

Time Line of Selected Events

The history of comics is contested, ever-shifting terrain. As an interdisciplinary and international phenomenon, and an ensemble of techniques drawn from myriad traditions, comics art can be traced back to innumerable points of origin. Moreover, comics' past is (to paraphrase Faulkner) not even "past" but constantly in the process of being reframed and rewritten in response to present concerns and new (re)discoveries. As our introduction notes, comics studies has grown quickly, and keeps on growing, so its horizons—past, present, and future—continually need to be rewritten. The time line below, then, offers a finding aid rather than a definitive history. It follows this book's mission brief—to highlight issues that have significantly impacted Anglophone comics—yet reaches out to other cultures so as to suggest the teeming variety and global circulation of comics art. Further, it deliberately mixes formal, aesthetic, commercial, and sociocultural concerns and, at times, juxtaposes the popular and famous with (then) relatively obscure events that have turned out to be important to comics studies. Finally, we should note that this time line is frankly presentist: the great bulk of events listed hails from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and especially from the past fifty years, testifying to current interests. But we trust that it will have some value as a means of orienting readers to landmarks in the tangled history of comics. Our bibliography marks with an asterisk those sources that were particularly helpful in assembling this chronology.

- 1732 William Hogarth, *A Harlot's Progress*, self-published narrative series of prints (Great Britain)
- 1796 Jean-Charles Pellerin founds printing house Imagerie d'Épinal, specializing in popular prints, often didactic or propagandistic in nature (France)

- 1798 Thomas Rowlandson, *The Comforts of Bath*, satirical series of engravings (Great Britain)
- 1812 Rowlandson, with poet William Combe, *The Tour of Dr. Syntax in Search of the Picturesque*, satirical cartoon-verse narrative with popular character (Great Britain)
- 1814 Katsushika Hokusai, *Hokusai manga*, block-printed collection of themed sketches, the first of fifteen volumes (Japan)
- 1825 *The Glasgow Looking Glass*, fortnightly illustrated journal with comic strips (Great Britain)
- 1830 *La caricature*, satirical weekly founded and directed by Charles Philippon (France)
- 1832 Philippon founds daily *Le charivari* (France)
- 1837 Rodolphe Töpffer, *Les amours de M. Vieux Bois*, first of Töpffer's seminal comic albums (Switzerland)
- 1839 Cham (Amédée de Noé), *Histoire de Mr. Lajaunisse*, first of his comic albums (France)
- 1841 *Punch*, trendsetting humor weekly (Great Britain)
- 1842 *The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck*, an English-language plagiarism of Töpffer's *Vieux Bois*, appears in album form as supplement to weekly paper *Brother Jonathan* (United States)
- 1843 *Punch* popularizes use of the word "cartoon" to refer to comic drawings (Great Britain)
- 1844 *Fliegende Blätter*, humor weekly (Germany)
- 1845 Töpffer, *Essai de physiognomie*, pioneering critical essay on cartooning (Switzerland)
- 1847 Gustave Doré, *Les travaux d'Hercule*, comic album (France)
- 1862 Thomas Nast begins drawing Civil War cartoons for *Harper's Weekly* (United States)
- 1863 Charles Wirgman, the *Japan Punch*, satirical journal by English expatriate (Japan)
- 1865 Wilhelm Busch, *Max und Moritz*, illustrated verse story and forerunner to child-themed comic strips (Germany)
- 1867 Marie Duval (Isabelle Émilie de Tessier) and Charles Henry Ross's character Ally Sloper first appears in humor journal *Judy* (Great Britain)
- 1871 *Puck*, humor magazine, published in German-language edition; English-language edition follows in 1877 (United States)
- 1878 James Sanua (Ya' qūb Ṣanu') founds *Abu-Naddara Zarqa*, underground journal including his satirical, anticolonial cartoons (Egypt)
- 1884 *La caricatura*, humor weekly (Spain)
Ally Sloper's Half Holiday, first comic paper focused on a single character (Great Britain)
- 1887 French expatriate Georges Bigot founds the satirical magazine *Tōbaé* (Japan)

- 1889 Christophe, *La famille Fenouillard*, satirical graphic series in children's magazine *Le petit Français illustré* (France)
- 1890 Alfred Harmsworth's Amalgamated Press launches papers *Comic Cuts* and *Illustrated Chips* (Great Britain)
- 1895 Richard F. Outcault's newspaper feature *Hogan's Alley* introduces the popular Yellow Kid (United States)
- 1897 Oskar Andersson contributes comic strips to humor magazine *Söndags-Nisse* (Sweden)
Rudolph Dirks, *The Katzenjammer Kids*, strip in imitation of Busch (United States)
- 1900 Frederick Burr Opper, *Happy Hooligan*, strip (United States)
Opper's "Cupid's Everlasting 'Jolly'" inspires widespread adoption of word balloons (United States)
- 1901 Newspaper strip syndication begins, pioneered by McClure Newspaper Syndicate and papers such as *New York Herald* and *New York Journal* (United States)
- 1902 Outcault, *Buster Brown*, strip then merchandising phenomenon (United States)
- 1903 Grace Wiederseim (later Drayton), *Tootles*, later adapted into *Dottie Dimple*, *Dimples*, and *Dolly Dimples* (United States)
- 1905 *O Tico-Tico*, weekly children's magazine with comics (Brazil)
Joseph Pinchon and Jacqueline Rivière's *Bécassine* appears in girls' magazine *La semaine de Suzette* (France)
Tokyo Puck, monthly, popularizes American-style cartoons (Japan)
Winsor McCay, *Little Nemo in Slumberland*, strip; McCay's animated *Nemo* film follows in 1911 (United States)
- 1907 Bud Fisher, *Mutt and Jeff* (originally *A. Mutt*), first long-lived, successful daily newspaper strip (United States)
- 1908 Louis Forton, *Les pieds nickelés* (France)
Il corriere dei Piccoli, children's weekly (Italy)
- 1911 The *Comic Australian* magazine (Australia)
The Masses, innovative radical magazine (featuring political graphics by Robert Minor, Art Young, and others) founded in New York; later (1917) brought to trial under the Espionage Act (United States)
- 1912 Cliff Sterrett, *Polly and Her Pals* (United States)
- 1913 George Herriman's *Krazy Kat* gains its own strip (United States)
George McManus, *Bringing Up Father* (United States)
- 1915 Charles Folkard, *Teddy Tail*, pioneering daily newspaper strip (Great Britain)
- 1917 *TBO* comics magazine; origin of Spanish word *tebeo*, meaning "comics magazine" (Spain)
Sidney Smith, *The Gumps*, strip mixing domestic melodrama with long continuities (United States)

- 1918 Frank King, *Gasoline Alley* (United States)
- 1919 Frans Masereel, *Mon livre d'heures* (*Passionate Journey*), pioneering woodcut novel (Belgium/Switzerland)
- 1921 Jimmy Bancks, *Ginger Meggs*, originally *Us Fellers* (Australia)
- 1922 *Krokodil*, satirical journal and supplement to *The Worker*, founded by Konstantin Eremeev (USSR)
- 1923 *Al Awlad*, children's comics magazine (Egypt)
Otto Messmer and Pat Sullivan, *Felix the Cat*, strip based on popular animated cartoon character (United States)
- 1924 Katsuichi Kabashima and Shōsei Oda, *Shō-chan no boken*, first serialized newspaper manga for children (Japan)
Yutaka Asō, *Nonki na tōsan* (Easygoing Daddy), strip inspired by McManus's *Bringing Up Father* (Japan)
Roy Crane, *Wash Tubbs*, pioneering continuity strip; later (1933) spawns *Captain Easy*, *Soldier of Fortune* (United States)
Harold Gray, *Little Orphan Annie*, pioneering continuity strip (United States)
- 1925 Alain Saint-Ogan's *Zig et Puce*, children's adventure comic incorporating word balloons in weekly *Dimanche illustré* (France)
- 1928 *Shanghai manhua*, weekly (China)
Nikolai Oleinikov, *Yozh*, children's journal with comics-like features (USSR)
- 1929 Hergé's *Les aventures de Tintin* strip begins in weekly *Le petit vingtième*; albums follow in 1930 (Belgium)
Philip Francis Nowlan and Dick Calkins, *Buck Rogers*, pioneering science fiction strip (United States)
Elsie Segar introduces Popeye the Sailor to his strip *Thimble Theatre* (United States)
Lynd Ward, *Gods' Man*, woodcut novel (United States)
- 1930 Walt Disney, Ub Iwerks, and Win Smith (and soon after, Floyd Gottfredson), *Mickey Mouse*, strip based on popular animated character (United States)
Chic Young, *Blondie* (United States)
- 1931 The *Kookaburra*, comics magazine (Australia)
Chester Gould, *Dick Tracy*, pioneering crime strip (United States)
- 1934 *Le journal de Mickey*, weekly, popularizes American comics and American-favored device of word balloons within panels (France)
Paquín, comics magazine (Mexico)
Milton Caniff, *Terry and the Pirates*, innovative adventure strip with cinematic storytelling (United States)
Al Capp, *L'il Abner* (United States)
Famous Funnies #1, first ongoing comics magazine in modern American "comic book" format (United States)

- 1935 Zhang Leping, *Sanmao* (China)
 Marjorie Henderson Buell launches panel cartoon (later strip) *Little Lulu* for the *Saturday Evening Post* (United States)
 Oliver Harrington launches *Dark Laughter* (later *Bootsie*) for New York's *Amsterdam News* (United States)
- 1936 *Pepin*, comics magazine (Mexico)
 Lee Falk and Ray Moore, *The Phantom* (United States)
- 1937 *The Dandy*, children's comic weekly; sister title the *Beano* follows in 1938 (Great Britain)
Detective Comics #1, crime-themed anthology, published by Detective Comics Inc. (later DC; United States)
 Jackie Ormes launches *Torchy Brown in "Dixie to Harlem"* for *Pittsburgh Courier* (United States)
- 1938 *Le journal de Spirou*, weekly comics magazine (Belgium)
 Italian government bans American comics and other non-Italian mass culture (Italy)
 Ernie Bushmiller's *Nancy* gains its own strip (United States)
 Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's Superman premieres in *Action Comics* #1, sparks a craze for comic book superheroes (United States)
- 1939 Bob Kane and Bill Finger's Batman premieres in *Detective Comics* #27 (United States)
 C. C. Beck and Bill Parker's Captain Marvel premieres in *Whiz Comics* #2 (United States)
- 1940 Australian government bans import of U.S. comics (Australia)
Walt Disney's Comics and Stories, seminal licensed comic based on film characters (United States)
 Will Eisner, *The Spirit*, weekly comic book insert, syndicated to newspapers (United States)
 Jack Kirby and Joe Simon, *Captain America Comics* #1 (United States)
 Dale Messick, *Brenda Starr, Reporter* (United States)
- 1941 Adrian Dingle's Nelvana of the Northern Lights premieres in *Triumph-Adventure-Comics* #1 (Canada)
 Gus Arriola, *Gordo* (United States)
Classic Comics, later *Classics Illustrated* (United States)
 Jack Cole's Plastic Man premieres in *Police Comics* #1 (United States)
 John L. Goldwater, Bob Montana, and Vic Bloom's Archie premieres in *Pep Comics* #22 (United States)
 William Moulton Marston and H. G. Peter's Wonder Woman premieres in *All-Star Comics* #8 (United States)
- 1942 Charles Biro and Bob Wood launch *Crime Does Not Pay* (United States)
 Crockett Johnson, *Barnaby* (United States)