

24 HEURES



Guide details Tintin's adventures in Nyon

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The town's tourist office is preparing a pamphlet that identifies local places the fictional character visited in one of the most famous books by Belgian cartoonist Hergé. The publication is geared to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the author's birth.



© Crédit photo | House in Nyon, used by Hergé as a model for the residence of Professor Tournesol. | Photo: Alain Roèche

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The town of Nyon is producing a unique visitor's guide that will appeal to fans of Tintin comic books. The pamphlet will highlight all the spots in and around the community featured in *The Calculus Affair*, the 18th in a series of 24 Tintin adventures written by the Belgian cartoonist and writer **Hergé**.

The book, which first appeared in 1954, brings the eponymous reporter hero to Nyon and Geneva, both places that Hergé (the pen name of Georges Prosper Remi) had visited. Nyon's tourist office is producing its guide to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Hergé's birth on May 22, 1907.

"We have had numerous demands from numerous 'Tintinophiles' who visit the region," said Marc Baertsch, an official from the office. Nyon boasts being one of the select few non-fictional places visited by Tintin in his adventures, he said. **The Calculus Affair** appeared originally in French as "L'Affaire Tournesol," involving a boffin called Professor Tournesol (or Calculus, in English) who travels from Nyon to Geneva.

With the authorization of the Hergé Studios, Nyon has secured the right to publish five frames from the comic book in its guide. It is possible in these drawings to recognize several neighbourhoods of the Lake Geneva town that have hardly changed in the more than 50 years since the book originally appeared. The quays along the lake, a fountain and the house of the famous professor on rue de Saint-Cergue are among the scenes from the book.

Other episodes of the *Calculus Affair* occur in Geneva, where Professor Tournesol stays in the Hotel Cornavin. A model of Tintin with his faithful canine companion Snowy (Milou in French) has been installed in the hotel's lobby. Hergé, who owned a chalet in Villars in the western part of Vaud, once spent two nights in the hotel, near Geneva's train station. But room 122, where Professor Tournesol stayed, was a figment of the author's imagination. It did not exist until several years ago when the hotel management succumbed to popular demand and labeled one of its rooms with the number.

Other real places depicted in the book include the Cornavin train station, the Cointrin airport and the Ecole Hotelière. More than 170 million copies of Hergé's books have been sold around the world, so Nyon is confident there will be sufficient interest for its guide. The author, whose pen name is derived from the French

pronunciation of his initials backwards, R.G., died in 1983.

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