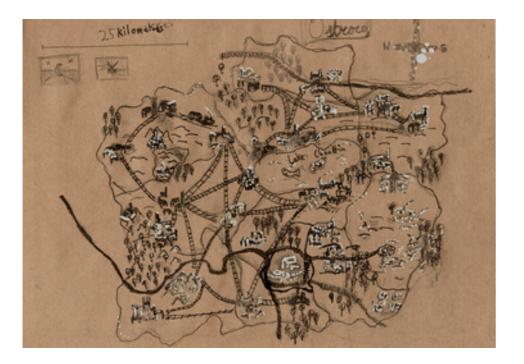




A new land – Ostroco



Project Synopsis

Ostroco is a fictional, eco-friendly country which I invented, which is roughly as big as Liechtenstein founded in 897AD. I first came up with the idea of an environmentally friendly country when reading The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien- I was inspired to design a country which would show how 'The Shire', the region of the hobbits, could look in real life. So about 1/5 of Ostroco is based on this. The most important characteristics of Ostroco are the following- it is a highly green country; it is exclusively powered by renewable energy sources, such as wind energy and solar energy, there are trains, trams and bicycles as modes of transport (cars are forbidden), all of the food comes from organic farming, plastic is also banned and every Ostrokian uses their household waste to make compost heaps. It is ruled by a monarch, King Árpád II, whose castle is situated five kilometers out of the capital, Polivingki. Ostroco has its own language (a mixture of Hungarian and German), currency and numerical system.

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The Founding of Ostroco

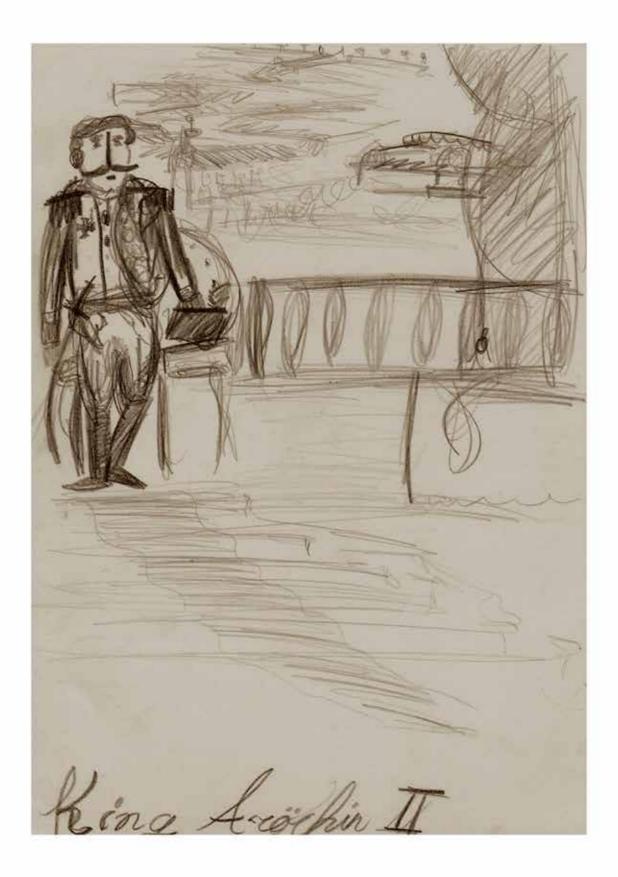
The founding of Ostroco was done through a unification of two little principalities, who were situated next to each other, and were separated by the river Takolodar that ran through them. At the time, Ostroco housed many little states such as these - may they be principalities, duchies or earldoms – and so pirates had guite an influence over this little states, as they could gather mercenaries and easily invade lands. It so is that before the unification of the two little states, there was the Crown Prince from Ostrogamia - one of the little principalities - who had married the Princess of Tralorszovia, and they had a son. Yet, whilst the baby was at the coast, a group of pirates kidnapped him and took him over to their little island off the cost of Ostroco, Szartlorszen. The two principalities made an alliance against their common enemies, and being now brothers in arms, they made a campaign in which they invaded the island and took back the baby. The baby would soon become the Prince of the two Principalities, and so Ostroco was founded, with the new Prince being Kondor I.



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King Aröchin II is the reigning monarch of Ostroco

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An Appraisal of Paul Ostroverhy's Work

The creation of the fictional country of Ostroco has been an independent creative project of Paul's for over a year. The scope of this project is so vast that the result is a holistic and detailed account of Ostroco, covering: military and monarchic history, cuisine, sports, environmentally friendly design, architecture, music, language, numerics, heraldry, vexillology, topography, and cartography. From the design of the buttons of the uniforms of the royal guard, to the most elaborate urban planning of some of the port cities, there is no doubt that this project has an abundance of breadth and depth.

Paul has completed this project entirely independently in his spare time without prompt, demonstrating his naturally creative spirit and capacity for independent learning. His world-building has been clearly inspired by the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Ostroco including a hobbit settlement as a nod to one of Paul's favourite authors.

Paul has produced over 250 sketches, plans, and drawings in preparation for this project and adopted a methodology used by designers and architects to enable him to perfect his sketches by drawing and redrawing the same sketch until he was happy with the result (Paul also used this technique without the benefit of layout paper). His progression from multiple pencil drawings to a final ink piece shows an elaborate use of the sketching methodology which consists of going from the general aspects of the object to particular detail. His masterpiece is a geographical hand-drawn map of Ostroco complete with 64 cities and towns.

Paul has developed of a comprehensive history of Ostroco (dating from 997-present day), including specific histories for each of the regions' wars and border changes, being used to explain the specific cultural characteristics of each region. Each region and city also has its own coat of arms and flag, for which Paul spent a lot of time researching and designing.

In undertaking this project, Paul has developed and honed his research skills, making use of the internet and books. His research has led him to come up with detailed designs of military uniforms for every era of Ostroco (with historical accuracy as to military dress in Europe at the time). His topographical research of European nations has assisted Paul in his vision for Ostroco, the various details being inspired by detailed historical investigations. His vexillological research has also led him to the mature conclusion that cartography is inescapably subjective - as the design of many maps contains some kind of hidden political agenda, even if not immediately obvious.

The Ostrocovian language is a mix Hungarian and German and his fascination of the Hungarian language led to him creating the names of the cities. Ostroco also has its own numerical system, being based on 12 digits which Paul also designed.

An environmentalist at heart, Paul has given particular attention to the ecology and sustainability of Ostroco; there are no cars, the houses are eco-friendly, and the country is 100% nutella free because of the harmful effect of palm oil farming on the environment.

Paul has also created a number of inventions for Ostroco, many of which are attributed to Stephanord de Sziavotliok, Ostroco's answer to da Vinci. These range from military vehicles to musical instruments.

Paul's self-motivated dedication to this vast project is exemplary of his academic rigour and creative expressiveness. The meticulousness with which Paul has fleshed out the detail of this project is most admirable, and his commitment to research has even led him to attempt cooking the traditional cuisine of Ostroco! It is clear that Paul's imagination knows no bounds and that he has the self-discipline and creative ability to realize his imagination in an detailed and expressive fashion.