

TEXT BY GEORGES SIMENON / DRAWINGS BY FREDERICK FRANCK



SIMENON'S PARIS



Near the old gentleman and the fat bookseller in her black dress an American student was studying the universe through the viewfinder of his Leica.

Paris was immense and calm, nearly noiseless, with the shafts of light, the planes of shadow in all the right places. At just the right moment the sunny silence was broken by just the right sound.

The old gentleman in his light jacket had opened a portfolio of pictures and in order to look at them properly he had leaned the portfolio against the stone parapet. The American student wore a red checked shirt, no jacket. The bookseller sat on her folding stool and was moving her lips. She was talking to a customer without looking at him. She talked the way water murmurs in a brook. No doubt that was all part of the stage-direction. She was knitting: red wool slid between her fingers. A white bitch curved its spine under the weight of a heavy dog, whose moist tongue was hanging out.

Then, when all was precisely in place, at the moment that the perfection of that morning reached a nearly frightening intensity, the old gentleman died, without a word, without a moan, without a contortion, while looking at pictures, while listening to the bookseller's voice that was still rippling on, listening to the chirping of the starlings, the horns of taxis, dispersed here and there.

He had to die standing up with one elbow on the stone edge, without astonishment in his blue eyes. He wavered slightly and fell onto the sidewalk, dragging the portfolio along. The pictures were spread out around him.





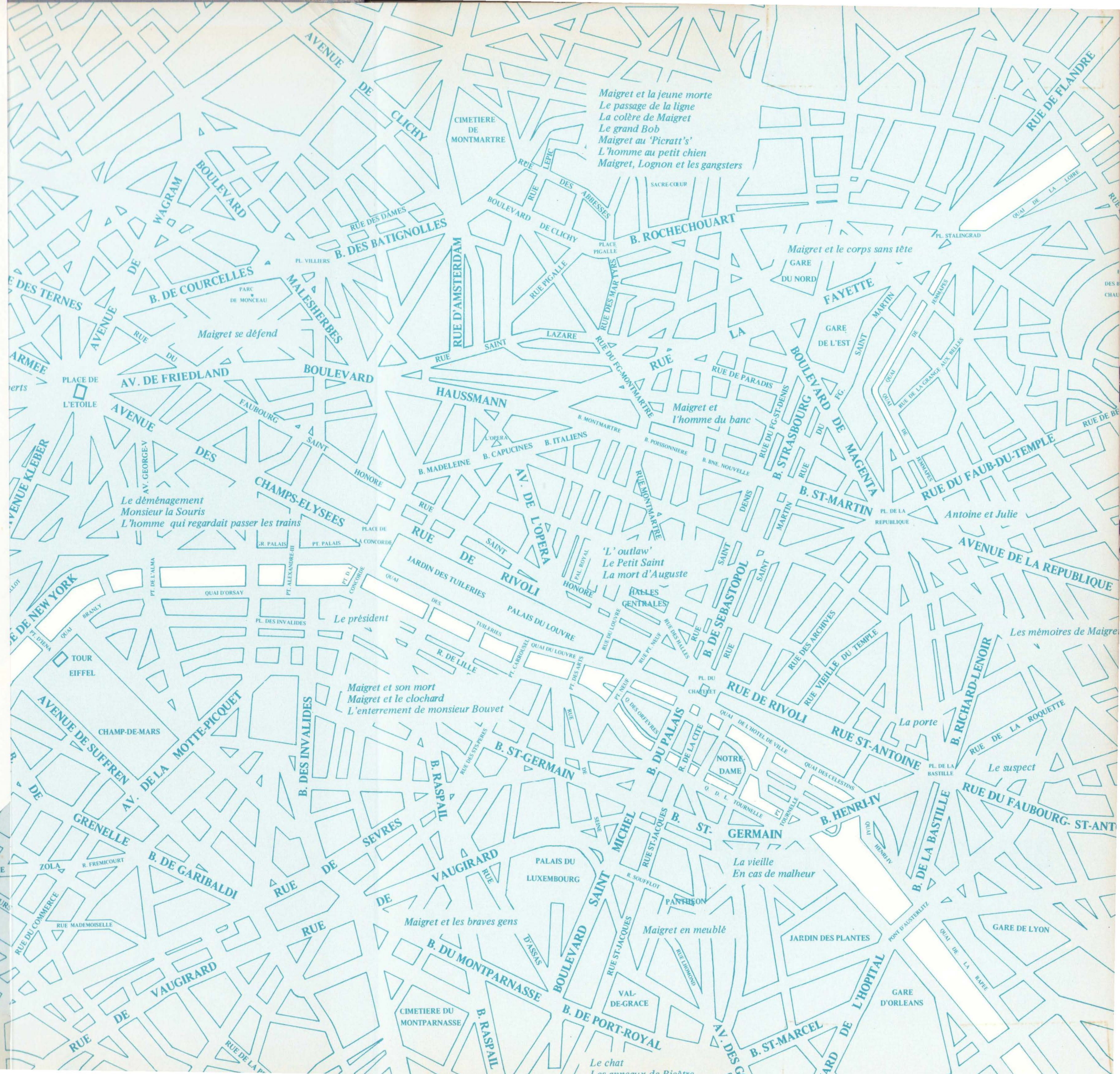
Georges Simenon  
*Frederick Franck*

*Simenon's Paris* is an impressionistic evocation of the City's underworld - of its haunts and inhabitants - as seen through the unidealizing eyes of Frederick Franck and Georges Simenon - that unrivalled master of French crime fiction and creator of the inimitable detective hero Inspector Maigret.

Admirers of Simenon's prodigious talent as well as those who find the lure of the notorious Rue Lepic or the demi-monde of Montmartre's bars and cafés irresistible will delight in this pictorial reminiscence. Extrapolating some fifty of Georges Simenon's stories, which have been selected and translated into English by the immensely versatile and versatile artist Frederick Franc, the book contains impressionistic drawings that come so vividly captured in common with the novel.

born in 1909 in Maastricht and educated in Holland and America, Frederick Franck holds degrees in both Medicine and Dentistry, and for several years worked in Lamere, Equatorial Africa, on the staff of Dr Albert Schweitzer's jungle hospital. Franck was later made Professor Emeritus of the Fine Arts by

*continued on back flap*





*Vous trouverez sur ce plan la plupart des titres des ouvrages de Simenon qui ont été cités dans notre album. Nous avons imprimé ces noms de lieux en italique : ils figurent au centre des quartiers où se joue principalement l'action des romans évoqués.*

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the University of Pittsburg where previously he had lectured on dental surgery. He now devotes all his time to writing and drawing.

*Georges Simenon* is the protean author of over two hundred novels, an astonishing body of work that has earned him the affection and respect of readers and critics all over the world, for his books have been translated into dozens of languages and have sold millions of copies. *Frederick Franck* were born in the same years and a few miles apart.

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# SIMENON'S PARIS

TEXT BY  
GEORGES SIMENON  
DRAWINGS BY  
FREDERICK FRANCK

EBURY PRESS LONDON

# LIST OF DRAWINGS

*In general the drawings depict actual locations referred to in the text. In some cases as for instance numbers 28, 32, 55, 64, 95, 112, 124, I drew a similar atmosphere but in a different spot from the one described. For the benefit of Paris devotees I list here all actual locations.*

2, 3	Place Furstenberg
6, 7	Ecluse de Suresnes
8	Epalinges, en Suisse
18, 19	Place de l'Opéra
20, 21	Un Grand Boulevard
22, 23	Boulevard Richard-Lenoir
24, 25	Boulevard des Italiens
27	Boulevard Rochechouart
28	Galerie des Glaces, Versailles
29	Deux Métros
30, 31	La Madeleine
32	Le Quick-Elysées
33	Near the Sorbonne
34, 35	Place Saint-Germain-des-Prés
36, 37	The Notre-Dame
38	Bridges on the Seine
40, 41	Jardin du Luxembourg
42	Parc Monceau
43	Jardin du Luxembourg
45	Place Saint-Georges
46	Place du Tertre
47	Place des Abbesses
48	Montmartre
50, 51	Le Moulin-Rouge
53	Le Moulin-Rouge
54	Picratt's
55	Rue de Douai
56, 57	Boulevard du Montparnasse
58, 59	La Coupole
60, 61	Place Denfert-Rochereau
62, 63	Bakery
64	Rue Taitbout
65	The glazier
68	Rue de La Roquette
72, 73	Place Saint-Georges
74	Passage Choiseul
75	Rue Saint-Antoine
76, 77	Rue Lepic
78, 79	Rue de Grenelle
80	Police precinct, Les Halles district
81	Rue de Crimée
82, 83	Rue Fléchier
85	Rue Saint-Médard
87	Gare Saint-Lazare
88	Gare du Nord
89	Waiting room in the station
90	Rue Laffitte

Rue Quincampoix	92, 93
Place Blanche	94
Police precinct, Les Halles district	95
Rue Fontaine	96
Rue du Faubourg Montmartre	98, 99
Around Les Halles	100, 101
Palais de Justice	104, 105
Rue du Faubourg Montmartre	107
Boulevard du Palais	111
Les Halles	112, 113
Rue des Martyrs	114, 115
Les Halles	116, 117
Les Halles	118, 119
Rue Saint-Lazare	121
Rue Saint-Victor	122, 123
Bistro on the Flea Market	124, 125
Rue Saint-Lazare	126, 127
Café	128, 129
Restaurant Lasserre	130, 131
Hôtel Georges-V	132, 133
Restaurant Lasserre	134, 135
Place de l'Etoile	136, 137
Palais-Royal	138
Hôtel Georges-V	139
Suburb	140
La Marne	142, 143
Nogent-sur-Marne	144, 145
Le Louvre	146, 147
Les Tuileries	148, 149
Les Tuileries	151
Place des Vosges	152
Jardin du Luxembourg	153
Parc Monceau	156, 157
The Seine between Saint-Cloud and Suresnes	158, 159
Rue Lepic	160
Bois de Boulogne	161
La Santé prison	162-167
Porte de Clignancourt	170
Porte de Clichy	171
The Flea Market	172, 173
Le Pont-Neuf	174
Place Clemenceau	177
Canal Saint-Martin	182, 183
Ivry-sur-Seine	184, 185
Versailles	186, 187
Comédie-Française	191
Quai Montebello	jacket



# LIST OF BOOKS CITED

The novels listed below have all been published in this country except for those listed in French. Titles which are currently obtainable from booksellers have been starred (\*) and, where known, the English publisher has been given.

<i>The Crime of Inspector Maigret</i> in <i>Introducing Inspector Maigret</i> (Routledge & Kegan Paul)	69	Page in Simenon's Paris
<i>A Battle of Nerves</i> in <i>Patience of Maigret</i> (Routledge & Kegan Paul)	59, 81, 141, 162, 166, 167	
<i>The Lock at Charenton</i> in <i>Maigret Sits it Out</i> (Routledge & Kegan Paul)	145, 181	
<i>The Green Thermos</i> in <i>On the Danger Line</i> (Routledge & Kegan Paul)	75, 128	
<i>Les Trois Crimes de mes Amis</i>	92	
" <i>Monsieur La Souris</i> " in <i>Poisoned Relations</i> (Routledge & Kegan Paul)	32	
<i>The Man Who Watched the Trains Go By</i> (Routledge & Kegan Paul)	55, 131	
" <i>L'Outlaw</i> "	69, 112, 113	
<i>Je me Souviens</i>	13, 14, 15, 16, 17	
<i>Maigret's Special Murder</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	23, 95, 106, 185	
<i>Les Quatre Jours d'un Pauvre Homme</i>	28, 31, 132, 152, 155	
<i>Maigret's Memoirs</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	86, 88, 89, 94, 110, 123, 169, 170	
<i>The Heart of a Man</i> in <i>A Sense of Guilt</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	46, 136, 191	
<i>Inquest on Bouvet</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	jacket, 150	
* <i>A New Lease of Life</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	29, 91	
<i>Maigret in Montmartre</i> in * <i>Maigret Right and Wrong</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	54, 97	
<i>Maigret Takes a Room</i> in * <i>The Second Maigret Omnibus</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	65	
<i>Maigret, Lognon et les Gangsters</i>	82	
<i>Antoine et Julie</i>	171	
<i>Maigret et l'homme du banc</i>	26, 176	
* <i>Big Bob</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	33, 73, 129, 160	
<i>Maigret and the Young Girl</i> in * <i>The Second Maigret Omnibus</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	39, 98	
* <i>Maigret and the Headless Corpse</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	182, 183	
<i>In Case of Emergency</i> in * <i>A Simenon Omnibus</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	60, 125, 148	
<i>Maigret's Failure</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	25	
<i>The Premier</i> in * <i>A Simenon Omnibus</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	130, 176	
<i>Le passage de la Ligne</i>	51, 120	
<i>The Widower</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	79, 80, 172	
<i>La vieille</i>	36, 77	
* <i>Maigret and the Lazy Burglar</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	74, 105, 161	
<i>Maigret in Society</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	44, 109	
<i>Betty</i>	127	
* <i>The Old Man Dies</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	84, 134, 165	
* <i>The Patient</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	20, 34, 52, 138, 175	
<i>Maigret et les braves gens</i>	57, 179	
* <i>Maigret Loses his Temper</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	111, 143, 162	
* <i>The Little Saint</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	114, 116	
* <i>The Man with the Little Dog</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	40, 49, 70, 102, 147	
* <i>The Door</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	37, 62, 152	
<i>Maigret on the Defensive</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	156	
* <i>The Neighbours</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	100, 159	
<i>Le Chat</i>	42, 66	
<i>Maigret and the Saturday Caller</i> (Hamish Hamilton)	46	
<i>L'homme dans la rue</i>	120	
<i>Maigret et le clochard</i>	174	



*Les volets verts*

He had enough money, that much was true. But he was suspicious and he had put it in four or five different banks and had kept as much as possible in gold, which he went himself to put into his various safe deposit boxes.

But he was much less well-off than was generally believed and than the newspapers asserted with such exasperating satisfaction. Most of those astronomical figures were part of the bluff of the movie companies. The tax collector got the bulk of it anyway.

What everybody also seemed to forget was that only in the last ten years had the movies given him that large income. Until his fiftieth year he had lived only from the stage. Until his fortieth he had had trouble paying his bills. Until his thirtieth he had not had enough to eat.

Do you get that, my dear Count de Jonzé, who finds-it-so-amusing-to-hang-around-with-bohemians!



Il va sans dire que je continue à me balader à  
travers le Paris de Simonon en le dessinant  
Mais hélas ! il n'y a plus d'espace dans ce livre.

Au revoir, Paris !

Au revoir, Simonon !

Au revoir, amis !

Frederick Franck