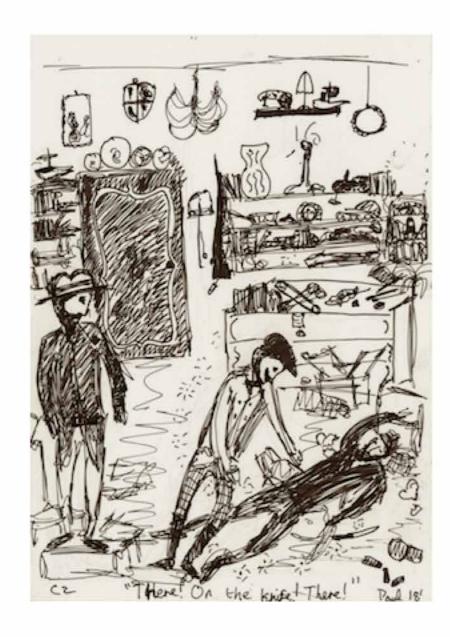
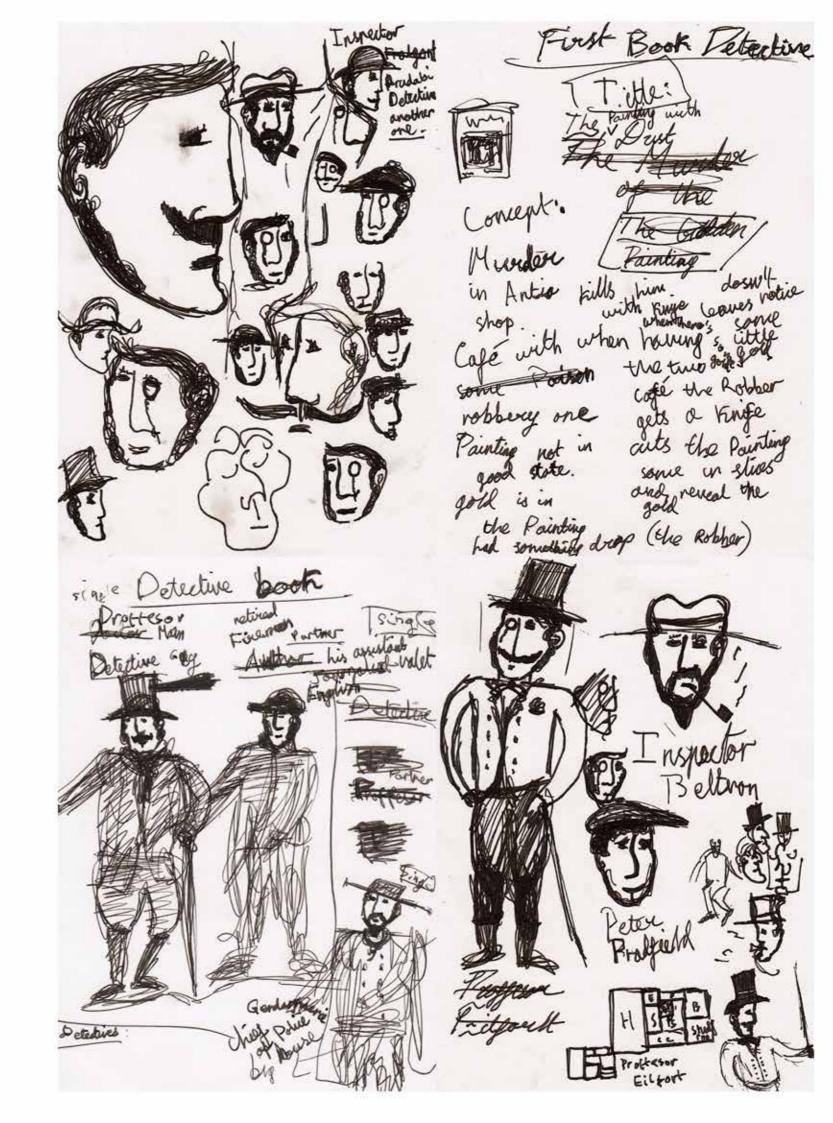


The Painting with Dust by Paul Ostroverhy

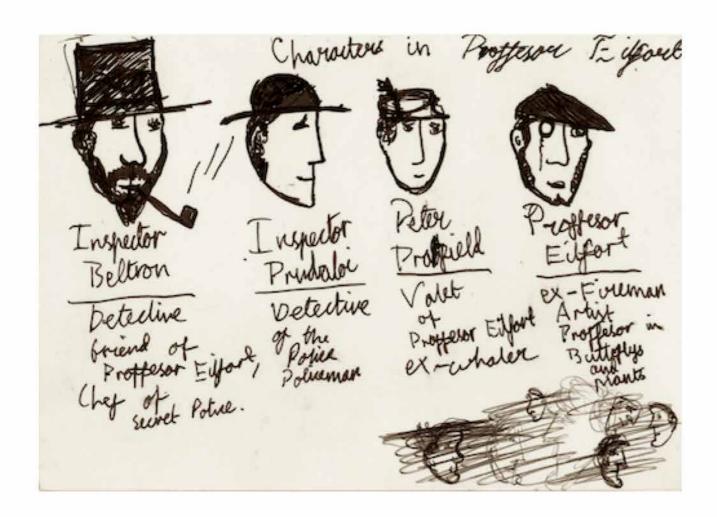


Published by "Kommanda Crew" Paris, 2018



Part 1

The Tragedy of Rue Mazarin



Inspector Beltron Inspector Prudaloi Peter Pratfield Professor Eilfort



Chapter 1

Professor Eilfort

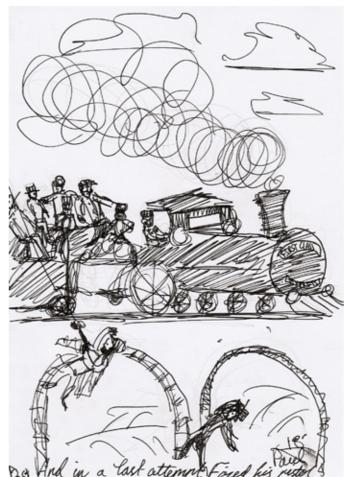
Professor Eilfort of number 11 rue Dupont des Loges was a significant part of the botanical studies at Le Jardin des Plantes. The house in which the Professor lived had a botanical/painting/butterfly shop on the first floor (owned by Professor Eilfort), on the second floor he had his apartment, and on the third he had the servants. I would describe him as having thick curly brown sideburns with a moustache, which he always cared for with the finest delicacy; he also had a scarlet bowtie, always dressed in a waistcoat. He also wore boots wherever he went. He had a monocle and a wave of curly brown hair under his favorite flat cap. He also had an umbrella and a straight nose. He had an expression of calmness, but his blue eyes would flash whenever he was working. Professor Eilfort was the active type of person who did physical exercise. His favorite sport was Tennis as well as horse riding.

I was in England at the time, as I wasn't yet the valet of Mr Pierre Eilfort (the Professor) in the city of Exeter in the south of Devonshire, when one of my friends told me I needed some rest from my professional job, boxing.

"Really Peter, after that injury you had a month ago, I think that you should relax and have some time off. I myself am going to Paris in 3 weeks."

Thus, I decided to follow him and set off to France. Since I had spent most of my time in England as a boxer for the Devonshire team, I decided to come to France in search of a calmer occupation, which is how I came to meet Professor Eilfort and become his Valet. He had a normal-size apartment with a collection of butterflies in his study room. I had the opportunity to observe the room and there were large piles of paper and botanical drawings strewn around. Professor Eilfort also had beautiful paintings of butterflies of different types such as: the Argus Brown, Geranium Bronze, Osiris Blue, Lolas Blue etc... He had a large library with one of the best quality chairs that money could buy, a long living room with a marble fireplace, in which statues were engraved, and a luxurious divan with cushions and deluxe armchairs. There was also a small laboratory in the living room with a microscope (of course to examine the butterflies). The living room had French Windows and was painted in dark green hues with gold.





The Painting with Dust:

My first book

The Painting with Dust and The Diamond of the Chess Player are my two first detective novels. This story is set in fin-desiècle Paris, depicting the life of Professor Eilfort, an elegant dandy and professor of botany, who is also a private detective, accompanied by his right hand Peter Pratfield, an Englishman. It also tells the life of the city of lights at the time, and describes the horses, carriages, first electric lamps, clothing, and of course, the upper classes. For this book I have researched much of the historical events at the time, from the Franco-Prussian war of 1871 that left Paris and all of France ashamed for having lost Alsace-Lorraine to the colonisation of Africa and the famous tower by Gustave Eiffel, constructed in honor of the Universal Exhibition. During this time, the capital of France was becoming popular all around the globe with its famous shops, department stores and the latest Parisian fashions. In my illustrations I wanted to reflect Paris during its Golden Age and the peculiar characters of my novel that inhabit it.

