Sonya Nevin, "Entry on: Sir Scallywag (Series): Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants / Sir Scallywag and the Deadly Dragon Poo / Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom by Giles Andreae, Korky Paul [of Hamish Vigne Christie Paul] ", peer-reviewed by Susan Deacy and Dorota Mackenzie. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/328. Entry version as of October 10, 2026.

Giles Andreae , Korky Paul [of Hamish Vigne Christie Paul]

Sir Scallywag (Series): Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants / Sir Scallywag and the Deadly Dragon Poo / Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom

United Kingdom (2012)

TAGS: Architecture

We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Sir Scallywag (Series): Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants / Sir Scallywag and the Deadly Dragon Poo / Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom
Country of the First Edition	United Kingdom
Country/countries of popularity	United Kingdom
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2012
First Edition Details	Giles Andreae, *Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants.* London: Puffin Books, 2012, 24 pp. Giles Andreae, *Sir Scallywag and the Deadly Dragon Poo.* London: Puffin Books, 2014, 24 pp. Giles Andreae, *Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom.* London: Puffin Books, 2015, 24 pp.
ISBN	9780141330693 / 9780718197360 / 9780723270478
Genre	Action and adventure fiction, Fantasy fiction, Fiction, Picture books
Target Audience	Children (c. 4–10)

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Creators

Giles Andreae , b. 1966
(Author)

Giles Andreae is a British poet an author. He was educated at Eton College and the University of Oxford. He went on to create the popular Purple Ronnie greetings card range, followed by the Edward Monkton range. He became a children's writer, writing prolifically, typically featuring humour and rhyme in his work. Some of his books, including *Captain Flinn & the Pirate Dinosaurs* (Puffin Books, 2006), have been turned into animations.

Bio prepared by Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk

Korky Paul [of Hamish Vigne Christie Paul] , b. 1951
(Illustrator)

Korky Paul (real name Hamish Vigne Christie Paul) grew up in in Zimbabwe and trained in an art school in Durban, South Africa. He moved to Greece in the 1970s and began working for a publishing house, illustrating books to teach Greek children English. He was trained at the California Institute of the Arts. He went on to work on further children's illustration projects in Los Angeles and London before settling in Oxford, UK. He developed the hugely successful *Winnie the Witch* series with Oxford University Press. He illustrated *Aesop's Funky Fables* (author Vivian French, Puffin Books, 1999). He has won a number of prestigious awards, including the Kate Greenaway Award and the Red House Children's Book Award. His style is frequently energetic and humorous.

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Source:

Official website (accessed: June 26, 2018).

Bio prepared by Sonya Nevin, University of Roehampton, sonya.nevin@roehampton.ac.uk

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Additional information

Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs

Musical performances:

Ensemble 360 and Polly Ives: Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom at youtube.com (accessed: July 26, 2018)

Summary

The Sir Scallywag series is set in a Northern European fantasy medieval environment, focused on the inept King Colin and his best knight, six-year old Sir Scallywag. In *Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants*, Scallywag ventures to retrieve the king's underwear from a thieving giant. In *Sir Scallywag and the Deadly Dragon Poo*, Scallywag leads the defence of the kingdom when it is attacked by Baron Greedyguts. In *Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom*, the king discovers a book which promises the secret to eternal life. Sir Scallywag travels to Stinky Bottom to obtain from the trolls the item that will bring the king and queen immortality.

Analysis

In these fun books, antiquity makes its presence felt through a proliferation of Greek font and the occasional appearance of ancient Greek-style architectural features. While the Greek language used is primarily modern rather than ancient Greek, it is rendered in a form that appears more like ancient Greek, such as frequent use of all capitals (as in ancient inscriptions) and a form that suggests ancient carvings or ancient books. The text of the books' narratives are in English; the Greek appears in the illustrations. The Greek text is a mixture of Greek in the Greek alphabet and English rendered into the Greek alphabet (more or less accurately or humorously from word to word). Some examples are rendered below to give a sense of how the Greek is presented and how prevalent it is throughout the series.

***Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants*:**

- p. 2. Book spine: ΚΥΘΗΡΑ (as in the Greek island, Kythera)
- p. 3. Book spine: ΚΥΘΗΡΑ
- p. 6. Pile of books; titles: ΥΦΡΟΝΤ (English 'Y-FRONT' in Greek alphabet); 3x ΓΟΛΛΝΤΕΝ Αντερπαντες (English 'GOLDEN Underpants' rendered into Greek alphabet); ΚΙΛΟΤΕΣ ('Panties',

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Greek in Greek alphabet); Τα Χρυσα Σωβρακα ('The Golden Underpants', Greek in Greek alphabet); Ink-jar labelled: Μελάνς – Greek 'black ink'.

- p.8. Jug beside toilet, labelled: 'ΜΠ...' – Greek alphabet, meaning unclear.
- p.23. Book titles: ΥΦΡΟΝΤ(cover; English 'Y-fronts' in Greek alphabet); spine: ΓΟΛΛΝΤΕΝ Αντερπαντες (English 'GOLDEN Underpants' rendered into Greek alphabet); x2 ΚΙΛΟΤΕΣ ('Panties', Greek in Greek alphabet); Κυθέρα ΜΠΡΟΚΑ. ΜΠΡΟΚΕ; On a jug: ΚΥΘΗ[ΡΑ]; On a football: ΛΙΒΕΡΠΟΟΛ (A humorous rendering of English 'LIVERPOOL' into Greek alphabet).

***Sir Scallywag and the Deadly Dragon Poo*:**

- p. 1. Book cover: ΓΛΥΚΑ των Κυθέρα ('SWEETS of Kythera', Greek in Greek alphabet).
- p. 2. Machine label: Γλυκά Μηχανή ('Sweet Machine', Greek in Greek alphabet).
- p. 5. Room label: Δωμάτο Δράκου ('Dragon Room', Greek in Greek alphabet).
- p. 6. Sign (beside defecating dragons): ΛΟΥΣ (English 'Loos' rendered into Greek alphabet).
- p. 17. Pot label: ΦΑΛΚΙΡΚ Ποικι. (roughly 'Made in PHALKIRK' Greek in Greek alphabet).
- p. 18. Sign carried by advancing army: 'ΣΠΙΤΙ για την Πωληση' ('House for Sale' semi-Greek in Greek font, 'σπίτι για πωληση' would be closer, 'σπίτι προς πωληση' more usual).
- p. 22. Bucket label: ΚΑΡΦΙΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΑ ('BIG NAILS' Greek in Greek alphabet)

***Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom*:**

- pp. 1–2: multiple tins labelled: ΜΠΑΚΕΔ ΜΠΕΑΝΣ (a humorous rendering of English 'BAKED BEANS' into Greek alphabet), and φαρσόλια νόστιμα ('tasty beans', Greek in Greek alphabet). Book titles: ΜΠΕΑΝΣ (BEANS), ΚΟΜΙΚΣ (English 'COMICS' in Greek alphabet), multiple copies of ΚΥΘΗΡΑ; next to a tennis racquet: TEVVIς (English 'TENNIS' rendered into Greek alphabet). Book titles: ΥΦΡΟΝΤ; ΤΑ ΧΡΥΣΑ ΣΩΒΡΑΚΑ ('THE GOLDEN UNDERPANTS', Greek in Greek alphabet); ΣΩΒΡΑΚΑ (UNDERPANTS', Greek in Greek alphabet). Newspaper

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headline: ΤΟ ΛΙΒΕΡΠΟ[...] ΚΕΡΔΙΣΕΙ! ('Liverpool wins!', Greek in Greek alphabet).

- pp. 3–4: Book titles: ΧΡΥΣΙ ('GOLDEN', Greek in Greek alphabet), ΓΟΛΛΝΤΕΝ ('Golden', English in Greek alphabet), ΚΙΛΟΤΕΣ ('Panties', Greek in Greek alphabet), ΥΦΡΟΝΤ ('Y-FRONT', English in Greek alphabet), multiple copies of ΚΥΘΗΡΑ, ΜΠΑΚΕΔ ΜΠΕΑΝΣ ('BAKED BEANS', English in Greek alphabet), ΝΟΣΤΙΜΑ ('TASTY' – as in 'book of tasty things', Greek in Greek alphabet), ΜΠΑΙΚΕΝΤ (perhaps 'BACON', English in Greek alphabet), ΝΤΟΝΑΤΣ ('DOUGHNUTS', English in Greek alphabet), 'How To Live FOREVER' is in English in the English alphabet, on the book's spine and close-up of the spine.
- pp. 5–6: Papers and books: ΥΦΡΟΝΤ ('Y-FRONT', English in Greek alphabet), ΜΠΑΚΕΔ ΜΠΕΑΝΣ ('BAKED BEANS', English in Greek alphabet), ΚΑΛΗ ΖΟΗ ('THE GOOD LIFE', Greek in Greek alphabet), ΚΕΝΤΑΡΟ ΤΟΥ ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ('CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE', English in Greek alphabet), ΚΥΘΗΡΑ, ΝΤΟΝΑΤΣ ('DOUGHNUTS', English in Greek alphabet), Ντονιστες τοΝ ΚΥΘΗΡΟΝ, ΣΟΥΣΑΤΣ (perhaps 'SAUSAGES', English in Greek alphabet), ΜΑΡΜΙΤ ('MARMITE', English in Greek alphabet), ΜΠΑΙΚΕΝΤ (perhaps 'BACON', English in Greek alphabet). Sausage diagram inside 'How To Live FOREVER' is captioned ΣΑΣΑΤΣ ('SAUSAGE', English in Greek alphabet). Once King Colin has realised what the book is, he examines it with his queen. While the book had initially been shown with the title in Greek (Πως Υα.... ΓΙΑ ΠΑΝΤΑ), this close-up of the king and queen reading it together shows the title in English ('How To Live FOREVER') in order to include the (real life) reader more fully.
- pp. 7–8: Books and tins: ΜΠΕΑΝΣ ('BEANS' English in Greek alphabet), ΝΤΟΝΑΤΣ ('DOUGHNUTS', English in Greek alphabet), Ντονιστες τοΝ ΚΥΘΗΡΟΝ, ΤΕΡΑΣ ('BEAST', Greek in Greek alphabet). Football: ΛΙΒΕΡΠΟΟΛ. ΑΝΦΙΕΛΔ ('LIVERPOOL. ANFIELD', English in Greek alphabet. nb. 'Anfield' is the name of Liverpool Football Club's stadium).
- p. 10. Inscription on monument: ΤΟ ΧΡΥΣΟ ΛΟΥΚΑΝΙΚΟ ('THE GOLDEN SAUSAGE', Greek in Greek alphabet).
- p. 11: Book title: ΚΥΘΗΡΑ.
- p. 15. Inscription on monument: ΤΟ ΧΡΥΣΟ ΛΟΥΚΑΝΙΚΟ ('THE GOLDEN SAUSAGE', Greek in Greek alphabet).

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- p. 20. top of monument: ΤΟ ΧΡΥΣΟ ('THE GOLDEN...', Greek in Greek alphabet).
- p. 22. On cooking pot: ΠΟΪΝΤΚΥ ΦΑΛΚΙΡΚ ('MADE IN PHALKIRK', Greek in Greek alphabet), tin: [ΜΠ]ΕΑΝΣ ('BEANS', English in Greek alphabet).
- pp. 23–24. on cooking pot: ΠΟΝΤΚΥ ΦΑΛΚΙΡΚ ('MADE IN PHALKIRK', Greek in Greek alphabet), on jar: Μαρμιτ ('marmite', English in Greek alphabet), on jar: ΧΑΡΥ ΠΕΞ. On a football: ΛΙΒΕΡΠΟΟΛ (English 'LIVERPOOL' in Greek alphabet).

Recurrence of the number '13' throughout the series may relate to the Athenian football team Panathenaikos FC, which is has strong fan culture linked to their stadium's Gate 13, as frequently reflected in football-related graffiti.

The use of the Greek alphabet and language throughout the series is not essential or even necessary to the books' plots. Some readers will recognise and enjoy the illustrator's word play. The illustrator nonetheless showed sensitivity to most readers' lack of Greek in rendering the book title, *How to Live Forever* into English when comprehension was necessary for the plot. Once it ceased to be necessary, the same title is returned to Greek. The use of Greek was perhaps included for the illustrator's amusement as much as anything else, yet it performs additional functions. One such function is to enable the addition of titles and captions on, for example, book spines, without the majority of readers being distracted by easily understanding them. In many places, however, the inclusion of captions is gratuitous, which suggests an additional purpose. The additional purpose is perhaps the intention to use Greek to add the impression of an old world environment. Although there are deliberate humorous anachronisms, the visual landscape is essentially medieval, with things that look old even for the medieval world. The king's library is specifically said to have been collected by his predecessors. Many of them are battered and ancient-looking, with many shelves covered with spider-webs. While not all child or adult readers will recognise the alphabet or language as Greek, most would recognise it as looking as it was from 'long ago.' This is also true of the use of architecture. Parts of the library are supported by Ionic columns. In an otherwise medieval-style castle, this adds an element of further antiquity and was perhaps intended to signal learning through antiquity's association with education and scholarship. In *Sir Scallywag and the Battle of Stinky Bottom*, the monument upon which

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	the sausage of immortality stands is also illustrated in an ancient style – a tall, four-sided stone column with a stone-carved inscription. Again, this draws on the idea of antiquity signaling 'long-ago', and 'special knowledge.'
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Architecture
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Child, children Heroism Morality Supernatural creatures (non-classical)

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