OK, A GURGLE! OUCH!

OW! OUCH!
Oooh, Quick! The Latrines!!

But I haven't even started singing!

Ho, ho! They're on the run because soon they really will have the runs!

They tasted the contents of this jar, which contains a strong laxative! R Bec oil! That flask from Jules Caesar was a real fiasco!

That's funny, those Romans are running away even before we can run after them!

And they don't come up smelling of roses!

And I'm sorry, Getrix, sir... about that book landing on your nose!

Oh, you're forgiven! Now go and find Mrs. Getrix, she's expecting you.

On the way to the Gaulish village...

You will see that I have kept my word, O Queen!

Quick!

The idiots! They tasted the contents of the jar!

O Caesar, when you are with me I do wish you could control yourself!

But... my Queen, I swear I...
At last all our friends are reunited in the village square, and the guests give the birthday boys a lovely surprise.