

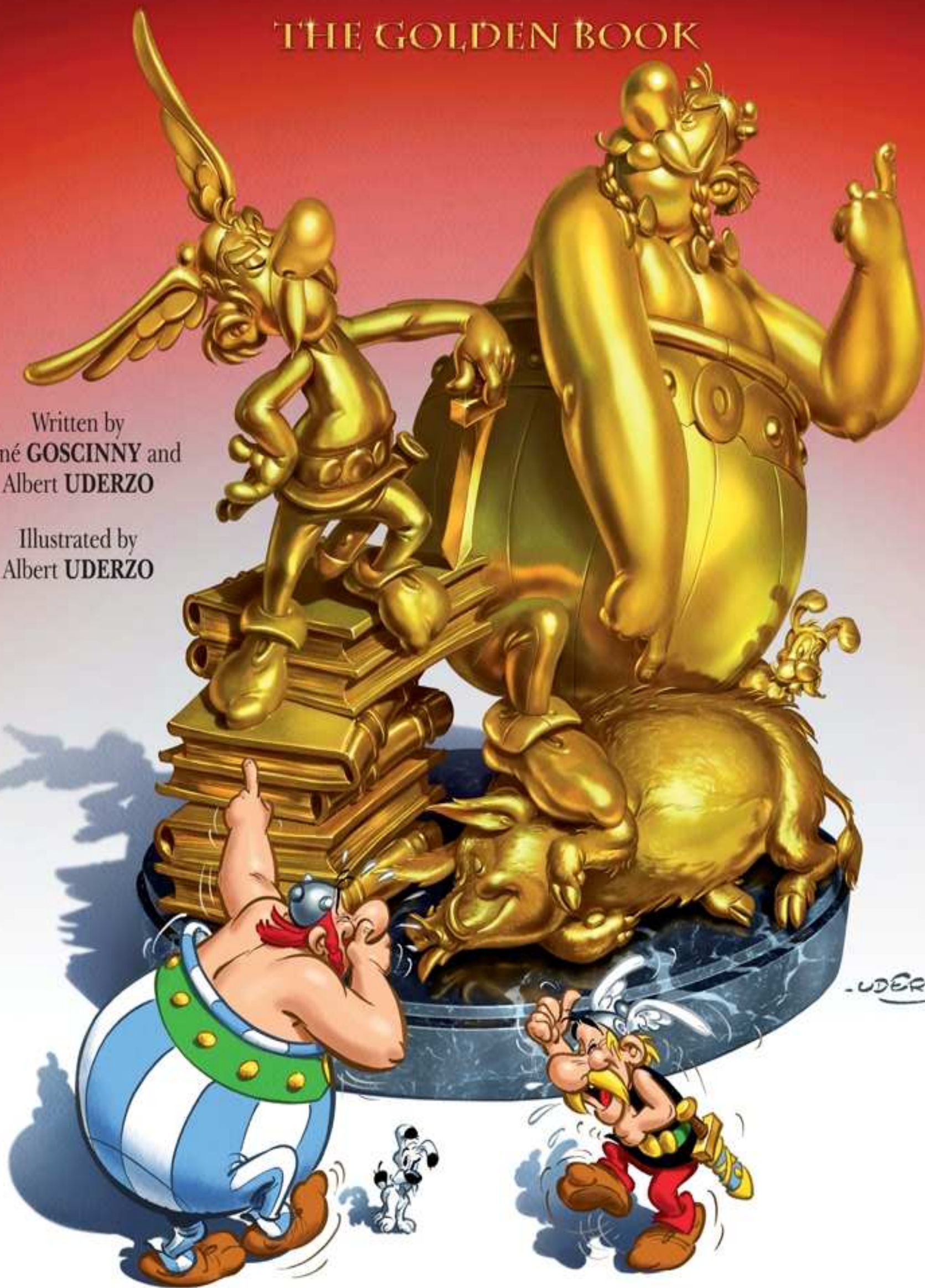
R. GOSCINNY **Astérix** A. UDERZO

Astérix & Obélix's BIRTHDAY

THE GOLDEN BOOK

Written by
René GOSCINNY and
Albert UDERZO

Illustrated by
Albert UDERZO



-UDERZO-2009-

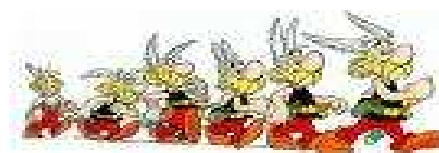
René Goscinny

(14 August 1926 – 5 November 1977)



Goscinny was reared and educated in Buenos Aires and later worked on children's books in New York City. In 1954 he returned to Paris to direct a press agency and soon became a writer for the "Lucky Luke" comic strip. In 1957 he met Uderzo, a cartoonist, and collaborated with him on the short-lived "Benjamin et Benjamin" and, a year later, on the somewhat more successful "Oumpah-Pah le Peau-Rouge" ("Oumpah-Pah the Redskin").

In 1959 Goscinny founded the French humour magazine *Pilote*, and at the same time, in collaboration with Uderzo, began publishing "Astérix le Gaulois," a comic strip that concerned itself with the adventures of a diminutive Gallic tribesman at the time of Caesar's conquest of Gaul. The title character, Astérix, and his friend Obélix belonged to the only unconquered tribe, the "Invincible Gauls." The Romans they opposed were generally made to look stupid and clumsy. Coinciding as it did with Charles de Gaulle's rise to power in France, the strip reflected certain political sentiments that were widespread at the time. "Astérix le Gaulois" became widely popular and brought substantial success to both Goscinny and Uderzo. Goscinny was the scriptwriter of several other French comic strips, including "Les Dingodossiers" (1965–67), with Marcel Gotlib, and also was a principal in a French publishing firm. He was made a Chevalier of Arts and Letters in 1967. The "Astérix" strip was translated into 15 languages, and after its appearance in book form (1959) it sold more than 18,000,000 copies world-wide.



Albert Uderzo

(born 25 April 1927)



Albert Uderzo met René Goscinny in 1951. The pair became good friends very soon, and decided to work together in 1952 at the newly opened Paris office of the Belgian company, World Press. Their first creations were the characters Oumpah-pah, Jehan Pistolet and Luc Junior. In 1958 they adapted *Oumpah-pah* for serial publication in the comics magazine *Tintin*, though it ran only until 1962. In 1959 Goscinny and Uderzo became editor and artistic director (respectively) of *Pilote*, a new venture aimed at older children. The magazine's first issue introduced Astérix to the French world, and it was an instant hit.¹ During this period Uderzo also collaborated with Jean-Michel Charlier on the realistic series *Michel Tanguy*, later named *Les Aventures de Tanguy et Laverdure*.

Astérix was serialised in *Pilote*, but in 1961 the first album *Astérix le gaulois (Asterix the Gaul)* was published as an individual album. By 1967, the comic had become so popular that both decided to wholly dedicate their time to the series. After Goscinny's early death in 1977, Uderzo continued to write and illustrate the books on his own, though at a significantly slower pace (averaging one album every 3–5 years compared to 2 albums per year when working with Goscinny). The cover credits still read "Goscinny and Uderzo".

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|--|---|
| 1 Asterix the Gaul 1961 | 18 Asterix and the Laurel Wreath 1972 |
| 2 Asterix and the Golden Sickle 1962 | 19 Asterix and the Soothsayer 1972 |
| 3 Asterix and the Goths 1963 | 20 Asterix in Corsica 1973 |
| 4 Asterix the Gladiator 1964 | 21 Asterix and Caesar's Gift 1974 |
| 5 Asterix and the Banquet 1965 | 22 Asterix and the Great Crossing 1975 |
| 6 Asterix and Cleopatra 1965 | 23 Obelix and Co 1976 |
| 7 Asterix and the Big Fight 1966 | 24 Asterix in Belgium 1979 |
| 8 Asterix in Britain 1966 | 25 Asterix and the Great Divide 1980 |
| 9 Asterix and the Normans 1967 | 26 Asterix and the Black Gold 1981 |
| 10 Asterix the Legionary 1967 | 27 Asterix and Son 1983 |
| 11 Asterix and the Chieftain's Shield 1968 | 28 Asterix and the Magic Carpet 1987 |
| 12 Asterix at the Olympic Games 1968 | 29 Asterix and the Secret Weapon 1991 |
| 13 Asterix and the Cauldron 1969 | 30 Asterix and Obelix all at Sea 1996 |
| 14 Asterix in Spain 1969 | 31 Asterix and the Actress 2001 |
| 15 Asterix and the Roman Agent 1970 | 32 Asterix and the class act 2003 |
| 16 Asterix in Switzerland 1970 | 33 Asterix and the falling Sky 2005 |
| 17 The Mansions of the Gods 1971 | 34 Asterix and Obelix's Birthday – The Golden Book 2009 |



How Obelix Fell Into The Magic Potion When He Was a Little Boy

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