



Asterix in Britain

René Goscinny , Albert Uderzo (Illustrator)

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One little ancient British village still holds out against the Roman invaders. Asterix and Obelix are invited to help. They must face fog, rain, warm beer and boiled boar with mint sauce, but they soon have Governor Encyclopaedicus Britannicus's Romans declining and falling. Until a wild race for a barrel of magic potion lands them in the drink. It's not quite cricket - how about a nice cup of hot water, though? Or even the first ever tea-party?

Asterix in Britain Details

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Author : René Goscinny , Albert Uderzo (Illustrator)

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From Reader Review Asterix in Britain for online ebook

Chris says

I think I have discovered why England hasn't won a World Cup or Euro Cup in a while. Hot water time and weekends.

I loved the Rugby match! GO Obelix!

Krishna Kumar says

“Asterix in Britain” was one of the earliest Asterix books I read, but even though I remember it with fondness, until I re-read it again, I had forgotten all the details except for the “tea” part of the story. The plot is about a sole village holding out against the Roman invaders, except that it is in Britain and without a magic potion. So one of the villagers goes to the Gaulish village to seek help to keep the Romans out. Asterix and Obelix go back with him to Britain carrying a barrel of magic potion.

The story worked for me in the way that “Asterix and the Banquet” did not. In the latter, all the French references went over my head. In this, I was able to catch many of them, such as the common-places ones about the British driving on the wrong side of the road. For much younger readers (even those from England), a few jokes may not work anymore, because the book was written before the decimalization of the Pound and wider use of the metric system in the United Kingdom. Also intriguing is the rugby match, which is not the most popular sport in either country, but I don't know how things were back in the 1960s.

I am a little ambivalent about the ending. It was not the one I expected, but after thinking it through, it does work for the purposes of the story. So thumbs up!

Colin says

Astérix é um dos melhores protagonistas de banda desenhada de sempre e este episódio das suas aventuras, que se pass na minha terra, é o meu favorito.

Francesco says

Ancora un po' acerbo il tratto ma la storia rimane un capolavoro, a partire dalla resa così geniale degli stereotipi inglesi: il té, ancora sconosciuto, sostituito da *acqua calda con un velo di latte di capra o due zollette di zucchero*, il fatto che il continente guidi sul *lato sbagliato della strada*, l'orrida cucina inglese, i Beatles, la Torre di Londra.

Ma anche gli assurdi paragoni fatti dai britannici ("Il mio giardino è più piccolo della vostra Roma ma la mia lancia è più aguzza del vostro stomaco", dice l'inglese a cui i legionari che inseguono i Galli hanno appena devastato il prato meticolosamente curato) e la resa di certe espressioni inglesi (merito del traduttore, certo, ma già presenti nell'originale).

Nick says

Finally - the early history of rugby union explained!

Martyn says

A much shorter story than I remember it being, but excellent nevertheless (and the animated film adaptation of it was brilliant too). One just wonders what the jokes and puns are like in other languages as it feels like many of them must get lost in translation. I wonder how much of it was actually by Goscinny, and how much was the invention and initiative of the translators. I probably recognise puns now which completely bypassed me as a child. Great fun - and so accurate in its depiction of the English!

Jacques le fataliste et son maître says

Capolavoro, anche solo per la parodia della lingua e della cultura inglese. E poi, la trovata dell'acqua calda consumata alle cinque... Tutte queste invenzioni, poi, sorrette da una storia coi fiocchi.

Martin says

I read this one at different periods of my life, and it only got better every time (in fact, I think this book's due for a re-read!). As an 8-year old kid I liked it because the characters were engaging, the story was fun, and the art was very colourful. Though admittedly some of the jokes/cultural references were over my head - if I noticed them at all.

The last edition I read was actually the German translation *Asterix bei den Briten* , as I was learning German at the time and reading this book, with which I was already familiar, helped me learn.

Andy says

Anyone for tea, warm beer & Mint sauce with any type of boiled meat, What!

Nandakishore Varma says

This one plays off the stiff-upper-lipped English against the hot-blooded Gauls. Anticlimax is Asterix's cousin "once removed" (a nomenclature which confuses Obelix no end) from England, who is in Gaul to seek Asterix's help for his village, which is still holding out against Caesar. So Obelix and Asterix cross the channel with a barrel of magic potion - but the end is surprisingly different from what one would expect.

Throughout the book, English manners, customs, food (boar in mint sauce!) and drink (warm beer!) exasperate the Gauls - but what really floors them is how these stiff collars are transformed into a bunch of bloodthirsty savages once inside a rugby stadium!

Dominick says

"Asterix's Greatest Adventure," according to the cover of my edition, and there are times I am inclined to agree, though there are also times at which I am inclined to give the nod to *Asterix and Cleopatra* or one of the other albums (e.g. *Asterix at the Olympic Games*, another favourite of mine). However, the humour and plotting of this one are hard to top. Goscinny and Uderzo's satire of the British stiff upper lip is hilarious, and Uderzo's art is at or near the peak of his abilities, featuring clear character designs, brilliant visual humour, and some very interesting variations in design and layout, given the original publication parameters. If you don't like this Asterix volume, there is no hope for you; if you haven't read any yet, though, you might want to start elsewhere, because most of the rest of it isn't (quite) this good.

Petrichor says

Certainly one of the best of the whole Asterix Series.

Laura says

Five stars, of course!!

Die spinnen, die Römer! :-)

Gavin says

Asterix in Britain is one of the good ones, and more fun for me in that we didn't have it when I was a kid. So I'm not able to read it in my sleep yet.

Asterix's first cousin once-removed from England (Anticlimax) is part of a tribe of Britons holding out against the Roman invaders (sound familiar?) He sneaks out of the siege and comes to Armorica and the little Gaulish village seeking help.

Getafix brews a barrel of magic potion, and Asterix and Obelix accompany Anticlimax on the trip back to his village.

On the trip, Obelix gets drunk on warm beer (bitter) and locked in the Tower of London, which he promptly breaks out of. Asterix and Obelix also take part (accidentally) in a rugby match.

The potion barrel is destroyed by the Romans (one of the few successes they have during the whole of the series, which is a nice change of pace) but Asterix pretends he's able to make the potion again, using some leaves that he took from Getafix (actually tea leaves, so they add to the hot water than most Britons drink, ergo having Asterix "invent" the tea that Britain drinks!).

The Briton Chief (Mykingdomforanos) leads the village to victory against the Romans, and then tells Asterix he knows that it wasn't potion, but the psychological advantage was crucial.

The lads return home after a feast, the end!

Joseph R. says

Asterix of Gaul is a famous comic book character, most notable to me because his adventures are available in Latin. His stories are a solace to those students tired of Julius Caesar and Cicero. The story is set during the Roman Empire, so it makes sense to be in Latin.

Asterix is resident of a small Gaullish village. The druid priest of the Village, Getafix, brews a potion that grants superhuman strength. Asterix drinks it now and then and beats up on the Romans while having other adventures. His faithful companion is Obelix, who fell into a vat of the potion as a child and now has permanent superhuman strength. A long series of comics chronicle their adventures in Gaul (France) and abroad.

In this story, Asterix's first cousin, once removed, is named Anticlimax. He lives in a village in Britain. Unfortunately Julius Caesar has invaded and all the towns have surrendered except for his. They are in desperate straights and send Anticlimax to Gaul, hoping to get the potion of superhuman strength so they can win against the Romans (who are led by the Roman Governor Encyclopaedicus Britannicus).

The story is fairly entertaining and allows the writers to take broad swipes at British culture. Warm beer and boiled meats get the most jokes, though drinking hot water with milk and saying "what" a lot are also running gags. As are the names of the various characters, as you can probably tell from the previous paragraph.

This version is translated into English and they have definitely captured the stereotypical British diction for the British characters ("I say," "what ho," "jolly good," and "old chap" appear plenty of times). It is a fun, light read that I picked up at the local library when I was in the children's section with Jacob and Lucy. If I run across more there I will probably pick them up for some light-hearted fun.

Pramod Nair says

Obelix: What do you keep on saying What for?

Anticlimax: I say Sir, don't you know what's what, what?

'**Asterix in Britain**' is one of my definite favorites among the entire Asterix series.

Originally titled in French as '*Astérix chez les Bretons*' the eighth title of the series takes the adventures of

Asterix & his mighty friend Obelix to the land of Britons with a heavy dosage of merriment, legionary bashing, a game of rugby and sumptuous feasts with Mint sauce & warm beer. *Ah! Let's not forget about the pots after pots of hot water too.*

The plot begins when *Julius Caesar* defeats all of Britain except a tiny village named 'Cantium' populated by a bunch of tough Britons under a brave chief. In order to fight the Romans surrounding their village the Britons decide to seek the help of the defiant Gaulish village of Asterix and their magic potion. *Anticlimax* who is a British cousin of Asterix is delegated with this mission, which results in Asterix & Obelix taking a journey to Britain and an incredible adventure of infinite proportions.

The clichéd British "upper class" diction allotted to the British characters in the book along with some of the cheeky references that are incorporated into the comic frames like the frequent consumption of 'hot water with milk', warm beer and boiled meat, enjoying weekends, are incredibly entertaining and adds nicely to the British setting of the theme.

The keen sense of observation and humor that *René Goscinny & Albert Uderzo* invested while giving shape to the cartoon panels can be seen in some amazingly funny allusions they make; the "little jolly-boat" of *Anticlimax* and the way he is rowing it with a side-text aimed at the reader which read "*he was brought up in the tribe of the Oxbrigienses*"; the frequent breaks taken during a battle for 'hot water drinking' and taking off days on weekends during battle; a guest appearance of the Beatles band; references to the idea of a Chunnel; frequent fogs and rains; & driving on the wrong side of the road; are some samples for these sharp observations. The illustrations are reflections of extreme artistry and the accompanying text, which is lavishly sprinkled with satire, verbal jousting and socio-political references, adds a level of balance, which makes the book an exceptionally charming one.

A Jolly good book, old chap! Cheerio!

Note: A more detailed version of this review, with some interesting footnotes on two glaring factual errors from the volume can be read from [here](#).

Matti Karjalainen says

Sarjan ehdottomaan parhaimmiston kuuluvan albumin voisi kai kiteyttää näihin kuviin ja näihin tunnelmiin:

- Hyvänen aika! Hämmäntävä spektaakkeli.
- Se on, eikö olekin.

Loppuun vielä pieni anekdootti: Goscinny ja Uderzo saivat tietävästi lukijapalautetta aina kun gallialaiset sankarimme seikkailivat eri puolilla maailmaa; milloin tekijät eivät olleet tavoittaneet jonkin alueen kansanluonnetta oikein, milloin yksityiskohdat eivät olleet kohdallaan tai niin edespäin. Englannista kirjeitä ei kuulemma koskaan tullut, eli ehkäpä "Asterix Britanniaassa" osui joko täydellisesti maaliinsa, tai sitten britit suhtautuivat tähänkin asiaan tynnen rauhallisesti.

Ojo says

These names will never cease to make me laugh!

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Asterix in Britain (Asterix, #8), René Goscinny

Helmut says

"Tu sais bien, Obélix, que les Romains sont en Bretagne, pour la plupart." - "Mais ce n'est pas juste ça!"

Il est, n'est-il pas? Überhaupt hat Obelix in diesem Band, vielleicht einem der bekanntesten der Reihe, nicht viel zu lachen. Erst muss er Idefix daheim lassen, dann darf er keine Römer verhauen, dann schämt er sich wegen seinem Ausfall durch gallischen Wein, schließlich darf er nicht beim Kalebassenspiel zwischen Camulodunum und Durovernum mitspielen, und dann noch das ganze gekochte Schweinefleisch mit Minzsoße... ma bonté!

Ein herrliches Sprachspiel jagt das nächste, besonders die bretonische Sprache ist ein wunderbares Manöver, um die britischen Eigenheiten zu persiflieren. Wer sich wundert - tatsächlich gab es vor Römern, Angelsachsen und Normannen eine lebendige keltische Kultur auf den Inseln. Allerdings weiß ich nicht, ob die britischen Kelten wirklich Steintafeln mit "Foyer doux foyer" im Wohnzimmer hatten, oder in den Kneipen Darts spielten, wenn sie ihr abgestandenes Cervisia tranken. Je dis!
