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Bande Dessinée - Comics

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LOT 2

CARNET DE POÉSIES, 1917

**This anonymous notebook** has already been mentioned in numerous publications including *Chronologie d'une œuvre*, Volume 1 by Philippe Godin and was the subject of study as *La Petite Étude Hergéenne N° 3* by **Bernard Spee**.

Anonymous but legendary. Between the pages showing charming drawings of friends and relatives of Marie-Louise Van Cutsem as was the custom, a poetry notebook was given to young girls of good families for them to receive words of tribute from their close ones, appears two drawings by Georges Remi who is not yet RG or Hergé.

This notebook holds in its pages, both, the personal story of Hergé, should we write the drama of Hergé, and the genesis of his work. To our knowledge no prior design in 1918 at the hands of Georges Remi is known. For sure, children's drawings, Georges Remi at the age of 11 when he draws, in 1918, in this notebook, a rabbit pretending to be frightened, a vindictive cock and...a broken egg. Some commentators have seen the influence of Benjamin Rabier and psychoanalysts the warning signs of Hergé's future life. The drawing is a portrait of 1920, already of great mastery, a British officer? The war has been through it, and indeed many signatures of British military camp in the town where lived Miss Van Cutsem can be identified in the notebook. But above all this notebook is an involuntary foreshadowing, a biography in the making of the future father of Tintin. One year after the birth of Georges Remi, in 1918, Remi's parents became friends with the Van Cutsem, parents of the young Marie-Louise, nicknamed Snowy. The Remi and the Van Cutsem will be making frequent trips to the Belgian coast. Time passes but in 1924, the parents Van Cutsem decide that their daughter must cease to see Georges Remi who is a "boy with no future." It is true that Remi's father works in a children's clothing firm as for the father of Marie-Louise, he is a recognized designer working also for the famous architect Victor Horta. We know that history will not prove the Van Cutsem family right. By the end of 1924, Georges Remi takes the name of RG and Hergé perhaps to forget his youthful past. The following year he enters the XXème siècle of Abbot Wallez whose secretary called Germaine Kieckens will become the first wife of Georges Remi so called Hergé. Until 1939 when Marie-Louise Van Cutsem leave for Africa with her husband, Hergé will send an album of the Adventures of Tintin to his early love. They will meet again in the 1950s but when April 30, 1974, Hergé sends a message of condolences to the family van Uytfaeck-Van Cutsem, it will get back to him twice as the address was not good anymore...