

Interpretative extensions

about

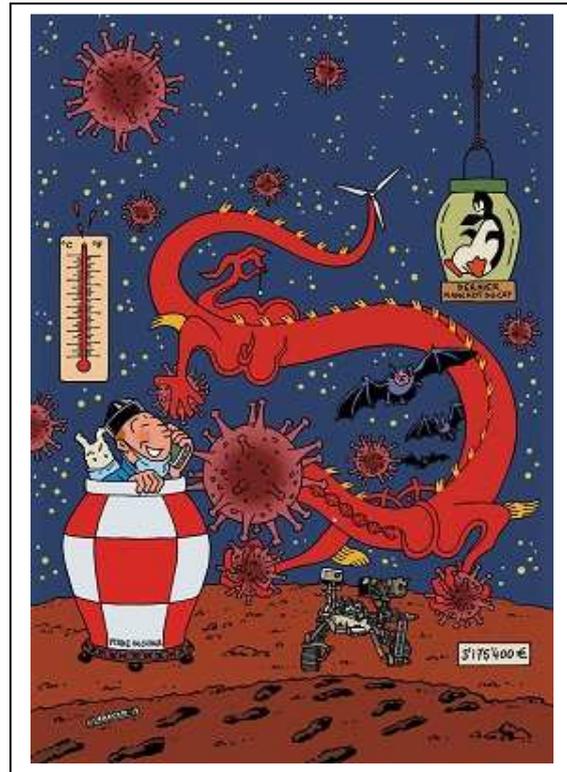
The Exem poster

for the book

Tintin today *Images and imaginaries*

published by Georg

during this month of August 2021



Exem's poster is dominated by the central elements of the Blue Lotus cover: Tintin and Snowy are hidden in a Chinese vase against the backdrop of an enormous dragon that seems to threaten them.

For the interpretation of the original details of the poster, the reader is referred to Philippe Muri's excellent article with Exem's comments, published on August 10, 2021 on the website :

<https://www.tdg.ch/exem-confronte-tintin-au-monde-daujourd'hui-08040993288>

At the end of the analysis we put the two most explicit extracts *

What could we add to the proposed analysis?

That hidden with Snowy in the famous Chinese vase of the Blue Lotus put in the colours of the lunar rocket, Hergé's little reporter, alias Georges Remi, finds himself on Mars, an extraterrestrial environment, he is in communication with who knows who: the Earth? In the position of a Saint-Georges, a hero well known for having "killed a dragon to whom a princess is going to be sacrificed", the little reporter seems ready to terrestrialize the earth. In the position of a Saint-Georges, a hero well known for having "killed a dragon for which a princess is to be sacrificed"¹, the little reporter seems ready to bring down a Chinese dragon all in red with coronaviruses in its grip. Before this confrontation, what can Tintin, who has "landed" on what appears to be the Red Planet, also known as the Planet Mars, the name of the Roman god of war, say?

¹ *Le Petit Robert des noms propres*, 2004, p.858.

In our opinion, the hero says the same things about the Martian landscape as he did about the lunar landscape: "Oooh! It is... How can I describe it to you?...a nightmare landscape, a landscape of death, frightening desolation...Not a tree, not a flower, not a blade of grass. Not a bird, not a sound, not a cloud... In the inky black sky, there are thousands of stars... ... but motionless, frozen, without the sparkle that, from the Earth, makes them seem so alive!"²

Here, fleeing the earthly climatic catastrophe far superior to the floods of the Yangtze River, the little reporter finds himself projected into an extraterrestrial future where he will have to fight against the brutalities of new American and Chinese technological imperialisms³, and to save once again other Tchang, those children who have been orphaned⁴ by the war...

B.Spee

* The explicit extract from Philippe Muri's article:

"I really thought about the theme and the title of the book. I wanted to portray a character anchored in the present", says the author as a preamble to a tasty deciphering.

An anti-covid mask under his chin, Tintin or his avatar emerges from a vase made in China. Glued to his mobile phone and ignoring a similarly masked Snowy, he seems unaware of the threat of a dragon whose head and legs have been replaced by representations of the coronavirus. Bats flying around the monster recall the idea of a possible transmission of Covid by chiropterans. Another animal, the penguin enclosed in a lantern, evokes an endangered species, while paying tribute to Alfred, a character created by Alain Saint-Ogan, one of Hergé's teachers.

Global warming

Is that all? No: above Tintin's head, a thermometer embodies global warming. On the floor, an aspirin tube inspired by the one used by the Dupondts in "In the Land of Black Gold" has its mark replaced by the word vaccine. Quite a symbol. Further on, the "Perseverance" robot, which landed on Mars last February, patrols the image. The sum indicated in euros in a nearby cartouche is none other than that achieved by an original drawing by Hergé for the cover of the "Blue Lotus", sold at auction in January, a world record.

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

² *Explorers on the moon*, cartoon vignette (24D1,2,3).

³ On the subject of the duplicities and political contradictions of states in search of power, we refer to our contribution: Bernard Spee, From the Depression to the Moon or how Hergé 'got out of it' by Science published in the present book *Tintin Aujourd'hui*, p.193-211.

⁴ Spee B., (2018), Geography of an unhappy childhood in *The Adventures of Tintin*, p.193-210, in *Les géographies de Tintin*, Editions CNRS, Actes de colloque, Paris, 2018, 270 pages.