FRENCH COMICS ARE FOR EVERYONE
Franco-Belgian comics offer a rich canon of classic titles and striking new work by contemporary creators. “The varied genres that international comics—more specifically European graphic novels—bring to this market resonate with the multicultural collections of American libraries, as well as the diversity of American literature and pop culture,” says French Comics Association (FCA) President, Jean Paciulli.

The FCA works closely with American publishers to help their growing catalogs of translated bande dessinée (BD) reach readers. In fact, BD have been popular with North American audiences for years—not only *Tintin* and *Asterix*, but the adventures of *Corto Maltese*, the Blacksad detective series, and bestsellers such as Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis* and Joann Sfar’s *The Rabbi’s Cat*. Reciprocal artistic and storytelling influences between American and European comic artists have also developed as avid readers bring comics across borders, and as each style and market has developed over the last several decades. French comics will feel both fresh and familiar to patrons who enjoy graphic novels, and they are uniquely positioned to attract new readers and increase circulation because they blend sophisticated artwork and authorship.

Libraries are an essential place where readers—young and old—discover their favorite books. Libraries are the heart of the American reading community. Our goal is to make librarians, as the curators of these collections, aware of the ever-expanding array of bande dessinée available in translation. We have chosen over 40 Franco-Belgian graphic novels that represent an essential collection of varied genres and stories. These celebrated and award-winning books have struck a chord with European readers, and we’re proud to be able to present them to your patrons in libraries across North America.

All titles can be ordered through regular distributors; or contact your sales reps, at the publishers listed, for more information.

I discovered the whole world of [Franco-Belgian] graphic novels and how that was booming and making comics so incredibly creative, enabling them to gain new audiences—especially adult audiences.”

TERRY NANTIER, NBM Publisher, in Publishers Weekly.
ROMANCE AND FAMILY DRAMA

The most powerful stories are often those that involve no magic or giant robots, just the struggles of ordinary people to connect; to fall in love; or to overcome guilt, injustice or simply the doldrums. These stories feature relatable characters in situations that are drawn from real life.

EARLY READER

MR. BADGER AND MRS. FOX, VOL. 6: THE WILD CAT
by Brigitte Luciani (ֆ) & Eve Tharlet (瘴) (Lerner; ages 5-8)
ISBN: 978-1-54150-087-7
When Mr. Badger married Mrs. Fox, they created a blended family of two very different types of animals who mostly get along, despite their differences. The Wild Cat in the title of this book is a traveling performer who has some hurtful things to say to little Ginger Fox about living in a mixed family. An animated series will soon be released. “A sweet and gentle tale of self-affirmation.” (Kirkus Reviews)

YAKARI, VOL. 16: THE LAKE MONSTER
by Job (setFont) & Derib ( attainment) (Cinebook; ages 6+)
ISBN: 978-1-84918-423-6
Yakari, a Native American boy, is concerned about his friend, Linden Tree, who seems to have lost his usual enthusiasm. While Yakari tries to cheer him up, the foreman on the beaver dam realizes that the beavers seem to be disappearing. The Yakari series won the Youth Prize in its age category at the Angoulême International Comics Festival in 2006. A feature film is in pre-production. “A delightfully entertaining graphic novel from beginning to end... ideal for children ages 6 to 10.” (Midwest Book Review)

MIDDLE GRADE

CICI’S JOURNAL: THE ADVENTURES OF A WRITER-IN-TRAINING
by Joris Chamblain (setFont) & Aurélie Neyret ( attainment) (First Second; ages 8-11)
ISBN: 978-1-62672-248-4
Ten-year-old Cici is a sharp observer of the adults around her, taking notes in her journal and looking for the secrets behind their actions—and sometimes getting into trouble as a result. “Equal parts Amelia’s Notebook, Harriet the Spy, and a whimsical flavor of its own, this winsome title should easily find a home in most middle grade collections.” (School Library Journal)

FOUR SISTERS, VOL. 1: ENID
by Malika Ferdjoukh (setFont) & Cati Baur ( attainment) (IDW; ages 15+)
ISBN: 978-1-68405-196-0
This series stars five sisters (and not four as one might think!): The oldest, Charlie, takes care of the others after their parents were killed in an accident, and each volume is narrated by one of the other four. In volume 1, ghostly screams send nine-year-old, free-spirited Enid and her best friend Gulliver off on an adventure.

YOUNG ADULT/ADULT

A STRANGE AND BEAUTIFUL SOUND
by Zep (IDW)
After living for 25 years under a vow of silence as a Carthusian monk, William must venture back into the world when he is called to Paris because of an inheritance. There he finds that the questions he set aside a quarter-century ago have not gone away, and a meeting with a strong, opinionated woman leaves him questioning the path that he has chosen.

ALONE
by Chabouté (Gallery 13; ages 12+)
ISBN: 978-1-50115-332-7
A man named Alone has lived a solitary life on an island for 50 years. His only knowledge of the wider world comes from the pages of a dictionary and the bits and pieces that wash up on the shore, until his chance discovery by a fisherman starts to bring changes to his life. Nominated for an Eisner Award. “This ultimately moving story about an unlikely and surprisingly inspiring protagonist is sure to be embraced by all readers.” (Library Journal)

PORTUGAL
by Cyril Pedrosa (NBM; ages 12+)
A cartoonist with writer’s block and a deteriorating love life finds spiritual renewal when he travels to Portugal, where he spent part of his childhood, and returns to its roots. Winner of the Best Graphic Novel award at the Angoulême International Comics Festival. “Pedrosa’s loose, expansive writing style is perfectly complemented by his lush, lightly lined drawings...Everybody has a lot to say in this graphic novel whose gorgeous art is as full as its story.” (Publishers Weekly – starred review)

MATURE READERS

BLUE IS THE WARMEST COLOR
by Julie Maroh (Arsenal Pulp)
Fifteen-year-old Clementine comes of age and finds love for the first time through a passionate affair with the older, blue-haired Emma. The 2013 live-action film based on the graphic novel was an international sensation. “A lovely and wholehearted coming-out story.” (Kirkus Reviews)
HISTORICAL FICTION

The mix of fact and fiction is a powerful combination, one that allows readers to experience history intimately through the characters, shedding light not only on the events themselves but also on human nature. The landscape of France is filled with reminders of the past, from the ancient Romans to the two World Wars of the 20th century, providing plenty of material for creators who want to take their readers on a trip through time.

MIDDLE GRADE

CATHERINE’S WAR
by Julia Billet (♀) & Claire Fauvel (♂) (HarperCollins; ages 8-12)
Forthcoming in 2020
Rachel, a Jewish teenager living in the occupied zone of France in 1941, must change her name to Catherine, forget her past, and flee her boarding school in order to avoid Nazi persecution. She brings her camera with her and documents her life—her fears, her adventures, and the occasional moments of grace.

YOUNG ADULT/ADULT

DEOGRATIAS, A TALE OF RWANDA
by J-P Stassen (First Second; ages 16+)
ISBN: 978-1-63140-798-7
During the Rwandan Civil War, a Hutu boy named Deogratias falls in love with a Tutsi girl named Bénigne. When Bénigne is killed in the Rwandan genocide, Deogratias must come to terms not only with his grief but with the part he played in her death. “A graphic novel of regret riddled with inescapable grief, capturing attention from the outset, with a stinging and near-to-cathartic ending.” (Kirkus Reviews)

MATURITY READERS

FLIGHT OF THE RAVEN
by J-P Gibrat (IDW – Euro Comics)
ISBN: 978-1-63140-798-7
Jeanne, a French Resistance fighter, slips through the shadows of occupied Paris as she tries to save her comrades and her sister from the Gestapo, with the help of a cat burglar. An evocative trip through a vanished Paris as well as a thrilling adventure story, this graphic novel won the Best Artist Award at the Angoulême International Comics Festival.

IT WAS THE WAR OF THE TRENCHES
by Tardi (Fantagraphics)
ISBN: 978-1-60699-353-8
Tardi’s graphic novel, based on his grandfather’s experiences but backed up with solid research, depicts the misery of the ordinary soldier in the trenches of World War I. Winner of the 2011 Eisner Award for Best Reality-Based Work and Best U.S. Edition of International Material.

THRILLING ADVENTURES

Stories of daring adventure, action, and mystery are perfect escape reading—fans of American superhero comics, manga, or crime/noir, will find plenty of new and sophisticated titles to fall for!

EARLY READER

DESTINATION MOON
by Hergé (Little, Brown for Young Readers; ages 7+)
Tintin, the globetrotting reporter, prepares to expand his territory thanks to the enterprising Professor Calculus, who is preparing a rocket to travel to the moon. There’s the usual Tintin shenanigans, including spies and plenty of slapstick, but Hergé also brings in some real science, which is especially remarkable because this book was first published in 1950, 19 years before the first successful lunar expedition. This is the first volume of a two-part story that concludes with Explorers on the Moon.

YOUNG ADULT/ADULT

THE BAKER STREET FOUR, VOLS. 1-4
by J-B Djian (♀), Olivier Legrand (♂) & David Etien (♂) (Insight Editions; ages 11-17)
ISBN: 978-1-60887-978-9 (vol.1)/ 978-1-68383-019-1 (vol.2)/ 978-1-68383-106-8 (vol.3)/ 978-1-68383-244-7 (vol.4)
In Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s stories, the Baker Street Irregulars were street urchins who occasionally helped Sherlock Holmes. These books follow their other adventures on the mean streets of London’s East End. “This fresh addition to Holmes pastiches is sure to please tweens, teens, and adults who enjoy fast-moving Victorian sleuthing with engaging characters.” (Library Journal)

MATURE READERS

THE SONS OF EL TOPO, VOL. 1: CAIN
by José Ladrönn (♀) & Alejandro Jodorowsky (♂) (BOOM! Studios; ages 17+)
ISBN: 978-1-68415-289-6
This sequel to Jodorowsky’s acid Western film El Topo follows the son of the legendary gunslinger as he travels through the desert landscape, fueled by resentment, on a quest to kill his half-brother. “Fans of surrealistic narratives and strange Westerns owe it to themselves to pick this one up.” (Paste Magazine)

FABLE OF VENICE
by Hugo Pratt (IDW – Euro Comics)
ISBN: 978-1-63140-926-4
Corto Maltese, a sea captain with a nose for adventure, arrives in Venice in 1921 in search of a fabled emerald and quickly becomes embroiled in a complex thriller plot involving Freemasons and occultists—and a jewel that may not be what everyone thinks it is.
**NONFICTION**

Graphic novels have a real edge when it comes to nonfiction, especially in the realms of history, biography, and journalism. Showing and telling with images in addition to words brings the reader directly into the scene and creates immediate connections with real-life characters.

**YOUNG ADULT/ADULT**

**GUANTÁNAMO KID: THE TRUE STORY OF MOHAMMED EL-GHARANI**
by Jérôme Tubiana (♂) & Alexandre Franc (♀) (SelfMadeHero; ages 12+)
ISBN: 978-1-91059-368-0
One of the youngest detainees in Guantánamo Bay, Mohammed El-Gharani grew up in Saudi Arabia, moved to Pakistan at age 14, and was arrested during a raid on his local mosque. Pakistani government forces sold him to the American government, claiming he was a member of Al-Qaida and had ties to Bin Laden, none of which was true. He was held in Guantánamo for eight years, and this graphic novel bears witness to the human-rights abuses that occurred there—many of which have never been documented before.

“An astounding account of human endurance and faith against overwhelming odds and terrible injustice.” (Publishers Weekly – starred review)

**CALIFORNIA DREAMIN’**
by Penelope Bagieu (First Second; ages 14+)
ISBN: 978-1-62672-546-1
Singer Mama Cass Elliot of the Mamas and the Papas (born Ellen Naomi Cohen) sang lead vocals on one of the iconic songs of the 1960s, “California Dreamin’.” Bagieu chronicles Cass’s moments of triumph and of insecurity, drawing her with a loose, curvy line that brings out her true grace, making her seem weightless when she is singing. “Elliot’s story will charm boomers who remember the original songs as well as younger ages who can easily identify with Elliot, her starry eyes, and her struggles.” (Library Journal)

**THE PROVOCATIVE COLETTE**
by Annie Goetzinger (NBM; ages 15+)
This biography of the famed French novelist begins with her marriage, at age 20, and ends with the publication of her novel *The Ripening Seed* in 1922. During these years, she transformed herself from naïve country girl to a rebellious writer with a tumultuous love life. Goetzinger portrays Colette and her companions in turn-of-the-century Paris with beautiful watercolor art, similar to her 2015 *Girl in Dior*. “Goetzinger’s fashion-illustration background again shines in precise, realistic, sensually drawn figures and a lush palette.” (Booklist)

**THE LITTLE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE: NEW HOLLYWOOD**
by J-B Thoret (♂) & Bruno (♀) (IDW; ages 15+)
ISBN: 978-1-68405-068-0
This slim volume is an introduction to the American New-Wave era of filmmaking, launched in the late 1960s by independent filmmakers including Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert Altman, and Sam Peckinpah.

**DARWIN: AN EXCEPTIONAL VOYAGE**
by Fabien Grolleau (♂) & Jérémie Royer (♀) (Nobrow)
From the same creative team that produced the beautiful *Audubon: On the Wings of the World* comes the story of Charles Darwin’s 1831 voyage on the H.M.S. Beagle, a journey that took him to the far corners of the earth and laid the groundwork for the theory of evolution.

**THE PHOTOGRAPHER: INTO WAR-TORN AFGHANISTAN WITH DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**
by Didier Lefèvre, Frédéric Lemercier (♂) & Emmanuel Guibert (♀) (First Second)
This graphic novel documents, in photos by Didier Lefèvre and drawings by Emmanuel Guibert, a 1986 mission through northern Afghanistan by the organization Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). Winner of the Eisner Award, a YALSA Great Graphic Novel for Teens, and a Booklist Top Ten Graphic Novel. “[A] magnificent and moving account of the human costs of war.” (Library Journal – starred review)

**THE DRINK AND TO EAT**
by Guillaume Long (Lion Forge; ages 17+)
This series of short comics reads like a food blog, with a mix of advice, storytelling, and how-to, all written with a strong point of view and drawn in a casual, cartoon style. Long explains the best way to make coffee, describes a restaurant crawl through Bucharest, and offers recipes for everything from Feta Watermelon Salad to Molten Chocolate Cake. His down-to-earth persona keeps him from sounding snobby—he’s advice is accessible to all readers, no matter what their level of expertise in the kitchen.
**HUMOR**

Who doesn't love a good laugh? The French may seem serious about literature, but they have a rich tradition of humor comics that stretches back to the very beginnings of the medium. Even better, most of these comics are suitable for children but sophisticated enough for adults to enjoy as well.

**MIDDLE GRADE**

**AKISSI: TALES OF MISCHIEF, VOLS. 1 & 2**
*by Marguerite Abouet (†) & Mathieu Sapin (†)*
(Nobrow/Flying Eye Books; ages 6-9)
ISBN: 978-1-91117-147-8 (vol. 1) / 978-1-91249-717-1 (vol. 2)
About, the creator of the popular Aya of Yop City series, turns to her memories of growing up on the Ivory Coast in this series, which features short, funny stories about a group of mischievous children. “This volume fills a gap in children's comics, featuring African characters and settings. Highly recommended for middle grade graphic novel collections.” (School Library Journal – starred review)

**THE WOLF IN UNDERPANTS, VOL. 1**
*by Wilfrid Lupano (†), Mayana Itoïz (†) & Paul Cauet (†)*
(Lerner; ages 7-10)
ISBN: 978-1-54154-530-4
Everyone in the village is terrified of the wolf that lives on the hilltop over their town. The villagers are so scared that they spend a lot of money on anti-wolf equipment and a wolf patrol. When the wolf does show up, he is the opposite of scary—he's wearing striped underwear. This simple story has a surprisingly complex message about understanding differences, wrapped in enough silliness to have children and adults laughing.

**ALL AGES**

**LUCKY LUKE: A COWBOY IN PARIS**
*by Jul (†) & Achdé (†)*
(Cinebook; ages 12+)
ISBN: 978-1-68415-043-4
Cowboy Lucky Luke is escorting the Dalton Brothers, his usual suspects, to prison, when he happens on the sculptor Frédéric Bartholdi, who is taking the Statue of Liberty's torch around the U.S. to raise funds for the statue's completion. After rescuing Bartholdi from a sticky situation, Luke signs on as his bodyguard for the rest of the tour, and then he's hired to escort the entire statue from Paris to New York. A new adventure in a classic French comics series!

**MAGICAL WORLDS**

From steampunk to sword-and-sorcery tales, from dream worlds to demons, bandes dessinées are a rich treasure trove of fantasy stories. French creators are adept at bringing new universes and creatures to life on the page, whether in their original stories or—as with *Tom's Midnight Garden* and the Elric series—as adaptations of English-language originals.

**MIDDLE GRADE**

**TOM'S MIDNIGHT GARDEN**
*by Philippa Pearce (†) & Edith (†)*
(HarperCollins; ages 8-12)
Tom is staying with his aunt and uncle in the country, and whenever their clock strikes 13 he finds himself in a strange garden. Even stranger is the girl he meets there, Hatty, who seems to grow a little older on each of his midnight visits. This is a graphic adaptation of Pearce's Carnegie Medal-winning novel of the same name. “Perfect for fans of time-travel adventures or fantasies with a smidgen of historical fiction.” (Booklist)

**ALL AGES**

**THE COMPLETE OKKO**
*by Hub (BOOM! Studios; ages 12+)*
ISBN: 978-1-68415-043-4
Okko is a Ronin (masterless samurai) who travels through the war-torn Pajan Empire on a journey of adventure and redemption, hunting demons with his three companions. The setting is similar to medieval Japan, and the story bears some similarities to samurai manga, but the art is lush, colorful, and unmistakably French.
Zombillenium, Vol. 4: Air Girl
by Arthur de Pins (NBM; ages 12+)
Zombillenium Park is a horror-themed amusement park that (unbeknownst to the attendees) is staffed by real vampires, mummies, and other scary creatures. It’s monsters against management when the employees set up a secret network to rescue the damned from hell, and the Board of Directors brings in a powerful enchantress to stamp it out. The first volume was included on YALSA’s 2014 Great Graphic Novels for Teens list.

Thorvaldsen, Vol. 1: Child of the Stars
by Jean Van Hamme (większ) & Grzegorz Rosinski (ęż) (Cinebook; ages 12+)
ISBN: 978-1-90546-023-6
A baby in a space capsule splashes down in the land of the Vikings, to the amazement of a group of sailors, and is named for the gods of the lightning and of the sea. This comic, drawn in a style similar to classic American comics, tells the story of Thorvald’s lonely childhood, his adventures, and his blossoming love for Aaricia, the daughter of the Viking chief.

Rise of the Zephilare
by Karim Friha (Lion Forge, ages 14+)
ISBN: 978-1-94236-773-4
A steampunk fantasy story about a group of young people with strange powers. Sylvan can transform into a tree monster; Wormy can control insects with his mind; and Nethana can re-animate the dead. That makes them tempting prey for the evil Dr. Dreghan and his sinister sons, but Professor Wernes and his daughter are on their side—and they’ve got an amazing airship. A good pick for fans of Kazu Kibuishi’s Amulet series.

Mature Readers

Elric: the White Wolf
by Julien Blondel (ż), J-L Cano (zę), Julien Telo (ęż) & Robin Recht (ęż) (Titan Comics; mature readers)
Elric of Melnibone is the hero of Michael Moorcock’s sword-and-sorcery novels, an albino sorcerer who is also the last emperor of a dying civilization. This book is part of a French adaptation of the first novel, Elric of Melnibone, that finds him leaving his throne and his home and wandering the world, looking for a way to end the curse of his black sword.

McCay
by Thierry Smolderen (ż) & J-P Bramanti (ęż) (Titan Comics; ages 17+)
ISBN: 978-1-78586-885-6
Winsor McCay was the creator of the classic newspaper strip Little Nemo in Slumberland. This fictional biography blends actual events with imaginative fantasy sequences. “Deeply strange, incredibly fun sf/fantasy noir with artwork that pales only to that of McCay himself.” (Library Journal)

The Ogre Gods, Vol. 1: Petit
by Hubert Boulard (ż) & Bertrand Gatignol (ęż) (Lion Forge, ages 17+)
Tokyo Ghoul meets Game of Thrones in this dark fantasy tale about a small giant in a family that is losing stature—literally—with each generation. Petit could mate with a human and regenerate the line, but that would go against the grain in a society that values humans chiefly as food. “The richly brocaded backstories, swirling lines, and pinpoint detail of the art, along with the dark narrative sweep of this tragic and violent world, will leave readers eager for the sequel.” (Publishers Weekly)

Science Fiction

From space operas to dystopian fiction to speculative stories that mix action and adventure with questions about the nature of life and the universe itself, French comics are renowned for incredible science fiction. Classic creators like Moebius and influential series like Valérian, along with newer titles like Snowpiercer and the futuristic world of The Nikopol Trilogy, have also inspired filmmakers and creators in other genres.

Middle Grade

Castle in the Stars: The Space Race of 1869
by Alex Alice (First Second; ages 10-14)
ISBN: 978-1-62672-493-8
Seraphin’s mother flew a hot air balloon to the edge of the stratosphere looking for the mysterious substance known as aether. A year later, hoping to get clues to her disappearance, Seraphin and his father travel to a Bavarian castle and meet a king who is determined to helm an aether-powered spaceship. “A terrific adventure story.” (Kirkus Reviews – starred review)

Mature Readers

Aâm, Vols. 1-4
by Frederik Peeters (SelfMadeHero; ages 15+)
Two brothers, a robot ape, and assorted others travel through the distant corners of space in search of a mysterious substance known as aâm in this sci-fi mystery with environmental and psychological overtones. “Peeters’ impeccable European comics realism... his flair for distinctive characterization, and his good management of the tale’s flashback construction make Aâm an outstanding sf adventure.” (Booklist)
SNOWPIERCER: THE ESCAPE
by Jacques Lob (¶) & J-M Rochette (¶) (Titan Comics)
ISBN: 978-1-78276-133-4
The earth has been plunged into a new ice age, and the remnants of humanity have taken refuge aboard a giant train with 1,001 cars. This arrangement reinforces the stratification of society, with the wealthy passengers in front living in luxury while the passengers in the rear live in squalor. The wheels come off (figuratively) when some of the passengers start moving between cars, upsetting the social order, while a virus is spreading and the train is slowing down. This graphic novel is the basis of the 2013 film Snowpiercer (released in 2014 in the U.S.), and of a new TV series, to be released in the U.S. in 2020, on TBS.

INFINITY 8, VOL. 1: LOVE AND MUMMIES
by Lewis Trondheim (¶), Zep (¶) & Dominique Bertail (¶)
(Lion Forge; ages 17+)
ISBN: 978-1-94236-755-0
Space travel mixes with sci-fi weirdness as a city-sized space cruiser is stopped halfway along its journey by a massive debris field filled with wreckage from many planets and possibly other dimensions. The captain dispatches the ship’s eight top security agents to investigate, sending each on a separate parallel time loop that lasts eight hours, then loops back as the agent forgets everything that happened. The first volume follows the first agent, Yoko Keren, who wanders into a zombie-filled floating graveyard.

THE NIKOPOL TRILOGY
by Enki Bilal (Titan Comics)
ISBN: 978-1-78276-353-6
Alcide Nikopol returns to Paris in the year 2023, after serving a 30-year sentence orbiting the earth in cryopreservation, to find that he has missed two nuclear wars, and France is now under fascist rule. Salvation seems to lie in the Egyptian gods, who are hovering above Paris in a giant pyramid. Bilal’s surrealistic work was one of the original inspirations for the film Blade Runner; this omnibus collects the three-volume series, which was originally published in France between 1980 and 1992.

ABOUT the FRENCH COMICS ASSOCIATION
The French Comics Association brings together many of the major publishers of French comics, including Dargaud, Casterman, Delcourt, Dupuis, Gallimard BD, Glénat, Le Lombard, Rue de Sèvres, and Soleil. As part of its mission, the association aims to promote comics translated into English, to support the U.S. publishing industry, and to stimulate cultural exchanges on the basis of literature and visual narratives between France and the United States.

The French Comics Association is supported by the Centre National du Livre, the Bureau International de l’Édition Française, the Syndicat National de l’Edition and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in the U.S.
‘with the support of the Dutch Foundation for Literature’