

EDITORI LATERZA

Rights List

fall 2021



Dawns of the World

MASSIMO RAVERI

pp. 224
Religion
March 2022

A metaphysical dip into the tales of the origins and beginning of everything.

The different stories of how the world began are not pages from science or prehistory, but metaphysical visions that try to give meaning to life. This book masterfully weaves them all into one big tapestry.

Any culture builds its dream from the beginning. In the many stories of how the world began, 'before' is almost always depicted as an abyss, as darkness, amorphous and incomprehensible. This makes disorder and chaos the truly 'original' existential dimension. Creation, on the other hand, is an act of ordering: for example in *Genesis*, the Creator separates day from night, distinguishes between birds, fish and beasts of the earth, and gives names to things.

This book masterfully weaves together plots from the different choices religions have made when thinking about the beginning. These choices are based on the way each culture develops its idea of God, humans and nature: because it is different to think that the universe was born of the will of a "creator God" than that it was formed from chaos, or because the first embryo pulsed deep in the darkness and then spontaneously emerged and became light, or that all the forms in the world were created by God breaking into a thousand pieces in a gory self-sacrifice, or quite the opposite, that all creatures were created in an erotic union between two loving deities.

The author, an anthropologist of religion with a particular focus on eastern thought, encourages the reader to grasp the originality of the different versions, the subtle ideological processes that emerge, and the shared and opposite underlying themes that intertwine,

recur and evolve over time. This reveals the full richness of the language with which a culture builds its dream of the beginning: the author starts from the sacred texts, but also interprets the imagery of myths, the symbolism of community rituals and the brilliant visions of the ascetics.

At a time of broad and growing interest in the stories of how everything began – symptomatic of a new questioning of God and the world – Massimo Raveri highlights the inspiration that links the intuition of the distant past to the fate of contemporary theologies and the auratic dreams of new forms of spirituality.

Massimo Raveri taught East Asian Religions and Philosophies at Università Ca' Foscari in Venice. An anthropologist, he has conducted field research in India and Japan, first studying shamanic concepts of death and immortality, and later ascetic traditions in Esoteric Buddhism and the practices of Zen meditation. Most recently, he has studied media language and formats in contemporary spirituality. He is the author of *Ridere degli dèi, ridere con gli dèi*, with M. Bettini and F. Remotti (Il Mulino 2020), *I linguaggi dell'assoluto* (Mimesis 2017); *Il pensiero giapponese classico* (Einaudi 2014).



The Good German

CARLO GREPPI

pp. 272
History
November 2021

*A single page in history, a hymn to freedom
for all humanity.*

The story of Rudolf Jacobs and the German and Austrian soldiers who made the momentous decision to follow their conscience: to desert the Nazi army and join the partisans.

There is hardly a trace left of deserters from the Reich: a name on a gravestone, a few lines in documents or local publications, a handful of memories from partisans who survived the war, a passing reference left unconfirmed. Yet from the immediate post-war period, the protagonists and first historians of the Resistance were well aware that the millions of foreigners who joined the partisan fight included, often and everywhere, Germans and Austrians. Today we can assume that in Italy several hundred switched to fighting against their former comrades in arms – in all probability at least a thousand. Certainly if we consider the zealous German Nazi fighters who remained loyal until the collapse, there were very few: splinter groups who kept hold of their arms to thwart their former comrades. But these 'bandits' or 'deserters' or 'stateless' soldiers are the men who knew how to say no to unjust orders, who rejected the law of blood and honour, and instead chose freedom and conscience.

The book's protagonist, Rudolf Jacobs, a captain in the German army, joins the 'Ugo Muccini' Garibaldi Brigade in Sarzana with his mysterious Austrian assistant and dies a heroic death in an attack on barracks of the Fascist Black Brigades. Captain Jacobs was a good soldier: loyal, respectful of hierarchy, brave. In short, a 'good German'. Until he chose to abandon the Nazi forces and switch to the Partisan side, taking his

weapons with him. It is the extraordinary human parable of Captain Jacobs that leads us to discover the dozens and dozens of other stories of Germans and Austrians who made a choice that was irreversible. The young historian Carlo Greppi has done dogged excavation work that finally sheds light on a small but eager army trapped in its own shadow. This book saves them from obscurity.

An unmistakably powerful page of history, but one that is never read: the soldiers who deserted the German army, renegade spirits who chose to put themselves on the right side of history, halting the charge of the millennial Reich to pursue a different ideal.

Carlo Greppi, a historian at the University of Turin, is the co-founder of the *Deina* association and a member of the Scientific Committee of the Istituto Nazionale Ferruccio Parri, who coordinates networks of institutes for the history of the Resistance and the contemporary age in Italy. His most recent publications include: *L'età dei muri. Breve storia del nostro tempo* (Feltrinelli 2019) and *La storia ci salverà. Una dichiarazione d'amore* (Utet 2020). He edits Laterza's 'Fact Checking' series, and is the author of its first title *L'Antifascismo non serve più a niente* (Laterza 2020).



The New China

SIMONE PIERANNI

pp. 208
Current Affairs
September 2021

A gallery of memorable characters in a mix of futuristic metropolises and hutong, factories and countryside, ancient beliefs and artificial intelligence, Neo-Marxism and Hypercapitalism.

The ‘new China’ has a complex and multifaceted identity, made up of contrasts, which creates an explosive mix of past and present that western eyes have never seen.

The changes China has experienced in just over 50 years are so profound and radical that, in the history of other countries, similar shifts have taken centuries to become established. Where we now see skyscrapers being built, a few years ago there were only fields. The youngest generation, the children of labourers and grandchildren of farmers, are now recruited to the most dynamic high-tech sector in the world. Colossal amounts of industrial pollution sit alongside the most advanced research into renewable energy sources. But despite everything seeming to be focused on the future, contemporary China has its roots in millennia of history, which it often draws on as a source of values and ideas, tools to develop new strategies in the face of closer confrontation with the west.

In this book, **Simone Pieranni takes us on a discovery tour of contemporary China, through the voices of characters** who range from the shady Communist Party worker, to the busy doctor from Wuhan, to the vlogger in rural China, to the star of science fiction writing. A journey in eight chapters corresponding to what, to our western eye, look like eight contrasts in the social structure and mental geography of China: socialism/market; meritocracy/corruption; public/private; carbon/green; work/automation; order/chaos; countryside/smart cities; memory/future.

A common thread that reflects the book’s purpose: investigating the contemporary contours of a complex and ever-changing population.

Simone Pieranni is Italy’s most followed and acclaimed journalist writing about China. He lived in China from 2006 to 2014 and returns whenever possible. In Beijing, he founded the news agency China Files, he writes on foreign affairs for *il Manifesto* and he has a column in *L’Espresso*. His works include: the novel *Settantadue* (Alegre 2016) published by the “Quinto tipo” imprint from Wu Ming 1; *Il nuovo sogno cinese* (Manifestolibri 2013); *Cina Globale* (Manifestolibri 2017); and the podcast about contemporary China, *Risciò* (with Giada Messetti, Piano P 2017). For Laterza: *Genova Macaia* (2017) and *Red Mirror: Il nostro futuro si scrive in Cina* (2020) that sold 10,000 copies and has been translated and published in Spanish and French.



Reading Men

SANDRA PETRIGNANI

pp. 208
Literature
November 2021

Literature was for a long time the business of men, men who also wrote about women, and who were read by women. This book takes us on a literary tour guided, this time, by a woman.

Men: they are the writers who have inevitably educated entire generations of women and who, in opposition or in harmony with them, have explored the geographies of the human soul, love, friendship and their very identity.

From the old privilege of an impregnable 'room of one's own' – the studio defined by Thomas Mann as an 'inaccessible kingdom' – to the freedom to travel the length and breadth of the world, male writers have always been able to compose their masterpieces undisturbed. Books into which they have poured the privileged experience of being able to be themselves in the world, as active and recognized individuals. These books drew audiences, not just of men, but scores of female readers inevitably using them as learning tools. Women, who only in rare cases had access to similar opportunities, for a long time were not allowed to write those texts, only to read them. Virginia Woolf tells us that, in life as in art, 'the values of women are not the values of men', and Sandra Petrignani is intrigued to discover - through this personal and passionate foray into the stories that have left their mark on her - that even the simple act of reading is different for the two genders, because there is a feminine way of being a reader. Page after page, it all happens: encountering harsh forms of misogyny, seeing yourself reflected in faithful portraits of women, or stumbling upon Conrad, who swapped his sweetheart for a sailing ship. From Dumas to Philip Roth, Cesare Pavese to Kafka, Italo Calvino to Tolstoy, Malaparte to Dostoevsky, Moravia to Thomas Mann, Kundera to Chekhov, Nabokov to Chatwin, Gary, Proust, Tabucchi and thousands of

others through to the writers of today – Martin Amis, Marías, Carrère, Houellebecq – with moments of admiration and outbursts of anger, a touch of envy and memorable quotes, reading this book is a fantastic chariot ride through literature across time and continents, but for once guided (whimsically) by a woman. Discover the reasons why some women read – because they fell in love with a portrait of Beckett, or because they never learned how to play chess, a field where men excel in life and literature – in a text purposefully punctuated with observations from female writers.

Sandra Petrignani is a famous journalist and a writer. She was born in Piacenza and now lives in the countryside in Umbria. She has had a long career in cultural journalism, writing for daily and weekly publications. She is the author of novels, short stories, travel books, memoirs, biographies. Her books have been translated into many languages. *Lessico femminile* (Laterza 2019), which mirrors *Leggere gli uomini*, sold more than 10,000 copies.



Women of Sicily

GAETANO SAVATTERI

pp. 272
Literature/Current Affairs
October 2021

A clever, contemporary and ironic take on the island-continent that is Sicily.

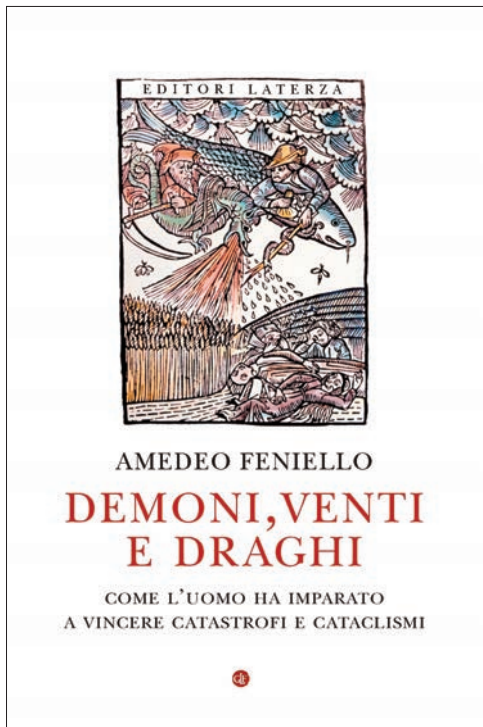
Away with clichés, a wonderful portrait of Sicilian women: princesses and nuns, rebels and jailers, saints and prostitutes, actresses and peasant farmers, who have sometimes accepted but more often reinvented their destiny.

Dressed in black, isolated by jealousy, seeing her instincts punished by her family: the Sicilian woman has long been represented in literature, film and advertising as a stylised figure. Of course, this is a far cry from reality. We therefore need to restore the richness and variety of so many stories that bear no relation to this archetype, and to ask whether there really is a character shared by the women from the largest island in the Mediterranean.

In this book, we discover that, while there is some truth to the fictional character played by Claudia Cardinale in *Big Deal on Madonna Street - I soliti ignoti* ("Carmelina, compose yourself!"), in reality, a century earlier there were fearsome socialist fighters in Piana degli Albanesi, and in the 19th century women who took to the streets with no intention of composing themselves.

Gaetano Savatteri paints a rich and colourful portrait: from Palermo's patron saint Rosalia to Franca Viola who changed laws and customs and becoming famous in the 1960s for refusing a "rehabilitating marriage", from Emanuela Loi (the first female police officer killed by the mafia) to Ninetta Bagarella (wife of mafia boss Bernardo Provenzano), from the singer Rosa Balistreri to the publisher Elvira Sellerio, from the first Miss Italy to Italy's first divorcee.

Gaetano Savatteri was born in Milan in 1964, raised in Sicily and lives in Rome. A journalist, he has also written novels and non-fiction. He is also the author of *I siciliani* (Laterza 2005), a long-standing success, and *Non c'è più la Sicilia di una volta* (2018), and the editor of *Potere criminale. Intervista sulla storia della mafia* by Salvatore Lupo (2010) and *Il contagio* by Giuseppe Pignatone and Michele Prestipino (2012), all published by Laterza.



Demons, Winds and Dragons

How humans learnt to overcome catastrophes

AMEDEO FENIELLO

pp. 256

World History/Middle Ages

November 2021

An original reading of the great crisis of the 14th century, viewed for the first time from a global perspective.

In the 14th century the world experienced a series of devastating natural events: plagues, floods, small glaciations, famines. Yet the three great civilizations of the time – European, Islamic and Chinese – were able to build real ‘adaptive landscapes’ to face the challenge of the moment.

In the 14th century the entire planet was shaken by a series of violent shocks. Suddenly, it was as if demons, winds and dragons were all unleashed together, at the same time, to punish the pride of a species that was starting to try to control the forces of nature. If in Europe we still remember the trauma produced by the black plague that decimated the population of the continent, the Islamic world and China were overwhelmed by a series of raging floods that triggered raging famines. From one end of Eurasia to the other, the consequences of a sudden change in temperatures and the beginning of what is called the ‘Little Ice Age’ were felt.

These natural events produced a real shift in human adaptive landscapes and in the ashes of old systems (such as the Church and the Holy Roman Empire, the Byzantine Empire and the Mongolian Empire) new entities with unprecedented potential were born - such as the new Ottoman empire, the Chinese Ming dynasty, the Mughals in India or the impending growth of the Russian empire.

A compelling book that shows how the difficulties and problems created by the environmental shock of the 14th century were also transformed into an engine for creation and development that launched the world towards a new phase.

Amedeo Feniello works for Isem-CNR in Cagliari and teaches Medieval History at the University of L’Aquila. For Laterza he contributed to *Storia mondiale dell’Italia* (ed. Andrea Giardina, 2017) and is the author of works including *Sotto il segno del leone. Storia dell’Italia musulmana* (2011), *Dalle lacrime di Sybille. Storia degli uomini che inventarono la banca* (2013), *Storia del mondo. Dall’anno 1000 ai giorni nostri* (with F. Canale Cama and L. Mascilli Migliorini, 2019) and *I nemici degli italiani* (2020). The children book *Il bambino che inventò lo zero* (Laterza 2014) is a longseller translated into many languages.



The Adventure of a Poor Knight of Christ

Saint Francis

FRANCO CARDINI

pp. 424

History/Middle Ages

September 2021

Son, saint, poet, knight, reformer. Saint Francis was all this and much more: undoubtedly one of the greatest religious and spiritual figures in history.

Countless studies, biographies, novels, films have been dedicated to Saint Francis and his adventurous life. Yet no one has ever recounted his life as part of an epic and chivalrous cycle, as the great historian Franco Cardini does in this book.

«A young man from Assisi was the son of a rich merchant and banker (and, perhaps, a usurer). His name was Giovanni: but his father decided to rename him 'Francesco' as a tribute to the land of courtly literature, which the boy loved. Francesco was neither noble nor particularly handsome and his physique was fragile, frail. But he was rich, brilliant, charming, witty: he was the 'prince of youth' of his city, the head of a brigade of young aristocrats. He dreamed of glory, chivalrous feats in distant countries, the love of a princess. Then came the civil war in his city, in which he took part, and finally the war against Perugia: he fought, perhaps he killed someone, he remained a prisoner for a few months in the rival city. When he returned home, he was no longer the same. Once he met a leper: leprosy had always frightened and horrified him. But that day he got off his horse and hugged that wretch. Since then, he would have become a Knight of Christ».

Franco Cardini is an emeritus professor at the Italian Institute of Human Sciences; Research Director at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris; Fellow of Harvard University. His books have been translated into many languages. Among his works for Laterza: *Noi e l'Islam. Un incontro possibile?*; *Europa e Islam. Storia di un malinteso*; *Nostalgia del paradiso. Il giardino medievale* (with M. Miglio); *Il Turco a Vienna. Storia del grande assedio del 1683*; *La Congiura. Potere e vendetta nella Firenze dei Medici* (con B. Frale).



Mothers, No Mothers, Almost Mothers / Six medieval stories

GIUSEPPINA MUZZARELLI

pp. 216
History/Middle Ages
July 2021

From a time when women were kept on the sidelines of social and cultural life, six stories of strong, talented women who overcame the limits imposed on their gender.

Surrogate mothers, extended families, and mothers struggling with a sense of guilt when they have no intention of giving up their career: these are not just today's issues, they are also medieval history.

This book tells the stories of six women in the medieval west and their relationship with motherhood. There is the political and human experience of Dhuoda (who lived in the 9th Century), whose children were taken hostage by those vying for power. Two centuries later, there is the story of Matilde di Canossa, a woman who holds power but is disappointed in her expectations for motherhood. There's Catherine of Siena who, although she has no children of her own, acts and writes as a 'great Italian mother'; there is Christine de Pizan, a top intellectual by profession, but also a mother of two, obliged in the late Middle Ages to choose between her life as a mother and her career. And then there is Margherita Datini, a contemporary of Christine, who raises Ginevra, a servant's child fathered by her husband, as her own daughter. Lastly, there's Alessandra Macinghi Strozzi, an exile's widow who is mother and father to her five children. There are so many faces to the relationship with motherhood that, in every era, only partly defines what it is to be a woman. Indeed, it is only possible to read these women's stories because their identities do not correspond exclusively to their role as mothers. These women's stories go beyond. Beyond our expectations, beyond the rhetoric that relegates them to a restricted role, real mothers beyond the biological experience, women at work beyond the domestic sphere: often

despite lacking the biological title, they all fulfil the role of mother, each in their own way, with determination and skill.

Giuseppina Muzzarelli teaches Medieval History, History of Cities and Cultural Heritage of Fashion at the University of Bologna. She is the author of *Nelle mani delle donne. Nutrire, guarire, avvelenare dal Medioevo a oggi* (Laterza, 2013).

Giampiero Brunelli

La guerra in età moderna

 Editori Laterza


pp. 224

History/Modern Age

October 2021

War in the Modern Age

GIAMPIERO BRUNELLI

Beginning in the 15th Century, a revolution swept across the West: the “romantic” era of face-to-face sword fighting ended and the age of firearms began. Muskets, carbines and cannons quickly came to dominate combat, everywhere. Things would never be the same again. Technological efforts accelerated and firearms became more efficient. Fortifications were transformed: arrowhead bastions replaced high battlements. From the mercenaries of the 17th century, accompanied in war by women and children, there was a move to the well-aligned and disciplined units of the 18th century, with permanent frameworks. In the war at sea, the era of the galley faded after the battle of Lepanto and large vessels dominated the waters, carrying up to 120 guns on board. The new generation sailing ships were unthinkable without a strong state: they needed trained crews, equipment, guns and ammunition. That meant: money, money, money. The same can be said of the land armies. Thus, war became a very expensive affair for the state.

Giampiero Brunelli, has been a contributing author of the Treccani Encyclopaedia since 1992. He has taught in many universities and is currently a lecturer in Modern History at Sapienza – University of Rome.



pp. 176

History/Modern Age

June 2021

The Court Hunter

A rebel's life in 17th century Europe

SERENA LUZZI

A bigamous count, who died a prisoner in a fortress belonging to Louis XIV; a wife who takes revenge as best she can on the husband who abandoned her; an archbishop, father of fifteen (perhaps sixteen) children; a man locked up in a cell for over twenty years, persecuted on the grounds of his faith; a woman prisoner at the Bastille. All these characters share at least one trait: the will and the ability to escape social conditioning and the obligations imposed by their role.

These are extraordinary stories of rebellious men and women who use every available strategy to escape the obligations, constraints and rules dictated by the Counter-Reformation. First among them, the incredible story of Ferdinando Carlo Thun of Croviana, son of the highest imperial aristocrats, who opposed family pressures and social conventions in every possible way.

Serena Luzzi teaches Modern History at the University of Trento. Her research areas are prison writing and the history of prison, mobility and social control in the Habsburg context of the nineteenth century, and secularizing cultures in eighteenth-century Italy.



Bitter Adriatic

A long history of violence

RAOUL PUPO

pp. 304

History

October 2021

The lands of the eastern Adriatic were a laboratory for political violence in the 20th century: this book masterfully reconstructs its stages.

The fierce violence unleashed by the intertwining of nationalisms and rivalries on the eastern border of the Adriatic retold by one of the most accredited historians of the subject.

Street clashes, fires, military rebellions such as the one led by Gabriele D'Annunzio, fascist squads, thwarted revolutions, police state, persecution of national minorities, terrorism, convictions by the fascist special tribunal, anti-Jewish pogroms, partisan struggle, war on civilians, massacres, deportations, death factories like the Risiera di San Sabba, sinkholes, grassroots violence and state violence, uprooting of entire national communities. Some of those outbursts of violence have been studied with an almost obsessive intensity, others less so, but always from a decidedly partial perspective. Often each episode has been considered individually, occasionally with reference to only a few of the others. Above all, the analysis of twentieth-century violence has almost always been conducted within a well-defined national history - mainly Italian or Yugoslav (Slovenian and Croatian) - a choice that can only give rise to misunderstandings and interpretative distortions. In fact, it is only by applying different points of view at the same time that we can hope to understand the dynamics of a plural territory such as that of the eastern Adriatic, which during the 1900s fluctuated between membership of different states. Furthermore, the convenient versions offered by individual national historiographies only reinforce memories that were already divided and remained so generation after generation.

Raoul Pupo taught Contemporary History at the University of Trieste. He works mainly on Italian foreign policy, the Adriatic border, Italian occupations in the Balkans and forced displacements of populations in Europe in the twentieth century. Among his most recent publications with Laterza: *Trieste '45* (Laterza, 2010), *La vittoria senza pace. Le occupazioni militari italiane alla fine della Grande Guerra* (ed., 2014) and *Fiume città di passione* (2018).



Mario Rigoni Stern

A portrait

GIUSEPPE MENDICINO

pp. 216
Biography
July 2021

The great storyteller who was able to restore literary dignity to Nature and to the lives of humble people forgotten by history. This was Mario Rigoni Stern.

**The sergeant leading his men across the Russian steppe towards home.
The eternal explorer of the magnificent Altopiano dei Sette Comuni, where the
wonders of nature coexist with the traces of the destructive work of men at war.**

Mario Rigoni Stern was one of the greatest storytellers of the 20th century. His voice gave space to themes and issues that were missing from the Italian literary tradition: the natural world, mountains and war stories. A unique combination that stems from a life marked by a long series of dramatic events: his youth spent on three different war fronts, the terrible experience of the retreat at the Don river, lengthy imprisonment in German concentration camps.

When he returned home to his beloved highlands, he could finally devote himself to the passion he had always been forced to set aside: writing. This produced memorable books such as *Il sergente nella neve*, *Il bosco degli urogalli*, and *Storia di Tönle*, which established him as a literary great.

Today, one hundred years after his birth, this book traces his life and works, incorporating photographs and images found in the archives and never published before. It is also intended as an invitation to visit the places mentioned in the stories of Rigoni Stern, who hoped that readers would follow in his footsteps, discovering the emotions he felt along the way.

Giuseppe Mendicino is considered the leading expert on the writer Mario Rigoni Stern. He wrote the entry Mario Rigoni Stern in the *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani* (Istituto dell'Enciclopedia Italiana Treccani) and is the author of *Mario Rigoni Stern. Il coraggio di dire no* (Einaudi 2013), *Mario Rigoni Stern. Vita, guerre, libri* (Priuli & Verlucca 2016), *Portfolio alpino* (Priuli & Verlucca 2018) and *Nuto Revelli. Vita, guerre, libri* (Priuli & Verlucca 2019). He is an academic associate of GSM (the Italian mountain writers group) and writes for the magazines *Doppiozero* and *Meridiani Montagne*.



Greenland

A journey around the disappearing island

SANDRO ORLANDO

pp. 192
Reportage/Climate
July 2021

A gripping story that is also
reportage from the heart of the
climate emergency.

The great polar expeditions, the fascinating and terrifying experiences of explorers seeking the Northwest Passage, are not just relics of the past. A fact demonstrated by this account of a sailboat journey in Greenland, along the world's largest fjord, the Scoresby Sund.

In the summer of 2019, an expedition set out around Greenland's eastern coast, one of the most remote areas on the planet, at the heart of the climate crisis that is devastating the Arctic. A sailboat journey on the Scoresby Sund, to report on phenomena that are also having an impact at our own latitudes: ocean currents heating up, ice melting at unprecedented rates, tsunamis caused by the collapse of giant icebergs, fjords and coasts free from pack ice, species becoming extinct. The Arctic at the centre of the book is a 'blue' Arctic, devoid of ice, as the author anticipates the fate of our climate and explains many aspects of the crazy weather we are experiencing. A travel tale, woven through with scientific detail, full of characters and their adventures: explorers, mountaineers, scientists, all drawn to this wild frontier by their fascination with the unknown. This almost uninhabited continent, with its boundaries blurred and geography unknown due to transformations caused by the melting ice, has proven to be the perfect laboratory for their research.

A great sailing adventure along the 71st parallel north, through the stories of people who live and work 'in the middle of the ice'.

Sandro Orlando, passionate about meteorology, science and oceanography, has travelled the length and breadth of the Arctic, from Greenland to the Svalbard islands and Siberia. Reporting on climate change, he has travelled to over twenty countries, crossed the Alps on foot, and sailed to the north-eastern coast of Greenland. He began his career as a journalist in Germany in 1992, after a degree in German Studies and a master's in Journalism from the Freie Universität in Berlin. Before writing about climate and environmental issues, he worked in foreign affairs and economics. He has written for a number of newspapers and is the author of *Borderline. Speculazioni e affari nell'Italia del dopo Enron* (Editori Riuniti 2003) and *La Repubblica del ricatto. Dossier segreti e depistaggi nell'Italia di oggi* (Chiarelettere 2008).



The Icy Glare of the Leopard

On the trail of large carnivores and other animals

SANDRO LOVARI

pp. 160

Popular Science/Ethology

July 2021

A charming and mysterious animal, which has been lost from view for years.

A compelling travel journal of a scientific mission that changed the way we view animal species.

A ten-year search across some of the wildest, most unpolluted landscapes on the planet, from the Tibetan plateau to the frozen plains of Karakorum.

The snow leopard is not only a rare feline with eyes the colour of ice, living in the steep, frozen mountains of Karakorum, the Himalayas and the Tibetan plateaux; it is also a transcendent and mysterious symbol of Asia, transformed by the Buddhist religion into a messenger from the gods. Struck by the charm of this ghost that haunts the impassable Asian mountains, internationally renowned ethologist Sandro Lovari spent a decade studying the snow leopards' ecology and behaviour, following their tracks from Mount Everest in Nepal to Central Karakoram National Park in Pakistan, uncovering enigmatic elements in the life of this magnificent cat, from its prey to its relationship with the local human populations.

The author's adventure stories from studying this incredible animal serve as a springboard for addressing the issue of coexistence between species, from the tiger to the common leopard, from the Asian elephant to the Tibetan wolf, and the inevitable conflict with humans. Around a quarter of mammal species are at risk of extinction in the near future: the time has come to speed up our collection of data about them, so that we can intervene quickly to offer the appropriate protection and management.

With gentle irony and humour, Lovari describes the thousands of difficulties that characterise any scientific mission conducted into the wild, especially in remote

and adventurous locations. All this draws the reader in, making them feel like a companion on the author's travels, in contact with nature and the planet's wildest habitats.

Sandro Lovari is Italy's greatest ethologist, famous around the world for his study of large carnivores: tigers, leopards, wolves and foxes. He has undertaken research at the universities of Cambridge, Groningen, Stockholm and Žilina, and lectured in Zoology at the University of Siena and other Italian universities. He is currently emeritus professor at the National History Museum of Maremma. He collaborates with the University of Beijing on research on Tibetan mammals, including the snow leopard.



The Privatisation of Knowledge

MASSIMO FLORIO

pp. 240
Current Affairs
October 2021

Human health, climate change, data governance:
these are the crucial challenges of our present
(and future).

A take-down of the current mechanism that transforms knowledge into capital for the few and contributes to social inequality, this is also a book that proposes alternatives: because the privatization of science is not an inescapable destiny. The situation can change.

We arrived at our appointment with the pandemic unprepared, despite the fact that scientists had raised the alarm almost twenty years earlier. Big Pharma, after taking investment away from infectious disease research because it was not profitable, only stepped up when governments showered companies with billions of dollars in subsidies. But they have not given up on patents, delaying the possibility of vaccinating the whole planet. The same is true for climate change: we have long understood that we need to find new production and consumption technologies compatible with a radical 'green' shift, but oil, gas and other companies continue to invest in fossil fuels. At the same time, we can see the growing power and influence that the markets have on our lives in a digital oligopoly that uses everyone's data to accumulate wealth for the few. **Much of that information, if it were managed by organisations with public missions, could be a vital resource for improving our well-being, from our own health to protecting the environment. But that's not the aim of the Tech Giants.**

Health, climate change, data governance: the three great challenges of the future can no longer be addressed without the creation of a new generation of supranational, knowledge-intensive public infrastructures. And Europe already has them: CERN,

the European Space Agency, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory. Communities of thousands of people work there, motivated not by earnings but by a passion for knowledge. They are an example of a different way of solving problems, of creating knowledge in fields where profits cannot be generated in the short term.

This book proposes three major supranational public projects that bring together the brightest minds and subvert the paradox in which we find ourselves today: science that is a public good upstream, becomes a private good downstream.

Massimo Florio is a lecturer in Financial Science at the Università degli Studi in Milan. He has directed evaluation and research projects for the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Investment Bank, OECD, CERN, and the Italian Space Agency. He is honorary president of CSIL (Centre for Industrial Studies) and the CIRIEC International Scientific Commission on Public Services and Public Enterprise. Among his books: *Investing in Science* (MIT Press); *Network Industries and Social Welfare* (Oxford University Press); *Applied Welfare Economics* (Routledge); *The Great Divestiture* (MIT Press).



pp. 240
Current Affairs/History of Church
April 2021

Rights to:
Arpa (World Spanish); Echter (German);
Editions du Cerf (French); Znak (Polish)

The Church is on Fire

Crisis and the future of Christianity

ANDREA RICCARDI

From a great church historian comes an impressive exploration into the crisis of the Christian world with an analysis of different ideas on how to get out of it.

On the night of April 15th 2019, the cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris burned down. That fire devastated one of the main centers of European Christianity and quickly became a symbol for the critical situation that the Church has been in for many years for now. The situation today is so difficult that one can legitimately say, “we’re beyond the threshold to the end; we’re now operating on the ‘remains’ of an irreversible event.” But crisis does not always mean decline. It’s vital to react and be open to the future, knowing that the great risk in a crisis is to be content with merely putting a patch on things, and surviving, staring only at the present and always comparing things to a halcyon past.

Andrea Riccardi is the founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio. He is a historian of the contemporary world and a scholar of the History of the Church and Christianity. His numerous books have been translated into many languages.



pp. 256
Current Affairs/Climate
May 2021

Climate Liars

The power, politics, and psychology of the people who deny the crisis of the century

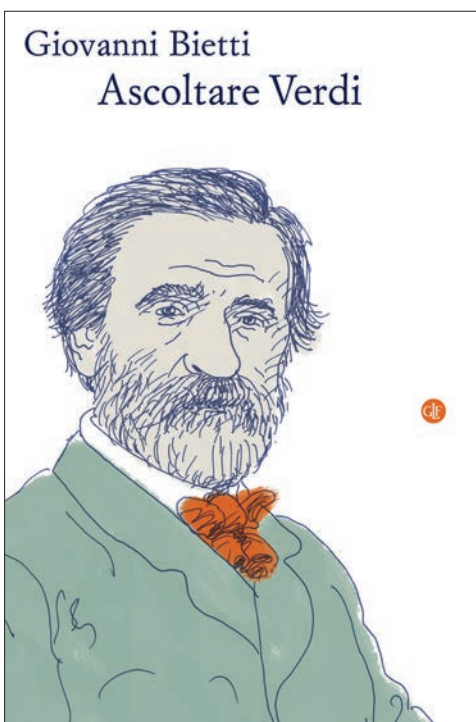
STELLA LEVANTESI

“An essential book for anyone who wants to understand how the largest crisis of the century has been covered up.”

Roberto Saviano

A detailed inquiry into the power players, their interests, and the ways the climate crisis has been concealed from the world for the past thirty years. This book exposes the climate liars’ ideological machine, their arguments, and how they’ve constructed a truly alternate ideology to the truth of science.

Stella Levantesi, journalist and photojournalist, studied at New York University's school of journalism. She works and collaborates with Italian and international newspapers such as *The New Republic*, *il Manifesto*, *Wired*, *Internazionale*, *LifeGate*, and *Ossigeno*. Focusing on the environment, the climate crisis, and conservation, she is a specialist in climate change deniers. Her website is www.stellalevantesi.com.



Listening to Giuseppe Verdi

GIOVANNI BIETTI

pp. 416
Music
October 2021

One of the best Italian popularizer of music guides us to discover the greatest opera composer of all time: Giuseppe Verdi

A book that expertly accompanies us as we listen to the works of one of Giuseppe Verdi, immersing us in the historical and social context in which they came to light.

More than two hundred years have passed since the birth of Giuseppe Verdi, and one hundred and twenty since his death, yet his music continues to speak to us. In the course of his long artistic life (about sixty years of compositional activity) Giuseppe Verdi strove to interpret the world around him through music. This book shows us how.

From *Nabucco* (1842) to *Falstaff* (1893), each chapter of this book is dedicated to one of the fifteen essential compositions by Giuseppe Verdi, recounting its plot, genesis and context, but most of all delving deep into its musical and dramatic substance. The accessible and informative tone with which it explores technical content, and the invaluable use of the composer's fascinating personal correspondence make this book suitable for both the novice and the expert. It allows those without musical knowledge to approach Verdi's works and appreciate their beauty, but at the same time it contains elements that may interest musicians or opera buffs. A detailed Glossary explains most of the technical terms used.

Giovanni Bietti, composer, pianist, and musicologist, is considered one of the best Italian popularizers of music. With Laterza he has published *Ascoltare Beethoven* (2013), *Mozart all'opera* (2015) and *Lo spartito del mondo: breve storia del dialogo tra culture in musica* (2018) and *La musica della luce* (2020).



pp. 280
Poetry
June 2021

Towards Enchantment

Lessons on poetry

PIERO BOITANI

We do not know exactly how poetry was born, but since ancient times poets and thinkers have identified three particular sources: inspiration, wonder and enchantment. The first has always been called divine, something that comes from a mysterious and remote elsewhere, rendering humans possessed, prey to what Plato called mania. More complex is wonder, the source of philosophy according to Plato and, through myth, the origin of poetry according to Aristotle. But enchantment is the most magical and most elusive of the elements: bewitching. From Orpheus to the Odyssey, from Pindar to Boethius, from Kālidāsa to Du Fu, spells dominate Provençal dawns and the awakening of Romeo and Juliet, poems celebrating the lark, the sounds of Mignon, Leopardi and Keats, Tjutčev and Rilke. Poetry enchants: before falling into the silence from whence it came, music is made. A book that expertly investigates the origins and purposes of poetry.

Piero Boitani is an emeritus professor at La Sapienza University of Rome. In 2016 he won the Balzan Prize for comparative literature and is an editor of the Greek and Latin Writers collection from Fondazione Valla. He is the author of *Guida allo studio delle letterature comparate* (with E. Di Rocco, 2013) and *Prima lezione di letteratura* (new edition 2021) published by Laterza.



pp. 448
Poetry
October 2021

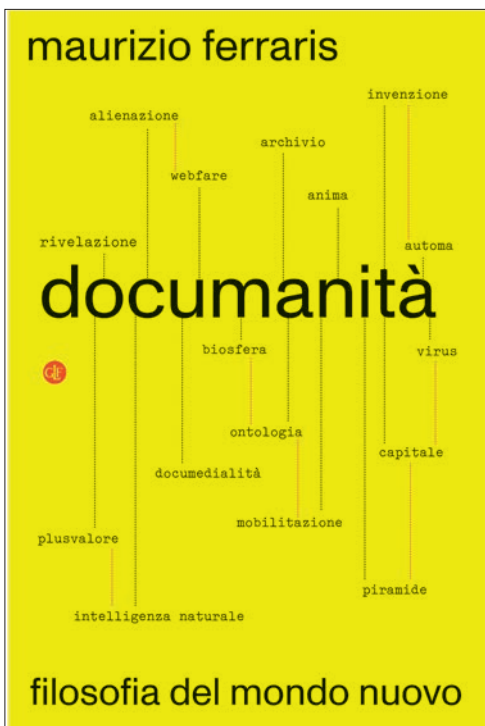
Andrea Zanzotto

The song in the land

ANDREA CORTELLESSA

Andrea Zanzotto was one of Italy's greatest masters of late 20th Century poetry. In this book, Andrea Cortellessa, one of Italy's most engaged and respected literary critics, examines the linguistic and stylistic fabric of Zanzotto's work. The critic describes him as "the God of Signifiers", but this book goes further in analysing the aspect of personal and collective 'signifiers' of traumatic urgency, even those that are psychologically blocked and 'deleted' (such as themes of environment and landscape). A book that speaks to a wider audience as well as specialists.

Andrea Cortellessa teaches Contemporary Italian Literature at Università Roma Tre and in 2018 he was the De Sanctis visiting lecturer at ETH Zürich. He has published essays and anthologies compiling texts by 20th century and contemporary Italian authors, made radio and television programmes, theatre and music shows. Among others, he writes for the literary supplements *Alias* from *Il Manifesto*, *Domenicale* from *Sole 24 Ore* and *Tuttolibri* from *La Stampa*.



pp. 448
Philosophy
April 2021

Rights to:
Alianza (World Spanish)

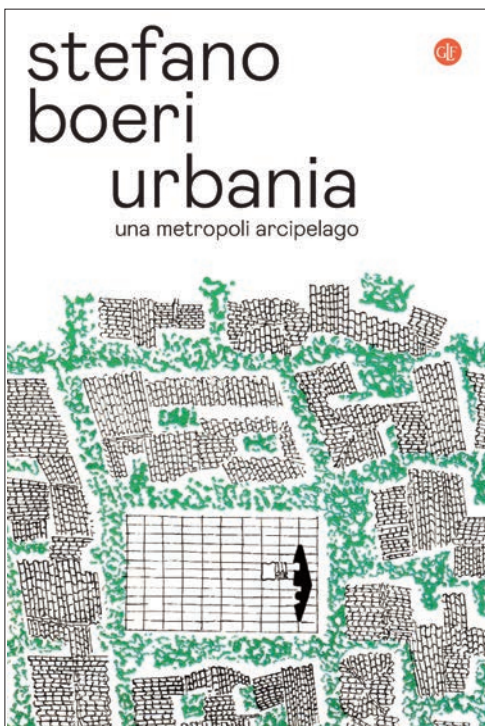
Doc-Humanity

MAURZIO FERRARIS

The technological revolution has launched us into a new ecosystem: we need to radically rethink our ways of looking at technology, humanity and capital: **The definitive book by Maurizio Ferraris**

The result of years of research, this book opens with the question "What is the web?" going on to analyze the current revolution, which is not a revolution of information or communication, but of how it is collected, accumulated and capitalized on (which explains why platforms are so rich). Documanity illustrates the future that awaits us, as a future that is much happier and far more human than the nihilists of modernity ever thought possible. Because it is not true, and nor has it ever been, that we are slaves to machines: we have always been their masters, though perhaps reluctantly, because we can imagine humans without the web (us, up until a few decades ago) but not the web without humans.

Maurizio Ferraris teaches Theoretical Philosophy at the University of Turin, is president of Labont (Laboratory of Ontology), and directs the institute of advanced studies Scienza Nuova, dedicated to Umberto Eco. Founder of 'new realism,' over the course of his extensive career, he has developed a new way of thinking about and studying at least four fields: hermeneutics, aesthetics, ontology and the philosophy of technology. His books are widely translated all around the world.



pp. 224
Current Affairs/Architecture/City Planning
May 2021

Urbania

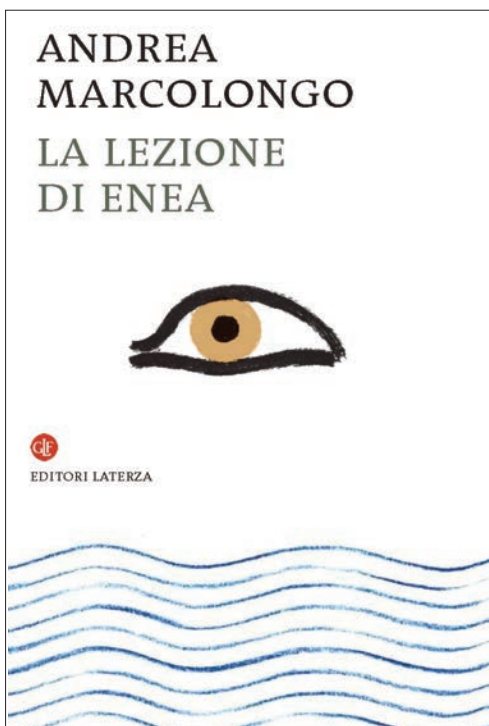
STEFANO BOERI

One of the most influential architects and urban planners reveals new and radical ideas for cities of the future.

An invitation not to stop dreaming.

The time has come to rethink and build a new habitat for humanity—one that lets us actively care for the quality of our daily lives and for the salvation of the planet. Thanks to a kaleidoscope of readings (photographed on the architect's desk at the beginning of each chapter), visions and personal memories, Stefano Boeri imagines a planet marked by biodiversity where forests and cities find a new balance, where historic villages return to being communities full of life and big cities become archipelagos of self-sufficient neighborhoods. A new world is possible.

Stefano Boeri is one of the most environmentally sensitive architects working today: his design and building of the *Vertical Forest* in Milan taught the world a precious lesson. He has presided over international magazines such as *Domus* and *Abitare* and, since 2018, has been president of the Fondazione Triennale di Milano.



pp. 216/ *Ancient World*
September 2020

Rights to:

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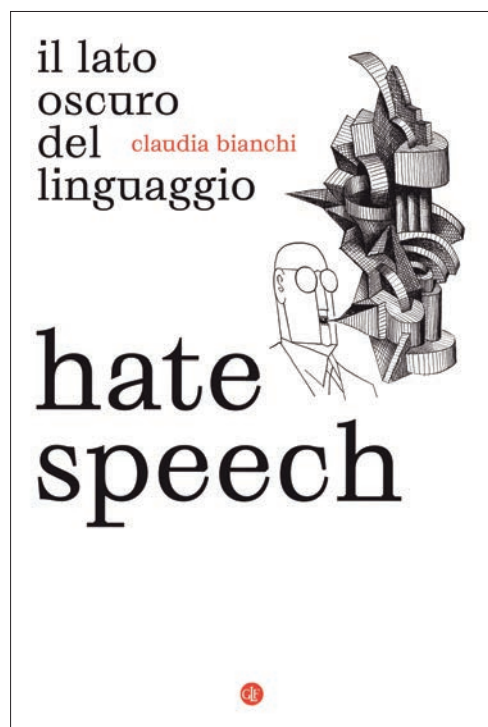
The Lesson of Aeneas

ANDREA MARCOLONGO

Being Aeneas means just one thing. The response to destruction: reconstruction. This is his lesson.

Aeneas is the hero who roams the Mediterranean from the ruins of Troy to what will become Rome, carrying on his back old people and children. He is the one who sails on a ship without a helmsman in search of a new beginning, a promised land in which to begin again. He is a man defeated but in possession of precious quality: the capacity to resist and to hope. After the worldwide bestseller *The Ingenious Language: Nine Epic Reasons to Love Greek*, Andrea Marcolongo returns with a powerful and timely reading of the *Aeneid* as a manual for resistance.

Andrea Marcolongo is a writer and journalist with a degree in Classical Studies from the University of Milan. She debuted with *La lingua geniale. 9 ragioni per amare il Greco* (Laterza 2016) which soon became a literary success story, selling more than 150,000 copies. Among her other publications: *La misura eroica* (Mondadori 2018) and *Alla fonte delle parole* (Mondadori 2020). She lives in Paris. Translated in 28 countries, she now counts 500,000 readers around the world.



pp. 224
Philosophy of Language

Rights to: Penguin Kitap (Turkish)

Hate Speech

The dark side of language

CLAUDIA BIANCHI

An eye opening book on one of the most compelling issues of our time.

Hate speech is one of the most interesting declensions on the theme of violence. The term itself includes phrases and expressions that communicate derision, contempt, and hostility towards individuals who merely belong to a particular group often identified by social traits such as ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and (dis)ability...

Packed with specific examples, this book shows how changing the limits of "what can be said" simultaneously modifies the limits of "what can be done". Since language is a key tool at our disposal for shaping and transforming our identities.

Claudia Bianchi is Professor of Philosophy of Language at the Vita Salute University San Raffaele in Milan. Her interests range from theoretical issues in the fields of analytic philosophy of language to pragmatics, and the philosophy of feminist language. She is part of the steering committee of the Gender Centre (Interfaculty Centre for Gender Studies) and of SWIP Italia (Society for Women in Philosophy).



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Ancient History
May 2021

The Treasure of the Jews

Rome and Jerusalem

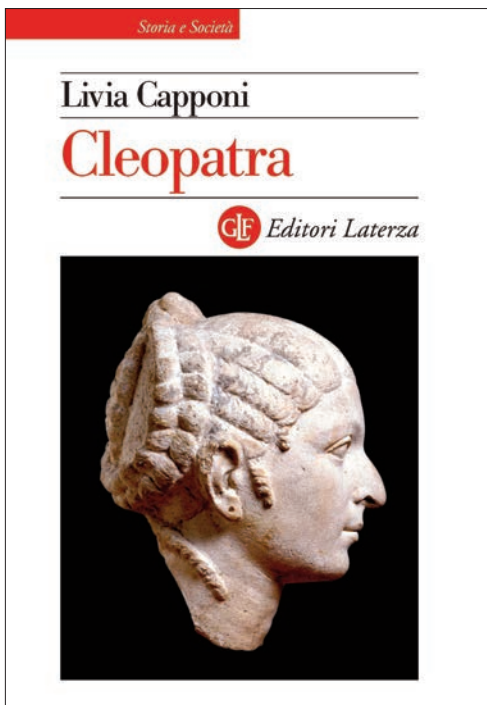
LUCIANO CANFORA

Luciano Canfora is back with a masterful reconstruction of one of the most salient moments in Ancient History.

In 70 A.D. the Temple of Jerusalem fell prey to the ravenous Roman legions, as led by Emperor Titus. Three years of war and siege led to more than a million deaths, the end of Judea's dream of independence, and the beginning of the great Jewish diaspora. The history in this book begins a century earlier, in 63 BC, when the troops of another general, Gnaeus Pompey Magnus, realized that within the Temple lay the treasure of the State.

The Jewish Wars are one of the most fascinating pages of Ancient history: the Roman conquest of Israel, the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem, the Jewish diaspora. The events that took place during those 150 years had consequences that lasted for thousands of years.

Luciano Canfora is professor emeritus at the University of Bari. He directs the *Quaderni di Storia* and collaborates with *il Corriere della Sera*. His books with Laterza have been widely translated all around the world.



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Ancient History
June 2021

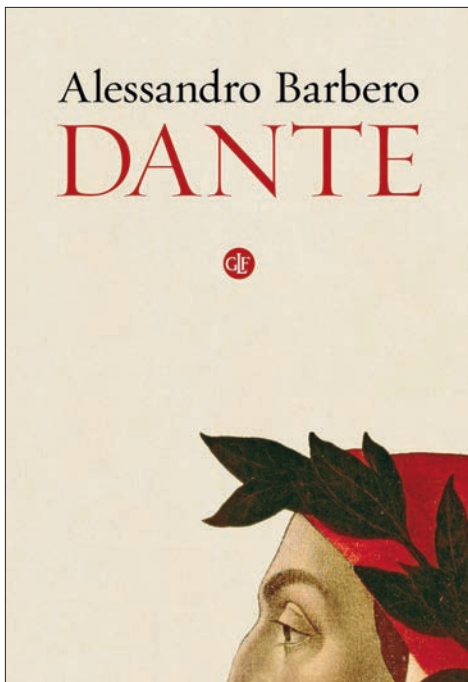
Cleopatra

LIVIA CAPPONI

Greedy, bloodthirsty, power-hungry but also intelligent, seductive, and cultured: who was Cleopatra really? This book offers a well-rounded portrait of the heir to the Pharaonic and Ptolemaic dynasties, one that is finally free of Orientalist and sexist stereotypes.

Cleopatra's reputation was considerably marred by propaganda from Augustus and subsequently accepted by modern historiography, which is predominantly Eurocentric and chauvinistic, and by theater and cinema, as a queen who was the archetype for the figure of vamp, emancipated woman, or career-woman. The time has come to revisit those out of date affirmations and other, lesser known, ones. It is time to reconstruct a true portrait of Cleopatra as the conscientious descendent of the pharaohs and the Ptolemies, and author of a revival of Egypt, which she dreamed of making the fulcrum of a new political and religious world-order at the junction of East and West. This book offers the reader a historical re-evaluation of her extraordinary figure.

Livia Capponi teaches Ancient History at the University of Pavia. She has authored works on the Imperial Age of Rome, the history of the Jewish people, Hellenistic Egypt, and Egypt under the Romans. Periodically she writes for *La Lettura*, the cultural weekly of *il Corriere della Sera*.



Dante

ALESSANDRO BARBERO

368 pages

200,000 copie sold

Barbero's book will be essential reading for anyone wanting to know the bare bones of Dante's earthly pilgrimage.

"If you have not read the *Comedy*, you are in the position of someone who has never seen Rome or Istanbul. You are missing out on something mind-blowingly stupendous. Buy a copy. When you have begun to realise that this poem is, among other things, the autobiography of a catastrophic political failure, who is shocked by the condition of the medieval church but who is also on a spiritual quest, you will want to know the facts. That is the moment when you reach for Barbero, and you will not find a better guide."

— The Times

Alessandro Barbero teaches Medieval History at the University of Piedmont Orientale, in Vercelli. Among his books, all bestsellers and all widely translated: *Dictionary of the Middle Ages*; *Charlemagne. A father of Europe*; *The Battle. History of Waterloo*; *9 August 378: The day of the barbarians*; *Lepanto. The battle of the three empires*; *Caporetto*.

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The Sistine Chapel

The Story of a Masterpiece

ANTONIO FORCELLINO

The Sistine Chapel is one of the world's most magnificent buildings, and the frescos that decorate its ceiling and walls are a testimony to the creative genius of the Renaissance. Two generations of artists worked at the heart of Christianity, over the course of several decades in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, to produce this extraordinary work of art. Antonio Forcellino brings to life the wonders of the Sistine Chapel by describing the aims and everyday practices of the protagonists who envisioned it and the artists who created it, reconstructing the material history that underlies this masterpiece.

Antonio Forcellino is one of Europe's most important experts on Renaissance art. He has directed the restoration of absolute masterpieces such as Michelangelo's Moses and the Arch of Trajan. As a historian, his attention has always been focused on the richness of making art, historical contexts, techniques and materials, the psychological and biographical roots of the great masterpieces. Among his books for Laterza: *Michelangelo. Una vita inquieta* (2005), *Raffaello. Una vita felice* (2006), *1545. Gli ultimi giorni del Rinascimento* (2008) and *Leonardo: Genio senza pace* (2016); all translated into many languages.

pp. 208/with Illustrations world cleared
Art/Art History
October 2020

Rights to:

Polity Press (World English);
Alianza (World Spanish)

is one of the world's leading authorities in the field of plant neurobiology, which explores signaling and communication at all levels of biological organization. He is a professor at the University of Florence and has published more than 250 scientific papers in international journals. His books have been translated in more than 20 countries.



The Incredible Journey of Plants

Rights to:

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with watercolors by
Grisha Fisher
Popular Science

“Mancuso is a genial narrator, who tells the story of plants’ journeys through well-crafted stories that are embellished by the sweetly decorative watercolors of Grisha Fisher. He effortlessly interweaves science with history, philosophy and humor and introduces fascinating characters, very much including the plants themselves, which take on human, even heroic, traits.”

— WALL STREET JOURNAL



The Nation of Plants

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The First Charter of Rights of Living Beings written by the plants.

“Stefano Mancuso loves plants. The Italian scientist is one of the world's leading plant neurobiologists, but he also has an exceptional knack for good storytelling.”

— PopMatters

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— THE ATLANTIC

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The Plan(t) of the World

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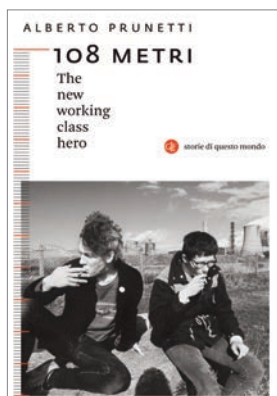
Klett Cotta (German); Galaxia Gutenberg (Castilian, Catalan); UBU (Portuguese/Brazil); Alfa (Turkish); Cossee (Dutch); Duku (Chinese Simpl.); Other Press (World English); Bertrand (Portuguese/Portugal)

It all begins and ends with plants. From the chance to live on this planet to the pleasure of listening to the voice of a violin: every story begins with a plant. There is no getting around it. We animals account for a paltry 0.3% of the planet’s biomass while plants add up to 85%. It is obvious, therefore, that every story on this planet has a plant as its protagonist. Our world is a green world; Earth is the planet of plants. And when, with just a little training, we are able to look at the world without seeing it solely as humanity’s playground, we cannot help but notice the ubiquity of plants. They are everywhere and their stories are inevitably wound up with ours.

30,000 copies sold

pp. 224
with illustrations by
Stefano Mancuso
Popular Science

OTHER TITLES



pp. 146
Narrative non fiction

The New Working Class Hero

ALBERTO PRUNETTI

Rights to: Scribe (World English); Hoja de Lata (World Spanish); Aprolevtesn (Greek)

“An anti-racist Celine, a punk rock Orwell, a class-conscious Lovecraft: Alberto Prunetti sends the proletarian novel barreling into the 21st century with a savage account of modern working life.”

— Jeff Sparrow



pp. 192/ *Travel*

Super Camper

A journey into the wisdom of the world
MATTEO CAVEZZALI

A literary travel guide that will help us discover a great deal about ourselves and what unites us. Since people who love to travel live differently than those who don't.



pp. 176/ *Narrative non fiction*

Without Greeting Anyone

A return to Istria
SILVIA DAI PRA

“If there is any writer who has succeeded to get something really exciting and compelling from its super-ego and its sense of duty, then that is Silvia dai Pra”

— Tiziano Scarpa



pp. 296/ *Biography*

Gianni Rodari

VANESSA ROGHI

Gianni Rodari is the most innovative Italian children's writer of the 20th century. He had the gift of remaining a child, without the whining and self-doubt; there was in him a natural disposition, which is very rare, to truly "live up" to childhood.



pp. 240/ *Reportage*

Let Every One Carry Their Own Guilt

FRANCESCA MANNOCCHI

Rights to: Ayné (Portuguese/Brazil)

For the first time we hear the voice of radicalized detained women and children - the theme of tomorrow's terrorism. This book combines the extraordinary ability of a great journalist with an authorial vision that breaks your breath.



pp. 264/ *Current Affairs*

Roberto Morozzo della Rocca

THE SILENT MASSACRE
How Africa risked dying of AIDS and how it reversed course

Rights to: Echter (German)

Twenty years ago, AIDS jeopardized the survival of an entire continent. How that course was reversed in order to save as many lives as possible offers an exemplary lesson that can help us better face our present situation.



pp. 208/ *Biography*

The Incredible Story of António Salazar

MARCO FERRARI

Rights to: Objectiva (Portuguese/Portugal); Debate PRH (World Spanish); Anetta Antonenko (Ukrainian)

The story of the end of the longest running dictatorship in Europe is the stuff of romance, at times a real *Truman Show*, but nevertheless absolutely real.



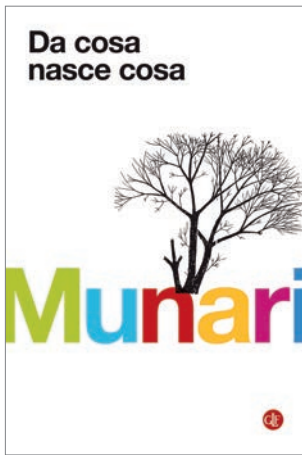
pp. 168/ *Current Affairs*

Red Mirror

SIMONE PIERANNI

Rights to: Edhasa (Spanish/Latin America); C&F (French)

“Red Mirror is probably the best guide available on Chinese technology, and Simone Pieranni is very good at pointing out the contradictions and the misunderstandings of our mirroring ourselves in China.”
— Il Foglio



Nothing comes from nothing

pp. 392/with Illustrations

There is a creative capacity alive in everyone of us. Among the great works by Munari, this is the book that perhaps makes the reader happiest due to the enchanting demonstration that knowing how to design is not an exclusive and innate gift.

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Bruno Munari

“One of the most influential designers of the twentieth century... Munari has encouraged people to go beyond formal conventions and stereotypes by showing them how to widen their perceptual awareness.”

— International Herald Tribune

Bruno Munari was among the most inspirational designers of all time, described by Picasso as “the new Leonardo”.

Lamps, road signs, typography, posters, children's books, advertising, cars and chairs - these are just some of the subjects to which he turns his illuminating gaze.



Design as Art

pp. 256/with Illustrations

This book is an illustrated journey into the artistic possibilities of modern design. The designer re-establishes the long-lost contact between art and the public, between people and art as a living thing.

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Artist and Designer

pp. 114/with Illustrations

In extremely lively and entertaining pages, the theme of the increasing separation between pure art and art production - inextricably linked to the industrial production and mass consumption.

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Fantasia

pp. 224/with Illustrations

Fantasia, invention and creativity: is it possible to understand how these human faculties work? How are they related to intelligence and memory? Munari answers these questions in clear, accessible prose, using a host of original examples.

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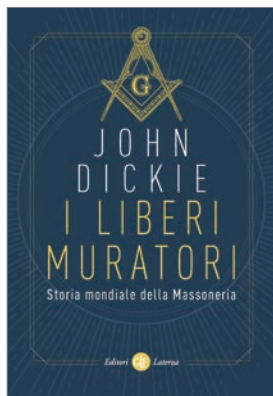
Design and Communication

pp. 384/with Illustrations

What is graphic art? Who are the designers? How does their creativity work? An entertaining guide to understanding principles, rules and applications of design...

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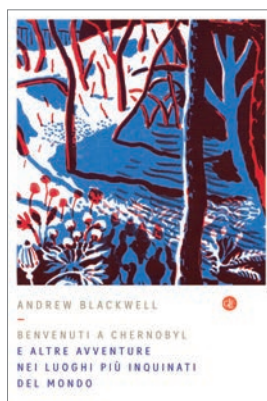


PIERRE SAVY (edited by)

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