



opening extract from

# **The Adventures of Tintin: Volume Three**

written by

**Hergé**

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**The Broken Ear**

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**King Ottokar's Sceptre**

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| Thai           | CASTERMAN                             |
| Tibetan        | CASTERMAN                             |
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TRANSLATED BY LESLIE LONSDALE-COOPER AND MICHAEL TURNER

## EGMONT

*We bring stories to life*

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The loss was discovered this morning by a museum attendant. It is believed the thief must have hidden in the gallery overnight and slipped out when the staff arrived for work. No evidence of a break-in has been found...

Come on Snowy! To the Museum of Ethnography!

The Director? I'm afraid he's engaged: the police are here...

Now, to recapitulate... You say the attendant locked the doors last night at 17.12 hours; he noticed nothing unusual. He came on duty this morning at seven. At 07.16 he observed that exhibit No. 3542 was missing and immediately raised the alarm. Right? ... Now this attendant, is he reliable? Absolutely! Above suspicion! He's been with us for over twelve years and never given the least cause for complaint.

Besides, the fetish has no intrinsic value. In my judgement, it would only be of interest to a collector...

Great snakes! The Thompsons! Why, it's our friend Tintin!

Have you any leads? Well, the Arumbaya fetish has no in... er... no instinctive value... The solution is quite simple: it was removed by a collector. To be precise: it was collected by a remover.

Some hours later... This is the book. I'm sure it has something about the Arumbayas.

A.J. WALKER TRAVELS IN THE AMERICAS LONDON 1873

Aha! This is interesting... Listen, Snowy. Today we met our first Arumbayas. Long, black, oily hair framed their coffee-coloured faces. They were armed with long blow-pipes which they employ to shoot darts poisoned with curare... You hear that, Snowy?

We decided to stay there. Their generosity and gave us a splendid...

Curare! ... the terrible vegetable poison which paralyses one's breathing! ... Oh! "Arumbaya fetish" ... But... but... it's the very one that's been stolen!

therefore, made an accurate sketch they urged me to go

Odd coincidence, don't you think, Snowy? ... Snowy isn't interested... he's gone to sleep... I think I'll follow suit.

The next morning...

Help! It's bewitched!

Hello! ... Hello? ... Hello! ... Is that you, sir?

Yes, who is that? ... Oh, it's you, Fred... What? The fetish? ... My goodness me! I'll come at once...

Oh dear, here we go again... Sherlock Holmes on the trail!

Extraordinary! There was the fetish this morning, back in its usual place, with this letter propped up beside it... What do you think?

In my opinion, gentlemen, the fetish is bewitched! Hm... Hm... Hm...

Dear Director, I bet a friend I could pinch something from your museum. I won't say, so here's your fetish back. Please forgive my foolishness, and any trouble I have caused. Sincerely, X

My mind is made up: this letter is anonymous. Nobody knows who wrote it! To be precise: I agree. An anonymous letter nobody wrote!

According to the police the case is closed... But that isn't my view... Why doesn't he give up?

No. 3542 ARUMBAYA FETISH The Arumbaya tribe live along the banks of the River Soliflor in the Republic of San Theodoros.

the right ear of the fetish is slightly damaged: there's a little bit missing.

I do beg your pardon, sir! Wake up, Tintin! Look where you're going!

So, am I the only one to know the fetish they put back is a fake?

Here's the proof, Walker, the explorer, says he made an "accurate sketch". And according to the drawing...

FATAL OVERSIGHT A strong smell of gas alerted residents this morning at 21 London Road. They sent for the police who effected an entry to the room occupied by artist Jacob Balthazar. Officers discovered the sculptor lying on his bed; he was found to be dead. It appears that the victim had forgotten to turn off the tap on his gas-ring. By some chance his parrot survived the fumes. Mr. Balthazar's work attracted the attention of art-critics, who particularly praised his series of wooden statues, his special technique being strongly reminiscent of primitive sculpture.

But on the reinstated fetish the right ear is intact. So it must be a copy... Now, who would be interested in acquiring the real one? A collector? Quite possibly... Anyway, let's see what the press has to say about it.

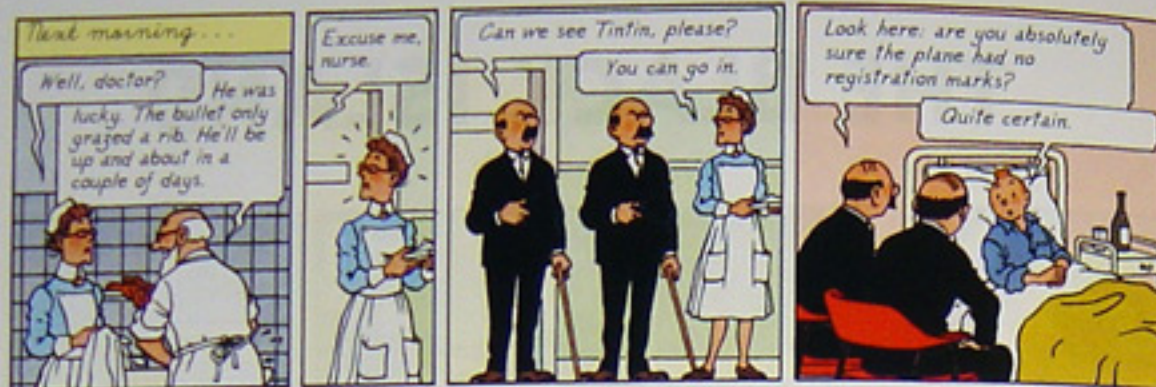
Going round and round like that, he makes me giddy!

Oh dear, here we go again... Sherlock Holmes on the trail!

Going round and round like that, he makes me giddy!

# THE BLACK ISLAND





# KING OTTOKAR'S SCEPTRE



