



**MTHOMBOTHI  
STUDIOS**

**"Thinking in Pictures  
precedes  
thinking in words"**

**- Kant** (1724 – 1804)  
Philosopher

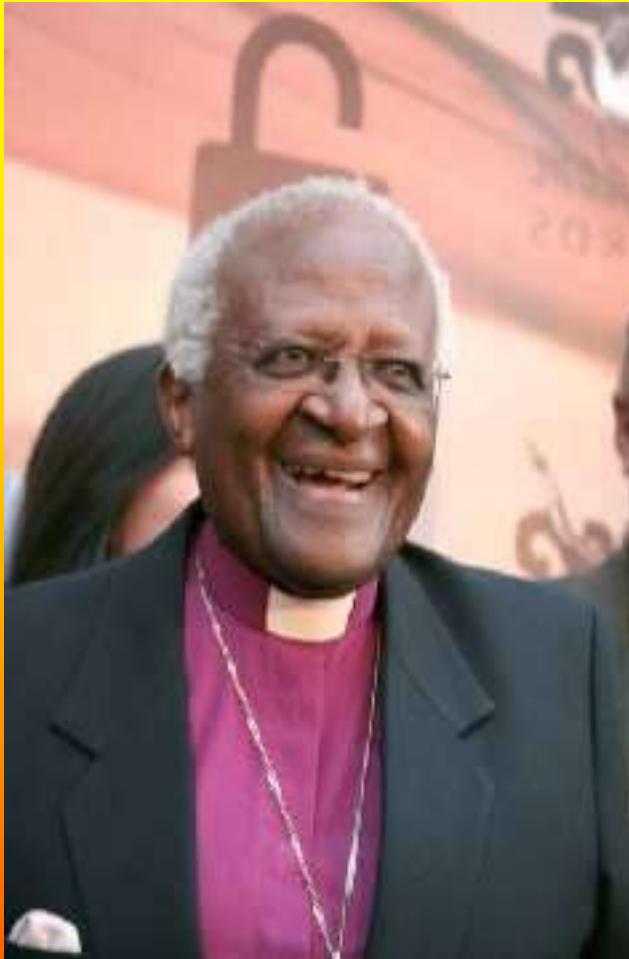
**“Thinking in Pictures  
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thinking in words”**



**- Kant** (1724 – 1804)  
Philosopher

**The French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre says in his autobiography that he started off reading comics books as a child, and that if it wasn't for comic books, he never would have stuck with books.**





**“One of the things I am very grateful to my father for is that, contrary to conventional education principles, he allowed me to read comics. I think that is how I developed a love for English and for reading.”**

**- Bishop Desmond Tutu**

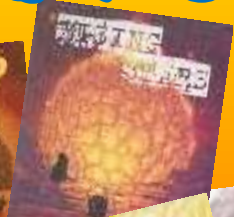
**COMIC BOOKS HAVE MILLIONS  
OF SUPPORTERS...**

**YET, IN SOUTH AFRICA, MOST MIDDLE-AGED  
PEOPLE FONDLY RECALL THE COMICS  
THEY USED TO READ IN THEIR YOUTH.**

**THEY NO LONGER SEEM TO DO IT,  
AND THE ART FORM HAS ALMOST BEEN  
EXTINGUISHED.**



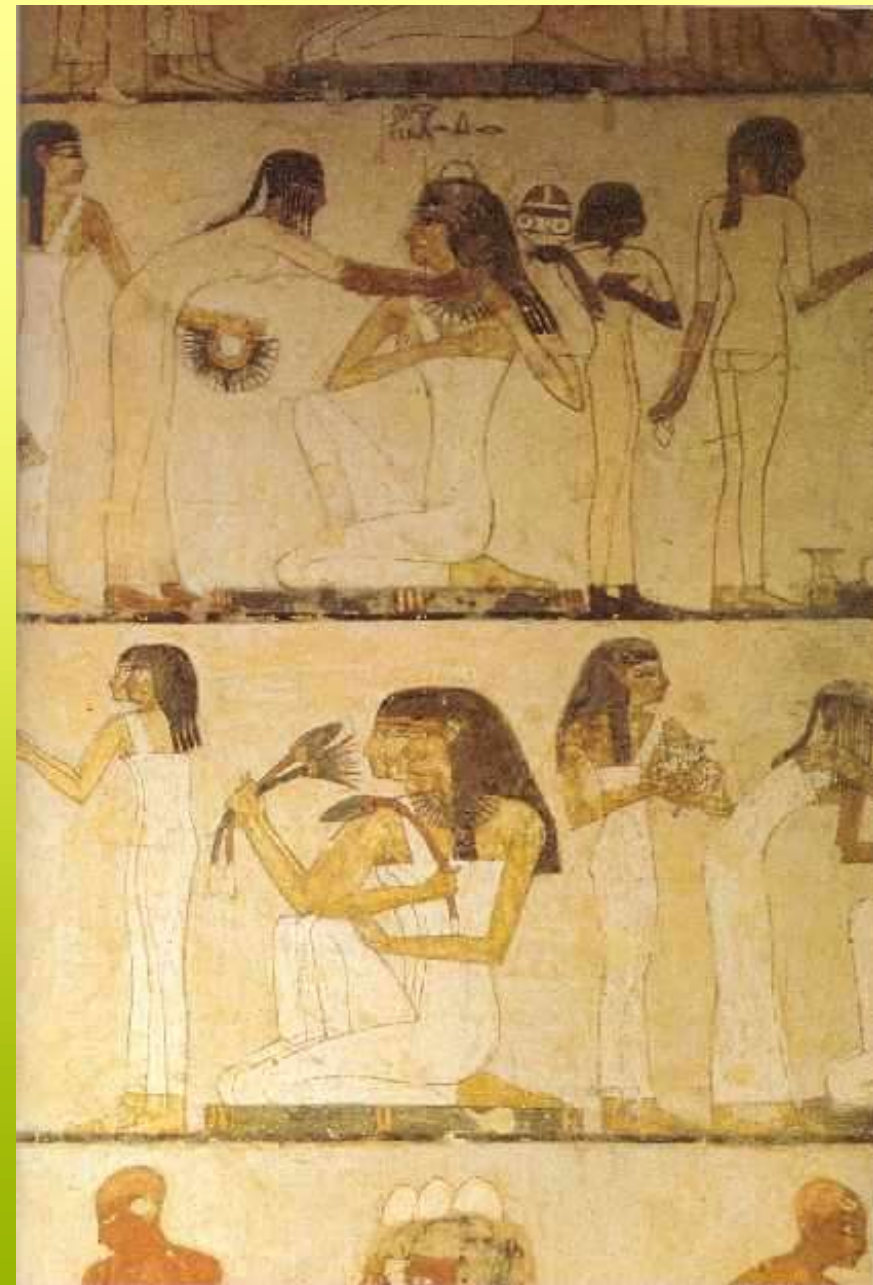
# BUT LET'S START A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF COMIC BOOKS



This fragment is part of a large Egyptian wall-painting that gives a detailed narrative of many aspects of death and daily life in ancient Egypt.

From the tomb of Reckmire at Western Thebes

c. 1430 BC





In the Middle Ages,  
sequential art was  
often used in the  
so-called 'centsprent'.

These printed  
sheets were produced  
for public viewing,  
and often depicted  
the lives of saints.

The martyrdom of  
St Erasmus  
a. 1460





**Text balloons were sometimes used,  
As in thi detail of an illustrated letter written  
by the Dutch Count of Meurs.**

**1493**

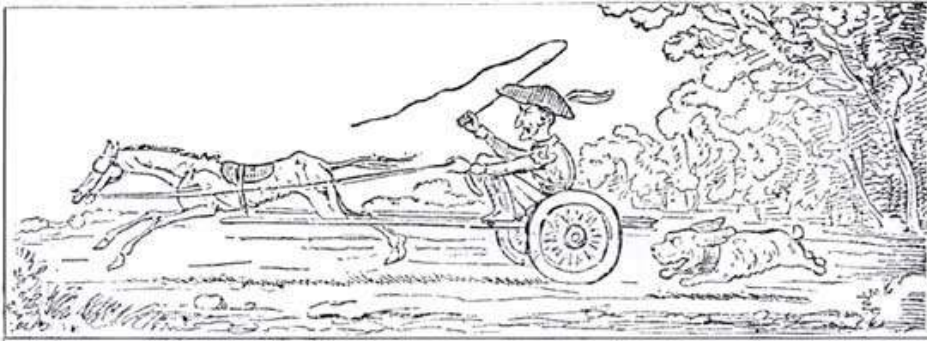


POLITIEK GESPREK VOOR DE VERKIEZINGEN.

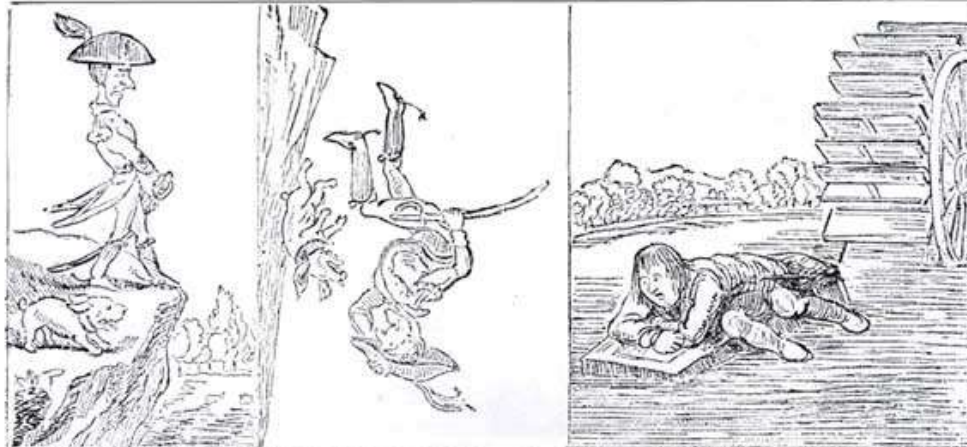


In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, magazines often featured political cartoons and comic sequences.

This one depicts a political discussion before the elections.



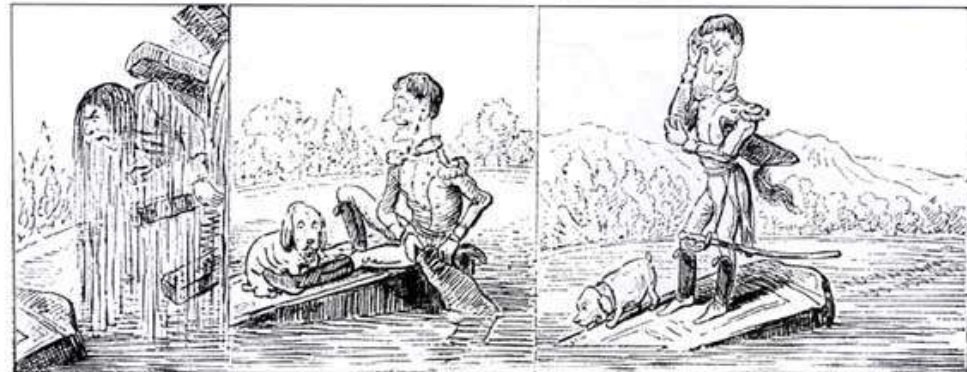
Discovering his loss, Mr. Oldbuck hastens to retrace his steps.



Excessive rage of Mr. Oldbuck, who on reaching the banks of the river, sees his rival in possession of the carriage.

Mr. Oldbuck hesitates not to plunge into the river to swim in pursuit of his beloved.

In the mean time, the rival abandoning himself to all the charms of the lady's recital, is carried by the current close to a great water-wheel.



Entangled by the water-wheel, the rival gets preciously ducked at every turn.

Having reached the carriage, Mr. Oldbuck seats himself upon it, and steers with his hat.

Mr. Oldbuck seeks for a flower-enamelled bank to land upon.

## The first real comic?

'M. Vieux Drink' is widely recognised as the first real comic.

It was published in Europe in 1842 as a 40-page story.

A New York paper printed it as a supplement in 1842.

That version was called 'Obadiah Oldbuck'



A cartoon illustration of a young boy, the Yellow Kid, wearing a yellow nightgown. He is smiling and holding a glass of wine or champagne in his right hand, raised towards the top of the frame. His left hand is on his chest. On his nightgown, the words "WELL, HULLY GEE HERE'S TO YOU" are written in a simple, hand-drawn font. A black balloon is on the floor to his left. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

## Speech bubbles again

I, THE YELLOW KID, WAS THE FIRST TO APPEAR IN A COMIC SERIES WITH SPEECH BUBBLES, IN 1895, IN NEW YORK. THAT MAY WEEL MAKE ME THE FIRST MODERN COMIC BOOK HERO.



**Comics were growing in genre and popularity**

**SUPERHERO**

**ADVENTURE**



**ROMANCE**

**R**



**1940**

**'BRENDA STARR'**  
**First comic strip**  
**by a woman**



**DETECTIVE**

# UNTIL 1948... THE DARK AGES OF COMIC BOOKS



Dr. Fredric Wertham, a distinguished psychologist, in a 7-year study set out to prove comics were bad for children. 1949: Canadian Government enacted a law that made it an offence to be involved with crime and superhero comics. 1965: My own mom forbade me to read Batman. Fortunately she let me read Asterix and Obelix. All was not lost...

*Still, Wertham's efforts reverberate to this day.*



**BATMAN**  
1939



**BUT DESPITE THESE EFFORTS, COMICS  
HAVE SURVIVED, AND HAVE GROWN  
AND CAPTURED THE HEARTS OF  
YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE.**

**LUCKY LUKE**  
1946



**ASTERIX**  
1961



**Themba and Bizza**  
1997

**MANGA**  
1945

