

Period Detective Stories





Shimon de Samarie ★★ Completed series ★★
Fred Le Berre & Michel Rouge

Shimon of Samaria is a judge for the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem. Born a Samaritan, he was educated in Rome and is now torn between the disparate cultures of the two communities. Working within two jurisdictions, with very different sets of laws, his actions are thus the more delicate. Playing on both sides may cause him to lose everything. In Jerusalem, the merchants of the temple rule. While restoring buildings damaged by an earthquake, a dead body is found under the rubble. Is it an unfortunate victim of a natural disaster or is it a murder hastily disguised as an accident? And who is this victim that nobody seems to know? To answer these questions, Judge Shimon will have to reconstitute, piece by piece,

the identity and biography of the dead man, even if it means disrupting the sects that are swarming around in these times of great change.

Michel Rouge, well known for his art stints on *Comanche*, and *Marshall Blueberry*, produces in this series his most personal work. **Fred Le Berre**, writer and scriptwriter, is also the co-author of *Galata*, in the same collection.



Galata ★★ Completed Series ★★
Alain Paris, Fred Le Berre & Stefano Palumbo

As he comes to take up his duties as Provost of Istanbul, Ogier de Mercœur narrowly escapes an assassination attempt by Wallachians who mistakenly murder a young French poet instead. The plot thickens when it is revealed that the man presumed responsible for the murder is the offspring of the Duke of Venice and the protégé of the Sultan who holds the Christians of Istanbul at his mercy. To unravel this case of diplomacy and politics, Ogier may just have to lead the whole harbor district and the Venetian embassy into chaos. And even the calamitous and irresponsible deputy imposed upon him will not be able to prevent any of it from happening.



La Porte d'Ishtar ★★ Completed series ★★
Alain Paris & Simon Dupuis

This story takes place when Babylon, the capital city of the Assyrian-Babylonian Empire, is the most populated city in the world. It is surrounded by a wall with various portals, seven gates in all. One of them is dedicated to the goddess Ishtar, and capital punishments are carried out in the square directly before it. The dried skins of condemned criminals are nailed down on the gate as a foreboding warning. Taliya, a young scribe girl is chosen by Queen Semiramis to lead the police force and to run an investigation into all levels of the prosperous city. Her first investigation (contained in a two volume story) is into the murder of an important citizen who seems to have let himself be strangled without resistance.

To discover the truth, Taliya has to confront a chauvinistic society full of old-fashioned prejudices which stymie her throughout the course of her investigations.

Shimon de Samarie

Vol. 1 - Tu ne tueras point, 48 pages, color, 2005
 Vol. 2 - Les Châtiments de la Mer Morte, 48 pages, color, 2006
 Vol. 3 - le Samaritain, 56 pages, color, 2009
 Format: 24 x 32 cm, hard cover
 Rights sold: German & Dutch

Galata

Vol. 1 - Le Poète assassiné, 48 pages, color, 2005
 Vol. 2 - L'Ermite des Météores, 48 pages, color, 2006
 Format: 22.5 x 29.7 cm, hard cover

La Porte d'Ishtar

Vol. 1 - La Nuit des masques, 48 pages, color, 2008
 Vol. 2 - Le Masque de chair, 48 pages, color, 2008
 Format: 22.5 x 29.7 cm, hard cover



Novikov ★★ Completed series ★★ **Patrick Weber & Bruno Brindisi**

Alexis Novikov, an officer in the Imperial Police, solves criminal mysteries in a Saint Petersburg torn between the eternal Russia of the ancient Tsars and the modern and enlightened European one dreamt of by Peter the Great. To achieve his ends, he does not hesitate to use means that are not always considered...“Orthodox”! A fanatic named Troubelkine accuses Saint Petersburg’s good society of corruption, Libertinism, and decadence. He becomes the ideal suspect when several members of the aristocracy are savagely murdered with a crucifix through the heart. Yet, those same aristocrats seem to protect the man people call the “Starets,” the Fool of God. Full of pitfalls, the investigation turns somewhat personal for the dashing Novikov who holds this wealthy class responsible for the death of his wife.

Artist Bruno Brindisi is one of the best-known authors in Italy. Scriptwriter Patrick Weber who trained as a historian is the author of historical detective novels and a journalist.



Œil de jade ★★ Completed series ★★ **Patrick Weber & Emanuele Tenderini**

Detective Wang Fu Min, a former soldier, conducts unique inquiries in Longmen, a city of Central China where the justice system is plagued by corruption. Although separated from his two wives, he has stayed close to his children, especially his 18 year old son who accompanies him during his investigations, and his 10 year old daughter who knows just how to melt the heart of this incorruptible civil servant who lives a simple life, close to his people. While his southern accent suggests a certain naivety, the truth is that he is an excellent policeman, honest to the point of inflexibility, as well as a fine marksman. Yet, he has a rather embarrassing handicap - the strange relationship he maintains with the Manchu she-roogue called “the White Tiger,” a relationship of paradoxes, of esteem and defiance, of passionate love and repulsion. Their position as enemies and their desire to meet again will perturb her thefts, and his investigations, on a road that is littered with corpses and stolen treasures.

Patrick Weber is a historian who has written several historical novels, essays, and thrillers. He also is one of the authors of Novikov, in the same collection. Emanuele Tenderini was born in 1977 in Venice, and he published his first albums in France as a colorist at Delcourt, Soleil, and Paquet.



Salomé ★★ Completed series ★★ **Eric Prunnaud & Giuseppe Palumbo**

In 43 A. D., Rome is a modern, cosmopolitan, mystical, and dangerous city. A city of sects, secret societies, conspiracies, murders, orgies, and other games invented to quench a people always quick to revolt. In this city lives a woman: Salomé, a psychic known for the efficiency of her clairvoyance. However, her success is owed to more than the simple gift of being connected to the gods. Her astute mind, her psychological awareness, and her cunning personality are all important aspects of her ability to foresee the truth. If a friend or a parent disappears suspiciously, people come to her for help. Behind her front as a clairvoyant, she runs a meticulous, and logical investigation to solve the case at hand, especially when it concerns one of her nearest and dearest...

Eric Prunnaud is screenwriter for French television, notably cop shows. He studied as a historian. Giuseppe Palumbo is a well-known artist in Italy. His work has been published throughout the world.

Novikov
Vol. 1 - Le Fou de Dieu, 48 pages, color, 2005
Vol. 2 - Le sang des Boyards, 48 pages, color, 2006
Format: 22,5 x 29,7 cm, hard cover
Press rights sold: Italian

Œil de jade
Vol. 1 - La Mort de l'intendant Lo, 48 pages, color, 2006
Vol. 2 - L'Étreinte du tigre, 48 page, color, 2007
Format: 22,5 x 29,7 cm, hard cover
Press rights sold: Italian

Salomé
Vol. 1 - La Noyée du Tibre, 48 pages, color, 2005
Vol. 2 - Les Adorateurs du Ranactès, 48 pages, color, 2006
Format: 22,5 x 29,7 cm, hard cover



Le Maître rouge ★★ Completed Series ★★ **Francesco Artibani & Ivo Milazzo**

Inside the Pontifical State of Rome in 1830, civil life is governed with an iron fist by the ecclesiastic authorities. The hero of this series is inspired by the character of the Red Master, pontifical executioner for almost 70 years who put to death 515 people. He owes his nickname to the scarlet cape he wore for each execution. Giovan Battista Mori, the Pope's executioner for the last thirty years, is, despite it all, a quiet man who devotes himself to his woodwork shop when away from the scaffold. His hangman trade has made him one of the most unpopular men in the city, but he does not seem to care much. Yet, his detachment is only ostensible, as Mori holds the weight of a passionate crime he committed

long ago and for which an innocent man was executed. The obsessive feeling of his guilt pushes him to immerse himself in the cases of the prisoners under sentence of death, investigating each case as much to save an innocent life as to lighten the terrible burden that oppresses him. The Red Master is accompanied in his secret quests by the young and happy-go-lucky Spinetta, a perfect counterbalance to his heavy remorse.

Franco Artibani contributed to the creation of *Witch*, one of the most successful Disney cartoons of the past few years.

Ivo Milazzo is considered a master of realistic Italian comic strips. He inspired a whole generation of authors such as **Bruno Brindisi** and **Corrado Mastantuono**.



Antoine Sèvres ★★ Completed series ★★ **Laurent Rullier & Alessio Lapo**

Antoine Sèvres is a Dominican monk, a member of the order that created the Inquisition. Due to the hazards of life, he is not attached to any monastery nor does he exercises any particular duty. He is, above all, a free man.

Back from imprisonment at the hands of the Moors, Antoine Sèvres returns to his status of inquisitor monk and joins a convoy crossing France. During the trip he is assaulted by two rogues. The soldier leading the convoy saves Antoine and kills one of his assailants, thereby gaining the eternal gratitude of the monk. This soldier, Robert, is killed on the following day.

For Antoine, it becomes matter of paying back his debt by getting right to the bottom of the soldier's murder. However, he does not know that he is entering a mysterious and misleading game...

Laurent Rullier is the scriptwriter of *Les Aventures de Victor Levallois* drawn by Stanislas. He is also a script-manager and scriptwriter for animated cartoons. This is the first graphic-novel illustrated by the young Italian author **Alessio Lapo**.

Le Maître rouge

Vol. 1 - *L'Ange du Château*, 48 pages, color, 2006

Vol. 2 - *La Compagnie de la Mort Charitable*, 48 pages, color, 2006

Format: 22.5 x 29.7 cm, hard cover

Rights sold: Croatian, Serbian & Italian

Press rights sold: Slovenian

Antoine Sèvres

Vol. 1 - *Abyssus abyssum invocat*, 48 pages, color, 2005

Vol. 2 - *Aux portes de l'Enfer*, 48 pages, color, 2006

Format: 22.5 x 29.7 cm, hard cover