Introduction

to the new edition

APPARENTLY MY FIRST WORDS WERE

DONALD DUCK.

WHICH WAS JUST THE BEGINNING.

I REMEMBER BEING HOME SICK FROM SCHOOL, AND MUM BRINGING ME EVERY COMIC SHE COULD FIND AT MOGAN'S DAIRY...

LYING IN BED WITH *COMMANDO* AND *MAD* AND *KRAZY*...

I REMEMBER *PEANUTS*.

READING EVERY BOOK OVER AND OVER, AND COLOURING THEM IN, AND TRYING TO WRITE MY NAME INSIDE...

I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS SIX, AND WE SPENT A YEAR IN AMERICA.

SOMEHOW WE HAD A COPY OF *EXPLORERS ON THE MOON*, BUT ONLY IN FRENCH.

AND DAD WOULD SIT ON MY BED AND READ IT TO MY SISTER AND ME, TRANSLATING IT INTO ENGLISH AS HE WENT ALONG...

Mon Père le Capitaine

WHEN HE WAS A BOY, MY FATHER DREAMED OF BEING A CARTOONIST.
HE LOVED AMERICAN COMICS THE BEST, BUT IN NEW ZEALAND IN THE 1950s THESE WERE PRETTY HARD TO FIND.
AMERICA'S GREATEST COMICS
SO HE WOULD GO DOWN TO THE DOCKS, WHERE VISITING SAILORS WOULD SWAP SHILLINGS AND POUNDS FOR AMERICAN DOLLARS.
HE'D WRAP DOLLAR NOTES IN TIN-FOIL (TO HIDE THEM FROM CUSTOMS) AND SEND THEM TO AMERICA, SUBSCRIBING TO CAPTAIN MARVEL AND WHATEVER ELSE HE COULD...
SOMETIMES IT WORKED, SOMETIMES IT DIDN'T.
BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, HE SLOWLY BUILT A COLLECTION...
JANUARY
Captain Marvel ADVENTURES
10c
OR RATHER TWO COLLECTIONS.
THERE WERE THE COMICS HE KEPT IN PLAIN VIEW...
CLASSIC COMICS
FREE
DELL
Walt Disney's
Donald Duck
AND THEN THERE WERE THE ONES HE HID UNDER HIS BED.
EXCITING COMICS
ACTION AD
JU
CO
ONE DAY HIS FATHER FOUND THE SECRET PILE.

10¢
10¢
No.3
CLASSIC COMICS
10¢

I REMEMBER DAD WAS ALWAYS BRINGING HOME COMICS.
EXOTIC TREASURES FROM AMERICA OR FRANCE...
Pilote
GIRAUD
AND ONCE IN A WHILE FROM CLOSER TO HOME.
TERRY AND THE GUNRUNNERS
SGT. ROCK
EVERY THURSDAY I'D WALK TO THE DAIRY FOR MY FAVOURITE BRITISH WEEKLIES.
BATTLE PICTURE WEEKLY
SOMETIMES THERE WAS AN AMERICAN WAR COMIC...
OUR ARMY AT WAR
SGT. ROCK
OR AN AUSTRALIAN BLACK AND WHITE REPRINT OF SOMETHING STRANGE AND WONDERFUL...
2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY
I NEVER WENT IN FOR SUPERHEROES MUCH...
BATMAN
METAL MEN
THE SPIRIT
UNLESS THEY WERE OLD OR WEIRD...

BUT FOR ME THE GREATEST OF ALL WAS *TINTIN.*
TINTIN WASN'T JUST A COMIC...
Snowy! to make
ere's the road.
It must be a coup miles to Eastdow
IT WAS A WINDOW ON ANOTHER WORLD.
the road.
It must b
I LONGED TO CLIMB THROUGH THOSE TINY WINDOWS AND GO EXPLORING...
...IN A WORLD FULL OF MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE...
BUT SAFE, TOO... ORDERED AND CALM, QUIET AND STILL.
Come on, chum, let's go!

I READ EACH TINTIN BOOK HUNDREDS OF TIMES.
AND WHEN A NEW ONE CAME OUT, IT WAS AT THE TOP OF MY CHRISTMAS LIST.
THE BLACK ISLAND
BUT STILL I WANTED MORE...
SECOND HAND BOOKS A
BOOK EXCHANGE
?
TINTIN
TINTIN BOOKS!
ONES I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE!
TINTIN
THE BLACK ISLAND
EVEN NOW, I SOMETIMES HAVE THIS DREAM...

AFTER *HICKSVILLE* CAME OUT, I STARTED GETTING OFFERS OF WORK FROM THE BIG AMERICAN COMICS COMPANIES.
THE MONEY WAS GREAT AND I WORKED WITH SOME NICE PEOPLE...
BUT THE STORIES DIDN'T COME EASILY.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I WAS MAKING COMICS I COULDN'T RESPECT.
BATMAN
LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT
HORROCKS
WALKER
WIKEY
WAR GAMES
AS TIME WENT ON IT GREW HARDER AND HARDER TO WRITE OR DRAW MY OWN COMICS.
SOON JUST *LOOKING* AT A COMIC - ANY COMIC - FILLED ME WITH DREAD...
A GRAPHIC N
I COULD NO LONGER SEE THE POINT OF IT ALL...
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO SAM.