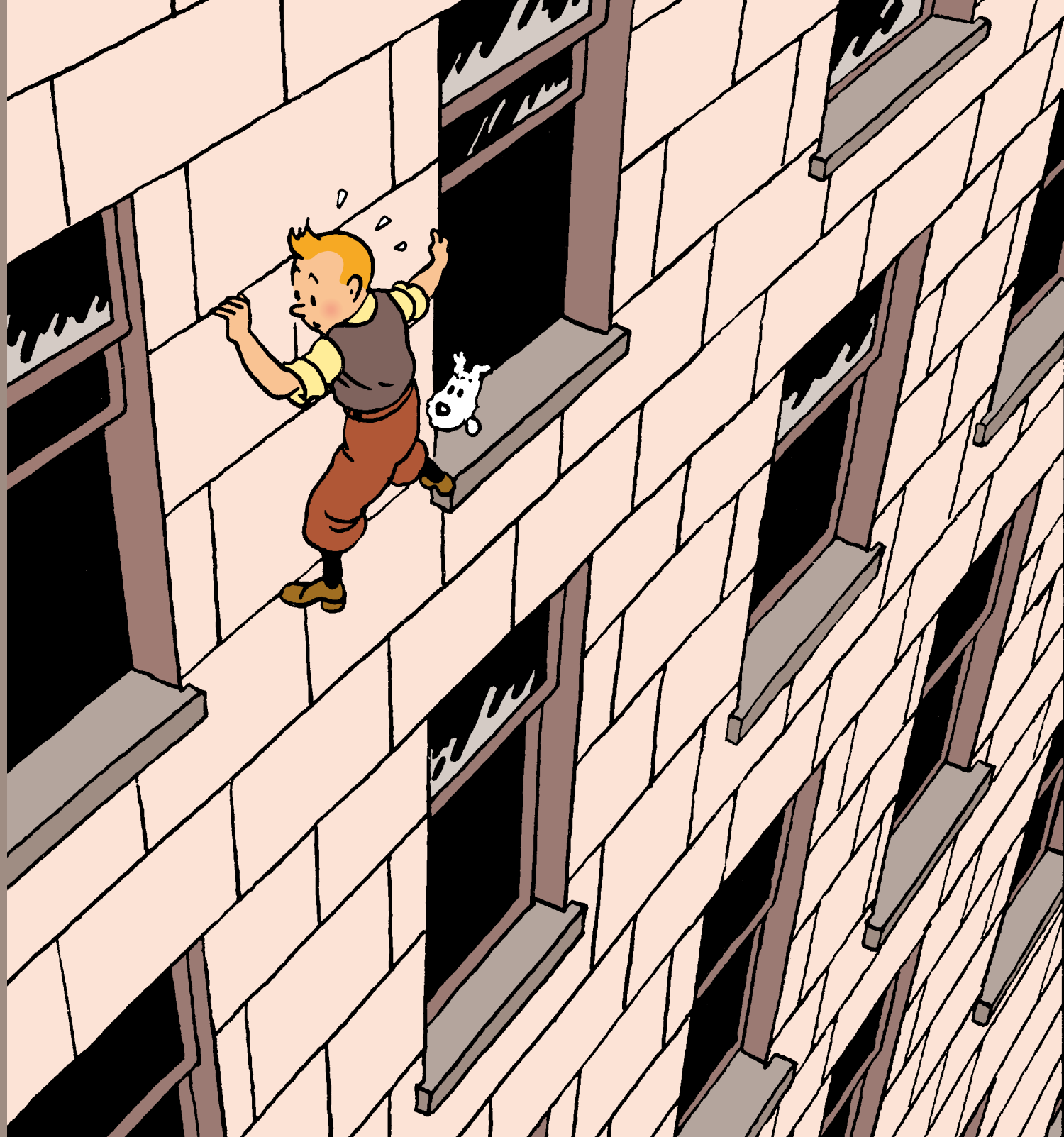


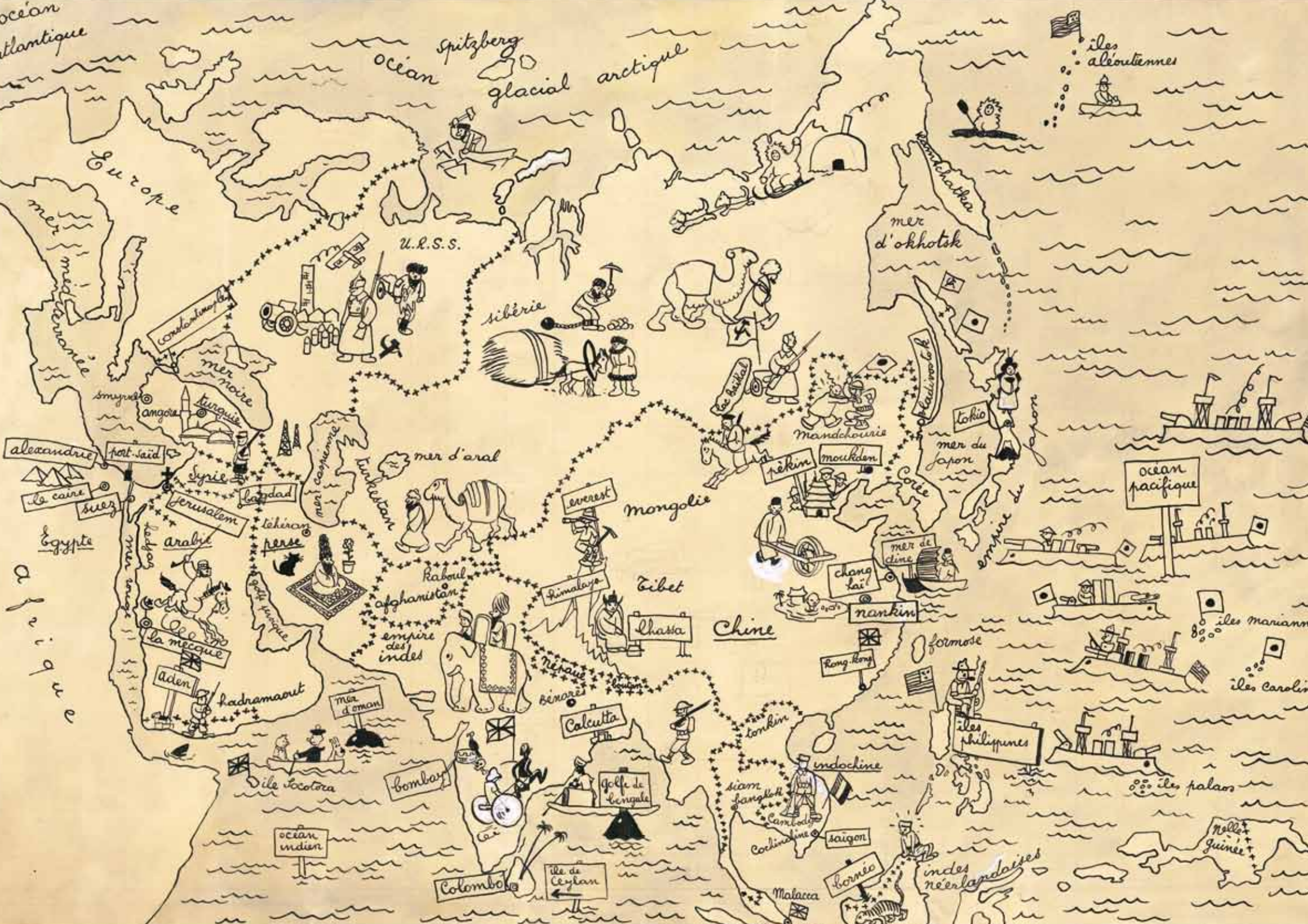
Travel diaries

The United States

★ *Tintin in America* ★

BASIC FACTS







Area : 9.834 million km², third largest in the world.

Capital : Washington, D.C.

Languages : English, but many other languages are also spoken to a degree throughout the country, owing to the regular waves of immigration. Hawaiian is the official second language of the state of Hawaii.

Population : 328.2 million (2019).

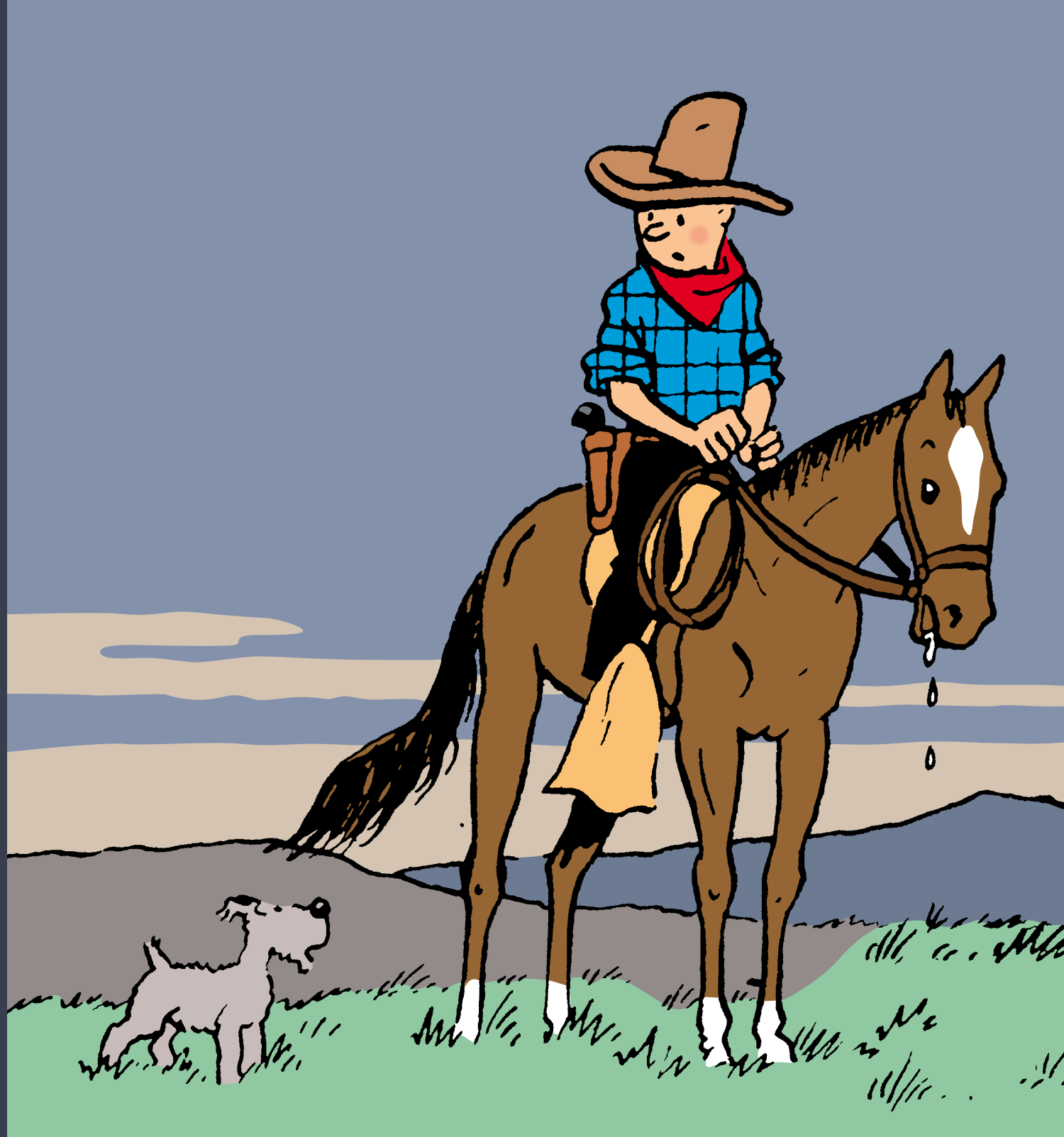
Currency : the dollar, all bills of which are green.



Flag : 13 stripes alternating red and white, representing the 13 original colonies which revolted against the English in 1776. The 50 stars each represent one of the 50 states of the union.



LANDSCAPE AND GEOGRAPHY





Panoramic view of Lower Manhatta - New York

THE EAST COAST

For the most part, the East Coast, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, is a vast plain. But its appearance and climate are very different as one travels between its northern region (along the Canadian border) and the southernmost point (the Florida peninsula).

Owing to the effects of the gulf stream, this coast has a wide range of temperatures. New York is very humid in the summer and receives abundant snowfall in the winter. Miami, although well known for its mild heat, often has periods of winter ice.

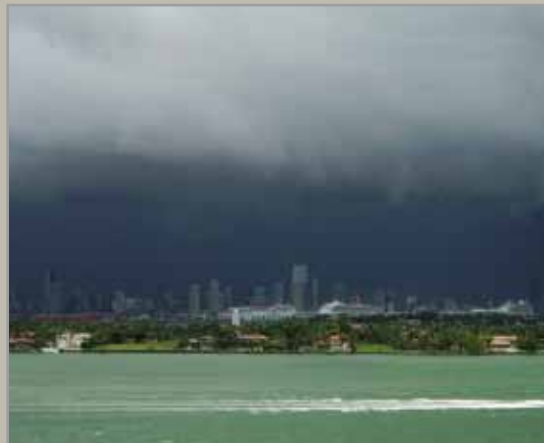
Without much natural protection, the East Coast is buffeted by all types of wind, including typhoons coming in off the sea.



Manhattan



New-York



Miami



Miami River



Chicago River



Lake of the Clouds, Porcupine Mountains, Michigan



Cleveland - Ohio

THE MIDWEST

This is the central region of the United States. In the north it features the area of the five great lakes which, except for Lake Michigan, constitute a natural border with Canada. Below this region are the "Great Plains", a vast expanse of easily farmed prairies.

As early as the conquest of the west, thousands of farmers from Europe turned this area into the breadbasket of the U.S. In the south, the discovery of petroleum resources transformed the economy. The climate is generally temperate, but some areas experience sudden violent and short-term tornadoes known as "twisters".



The Mississippi, Missouri



Kirkwood train station, Missouri



Clearwater, Wisconsin



Chicago



Iowa



Minnesota



Los Angeles

THE WEST COAST

When one crosses over the Rocky Mountains (which was thought at one time to be impossible) the traveler arrives on the West Coast, considered by many Americans as a sort of promised land.

The southern portion of this strip of land, California, is often thought of as a land of privilege, thanks to its climate and geographical riches (beaches, coastal cliffs, plains, deserts and mountains). It was there, in Los Angeles, that the American movie industry set up its capital: Hollywood.

But the West Coast continues far into the north, past Canada to Alaska, where the extremely cold climate is almost the opposite to that in California!



The Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco



The USS *Midway* near Downtown San Diego



Seattle seafront seen from a ship



Las Vegas

HISTORY
AND CULTURE



THE INDIANS

The first inhabitants of North America arrived from the north, via what is called Alaska today. During the course of centuries they spread over the entire continent, forming a myriad of tribes with customs often very disparate. It is believed that there were at one time 300 Indian languages broken into two thousand dialects, proving that the Indians did not form a single entity but rather a large number of different groups.

Many tribes had an easy life on the plains, which lead to the development of such tribes as the **Cheyenne**, **Sioux**, **Comanche**, **Crows**, and the **Pawnees**. Others established themselves in the forests (**Algonquin**, **Iroquois**, **Huron**, etc.). In the northwest were the **Shoshone**, **Paiute** and **Chinook**. Finally, the present state of Arizona was particularly noted for the presence of the **Apaches** who were part of the Navajo Tribe. The Indians of North America are to-day referred to as Native Americans.



Cheyenne



Chaman Sioux - Hunkpapa Sitting Bull



Crow - Curley



Paiute Indian woman



Apache

WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA?

Every school child who has paid attention in class has certainly heard of **Christopher Columbus**. Hergé pays tribute several times to that illustrious sailor in the *Adventures of Tintin*, through subtle references. **Columbus discovered America in 1492**, all the while believing that he had arrived in India via a new route.



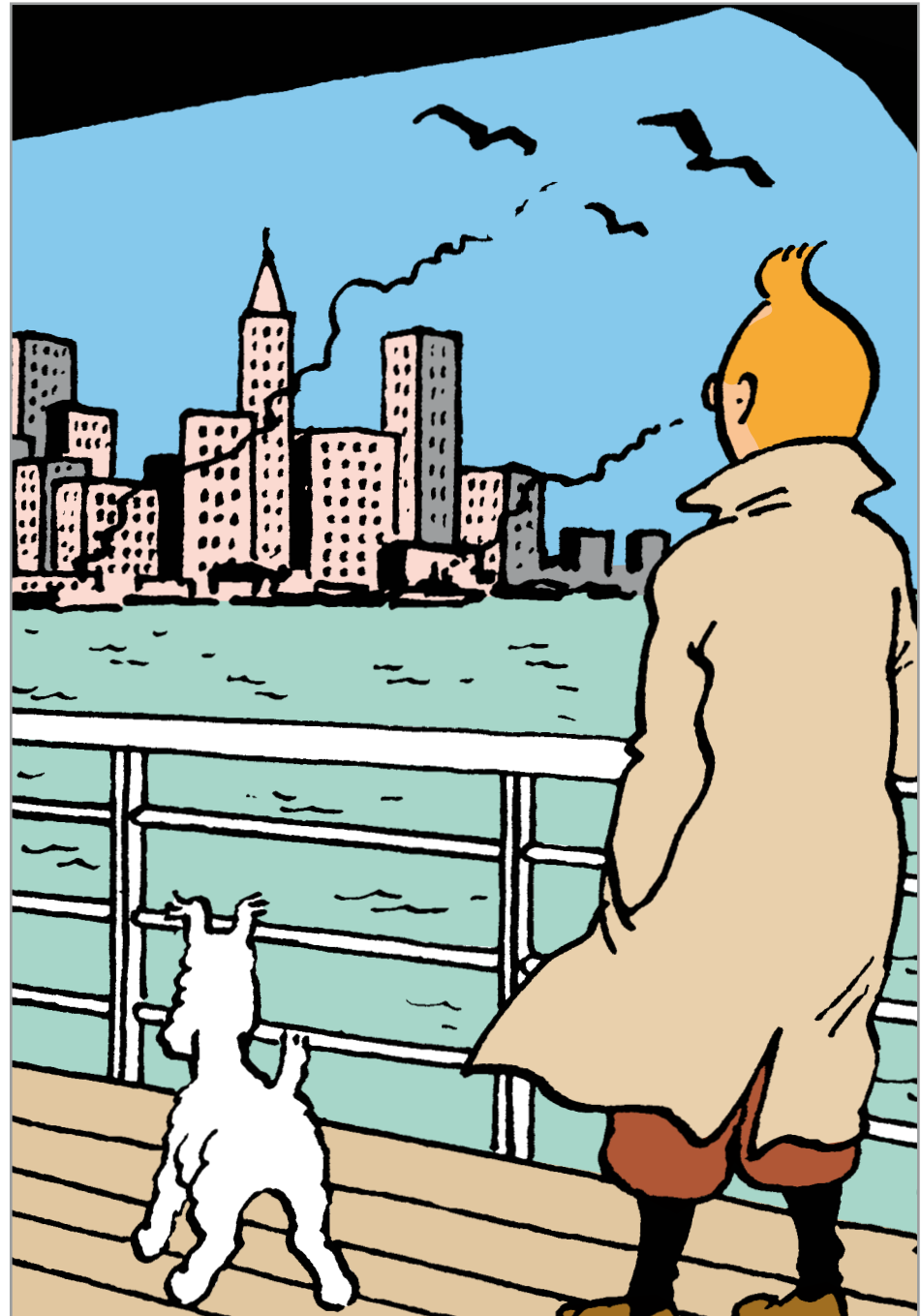
Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella portrayed on a monument in the Plaza de Colón, Madrid

America owes its name to **Americo Vespucci**, himself a sailor, but one with the nerve to report on these discoveries and to alert his readers to the existence of a new world — one which he may never have visited.

Before Columbus, however, other sailors, including the Vikings, had tasted the pleasures of this earthly paradise.



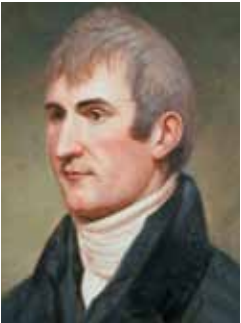
Statue of Americo Vespucci in Florence



THE CONQUEST OF THE WEST



William Clark

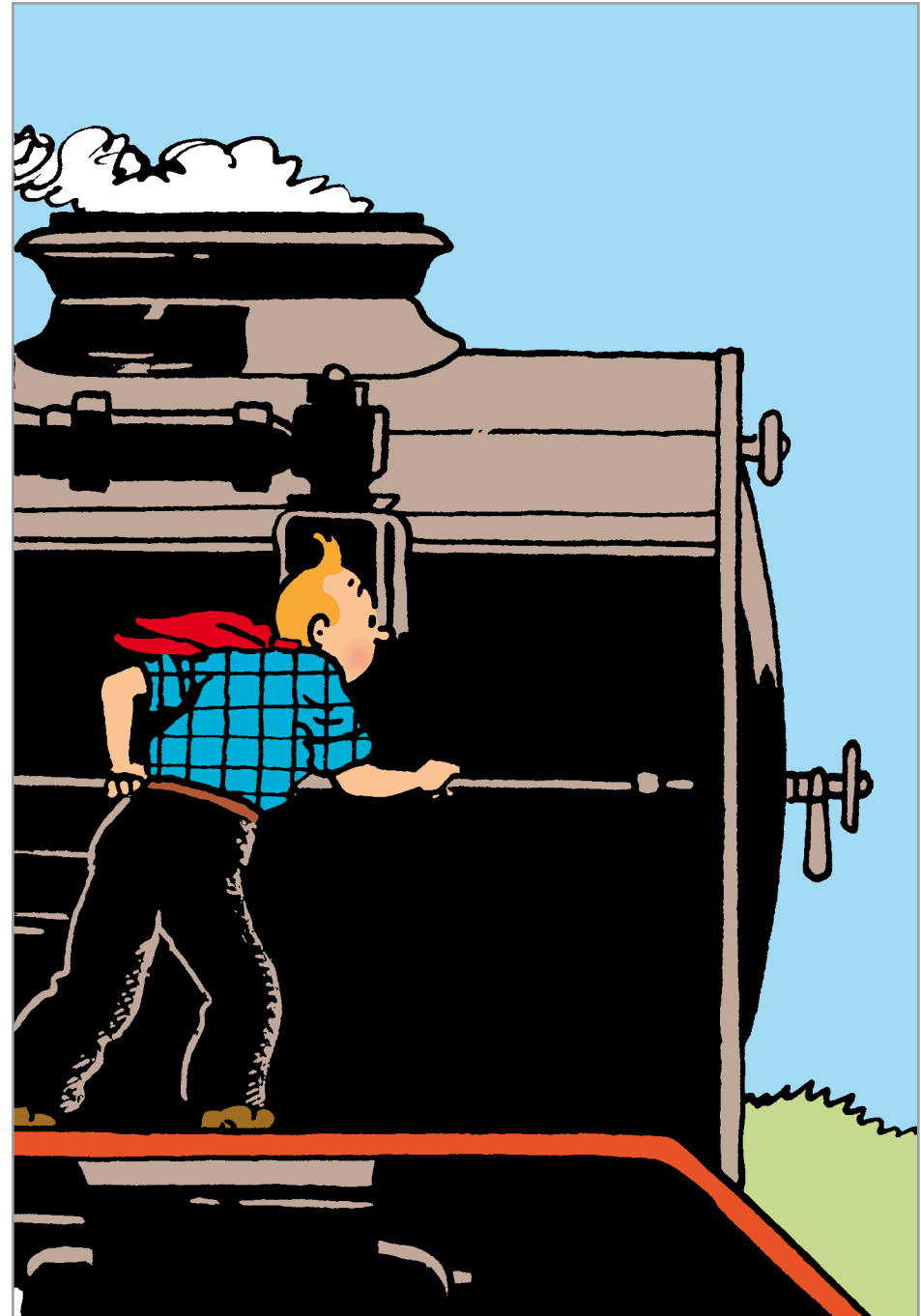


Meriwether Lewis

This process began in 1804 when two explorers, **William Clark** and **Meriwether Lewis** undertook a two year exploration of Louisiana and Oregon. After that, villages sprang up in the center of the United States. But it was not until the 1830s that migrants began to travel to the "Far West."

In 1845, after the defeat of Mexico, the United States incorporated an immense territory which would become California, Nevada, Utah and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico.

The great westward migration continued: **between 1841 and 1869 more than 350,000 people left for the west**, which represented in their eyes the "promised land." They brought with them progress: the telegraph and then the railroad which linked the east and west ends of the United States. The early stage of this migration was spurred by the gold rush which began in California in 1848.



LEGENDARY PERSONALITIES

As it came into being, the American West gave rise to “legends”: outlaws (Jesse James, Billy the Kid), trappers (Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Kit Carson), sheriffs (Wild Bill Hickock, Pat Garrett, Wyatt Earp) and gen-erals (Custer, Grant, Lee).

These men were known throughout the U.S., thanks mainly to the newspapers and little magazines publicizing their exploits, which were often exaggerated or even imaginary.

Later, via the cinema, the renown of these “legends” was extended throughout the world. The “western” rapidly became a separate movie genre.

In France, almost 900 American western movies were screened over the course of 80 years!



David Crockett



Wild Bill Hickock



Billy the Kid



Custer



William F. Cody, aka "Buffalo Bill", 1911

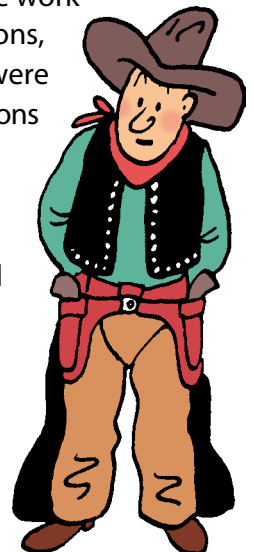
BUFFALO BILL



Cowboy (1887)

COWBOYS

The cowboy depicted in films, television, and comics does not have much in common with real cowboys. Basically, the cowboy was an employee of a ranch, often required to escort herds of cattle to market. The work was poorly paid and done in difficult conditions, and because of this the majority of cowboys were blacks, Mexicans or Indians. If they carried weapons at all, it was because the owner of the ranch had supplied them for the protection of the herds against predators and thieves. Between 1865 and 1890 there were about 40,000 real cowboys.

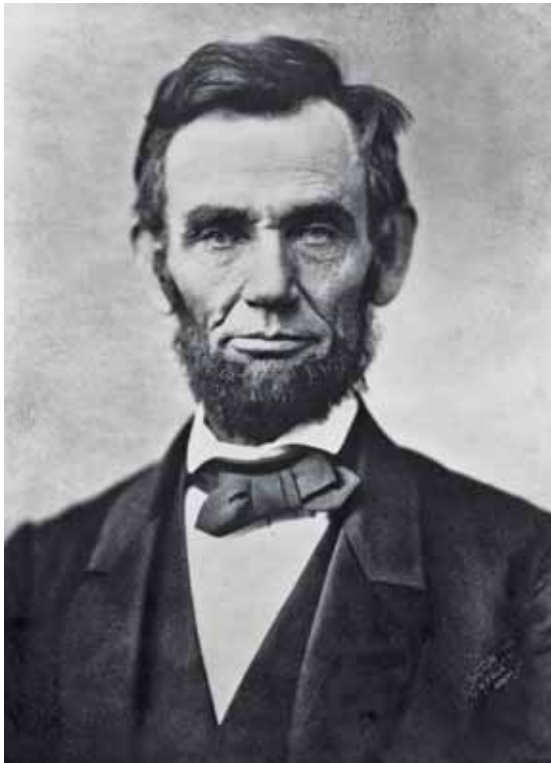


Advertisement
Pony Express

He is undoubtedly the most celebrated cowboy in the entire history of the United States. His real name was **William Frederic Cody**, but he was better known by the nickname **Buffalo Bill**. He took part in the Indian wars, in the development of the Pony Express (mail delivery via horseback) and the construction of the railroad system. Building his own legend, he became a hero through widespread reporting of his exploits. He went on to create the **Wild West Show**, a great circus-like spectacle dedicated entirely to his fame, which he took all over the world. But it was not many years later that his legend began to crumble, as historians pointed out that he played an active role in the massacre of Indians and bisons.

THE CIVIL WAR

A true civil war, this conflict was mainly the result of the 1861 order of **President Abraham Lincoln** that slavery be abolished.



Abraham Lincoln

The Southern States, in an attempt to protect their economic prosperity, were anti-abolitionists. The war lasted several years. It was violent and deadly. Victory by the North was marked by a proclamation abolishing slavery.



1861 inauguration of Abraham Lincoln at Capitol Hill (still under construction)

THE INDIAN WARS

In the westward migration the “new” Americans came into conflict with the “natives,” the Indians. This led to bloody battles which continued over decades.

Although they won a few victories, including that at **Little Big Horn** where, on June 25, 1876 the entire **7th cavalry** under **General Custer** was wiped out, the Indians suffered many defeats.

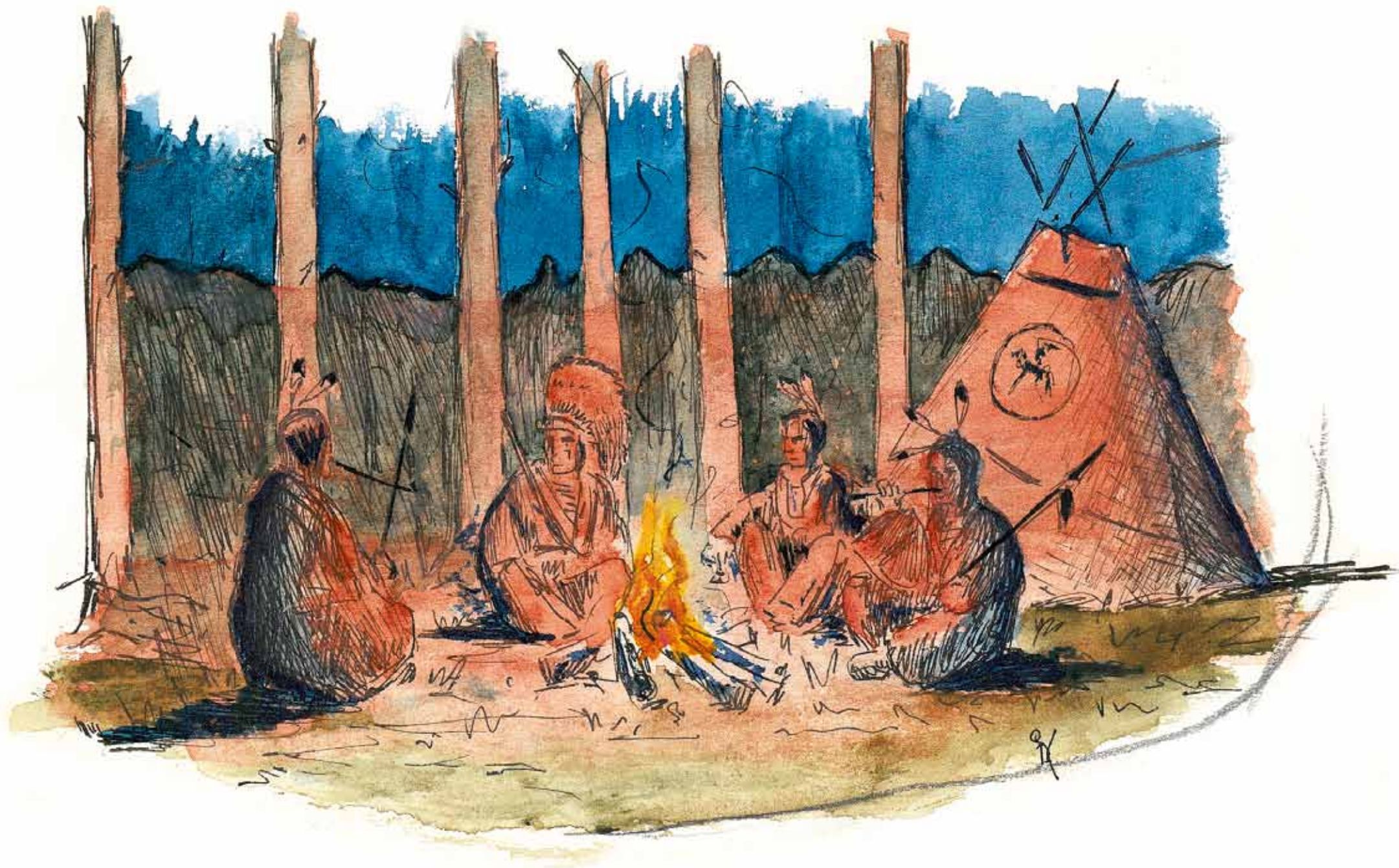
Although they had talented military chiefs such as **Cochise**, **Geronimo**, and **Sitting Bull**, the tribes were forced to accept living on reservations, often located far from their native soil, where they had difficulty farming and hunting.

The Indian Wars culminated in 1890 with **the massacre at Wounded Knee**, which resulted in tens of thousands being killed. The Indians had to wait until 1924 to be granted U.S. citizenship.



The General Custer





Unpublished Hergé illustration (in Indian ink and watercolour)
showing a group of Indians in the evening, 1923

WOMEN OF THE WEST

The American West is often imagined as a land of men only, and the tradition holds that the cowboy's preferred companion is his horse, rather than a wife. But women played an important role too: organizing ranches, educating the children, working in the fields, etc. There were also women bandits as well as singers in saloons.

Certain women achieved celebrity. **Calamity Jane** (her real name was **Martha Jane Canary**) shot a pistol, wore men's pants and took part in campaigns against Indians. **Annie Oakley** was a remarkable sharpshooter and became a star in **Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show**. **Myra Belle Shirley**, better known as Belle Star, was a formidable horse thief.



Annie Oakley



Myra Belle Shirley



Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show



Calamity Jane

NEW YORK

Considered the symbol of modern America, New York is one of the most important cities in the world. It has eight million inhabitants and another twelve million live in the surrounding metropolis. Manhattan Island gets its name from the Lenape Indians who lived there: the site of Manahatta was occupied by Belgian and Dutch colonists in 1624.

A small village was soon formed and was integrated into the province under the name "New Netherland," led by Peter Stuyvesant. After that, it came under British control and continued to grow. Today New York is the main business city in the United States, the location of the New York Stock Exchange or NYSE, and also the main cultural metropolis (theater, television, exhibitions, music). It was this symbolic status that led to its being chosen as the site for the attacks on September 11, 2001.



Peter Stuyvesant - 1660



The Guggenheim Museum



The New York Stock Exchange in Broad Street

Another symbol, **the Statue of Liberty**, remains standing. A gift from France and the French people to commemorate the centenary of U.S. independence, the statue depicts Liberty lighting the world; she was designed by **Bertholdi**.

Located on a tiny island southwest of Manhattan, her imposing appearance commands the attention of immigrants arriving by ship to pass through Ellis Island. She was inaugurated October 28, 1866.



The Statue of Liberty



Ellis Island

PROHIBITION

If the West of the United States is linked to the image of the cowboys, the East evokes forth that of gangsters. Gangsters truly came into their own in the Prohibition era, a sobriety movement which became law on January 16th, 1920, with the aim of banning alcoholic beverages throughout the country.

What followed was an enormous underground industry of alcohol production and distribution, which was accompanied by violence. The law was finally repealed in 1933, but only after dozens of gangsters had risen to power.

Even today, most of the mob "families" owe the start of their fortunes to prohibition.



"Au pays de la prohibition" - Illustration by Hergé announcing Tintin's new adventure, published in *Le Petit Vingtième* on 6th August, 1931

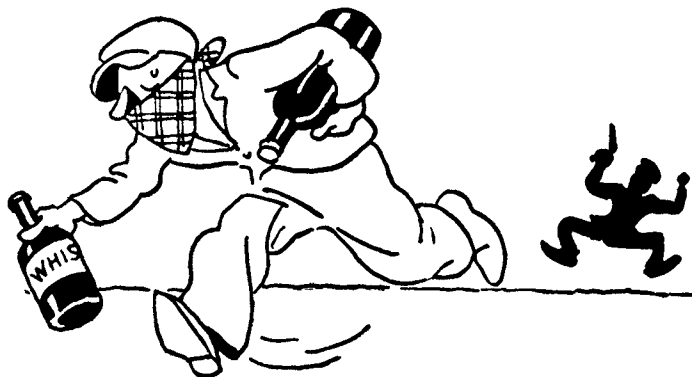


Illustration published in *Le Petit Vingtième* on 20th August, 1931

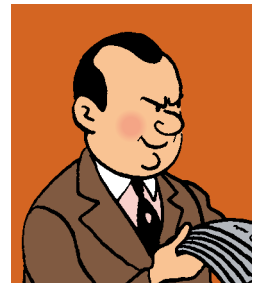
AL CAPONE

In *Tintin in America* our famous reporter meets **Al Capone**, the most dangerous and influential of American mobsters. Born January 17th, 1899, this Italian-American profited from prohibition by setting up secret bars in the Chicago area, where he made a fortune.

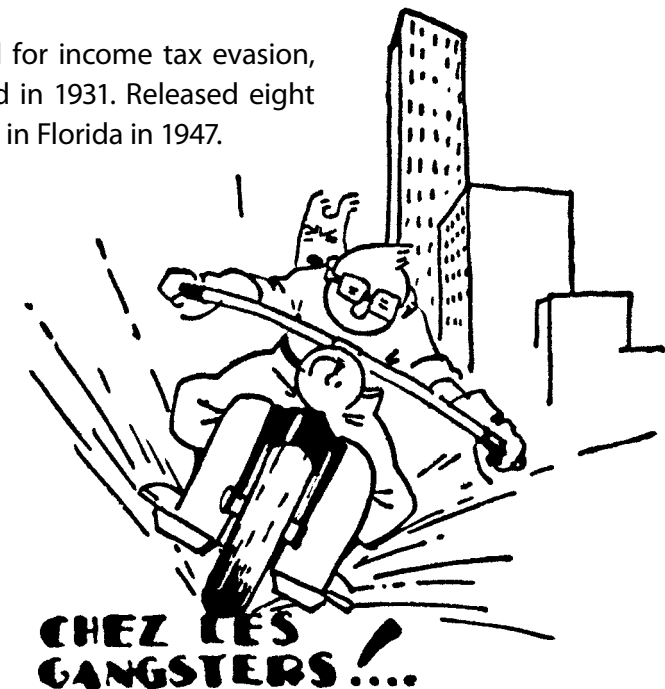


Al Capone

Renowned for his extreme violence, he succeeded in wiping out both his competitors and those who could bear witness to his crimes. The police had a great deal of trouble finding evidence to arrest him, even while all the newspapers talked openly of his criminal activities.



Finally put on trial for income tax evasion, he was imprisoned in 1931. Released eight years later, he died in Florida in 1947.



"Chez les gangsters" Illustration announcing Tintin's new adventure, published in *Le Petit Vingtième* on 30th July, 1931

HERGE AND AMERICA

Although Hergé published *Tintin in America* in 1931, he did not actually visit the United States until 40 years later, in 1971. At that time, during the six-week trip, he visited Chicago, Kansas City, New York, Las Vegas, Washington and Los Angeles.

He took particular care to visit Indian tribes, notably the Sioux at Pine Ridge, where he met the granddaughter of the famous Chief Red Cloud. This was a visit which astounded him and his wife, Fanny Rémi, who reminisced: *"In fact, the sentiment which Georges and I both felt regarding the Indians was one of profound sadness when we saw their poverty and destitution, those who had once been so free and proud."*

In the book *Tintin in America*, which was colored by the press coverage in the 1930s, Hergé was influenced to draw a portrait of an America with great cities on the one hand (the story first appeared under the title *The Adventures of Tintin, Reporter in Chicago*), and a still Wild West on the other.



© Fanny Rodwell - Hergé visiting Disneyland in the United States

