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greek literary
appetizers



TOPOS BOOKS
2009

*topos

to·pos, Pronunciation: \ 'tō- ,päs, 'tä-\

Function: *noun*.

Inflected Form(s): *plural to·poi* \- ,poi\

Etymology: Greek, short for *koinos topos*, literally, common place.

Date: 1936.

: a traditional or conventional literary or rhetorical theme or topic.

Topos Books

A dynamic publishing company in Greece

Topos Books is a meeting point of people with publishing, printing, and design backgrounds, people who are joining forces in the form of an associates partnership. *Topos Books* is under the umbrella of Motibo Publishing S.A., a publishing and production company, the result of the collaborative efforts of nine former colleagues, all from a publishing background, who decided it was time to invest in their own vision. Each brings their own expertise to the venture: publishing, writing, printing, graphic design, editing, but also finance, the latter being especially important as in today's world, vision and experience are not enough on their own.

The editorial efforts of *Topos Books* cover two principal areas: literary fiction, in the broadest sense (including literary essay), and non-fiction, with special emphasis on science, sociology, psychology, education, contemporary geopolitics, and economics.

This focus is underscored by the choice of the name *Topos*, which incorporates the meaning of "place" as well as that of "topic", and which we hope will become our "place" that we share with others in our effort to make *Topos Books* the geometric topos of our utopia.

Dionyssis Charitopoulos

The definitive biography of Aris Velouhiotis

A monumental work on a monumental historical figure

Aris Velouhiotis, the celebrated resistance leader and military genius, the Greek Tse, is the most compelling figure in modern Greek history. Uncompromising in his positions, this visionary created ELAS, the biggest volunteer army in Greek history and let the Greek resistance in World War II. Now, a half-century after Velouhiotis committed suicide at the age of 40, the acclaimed Greek writer Dionyssis Charitopoulos offers the first complete portrait of this enigmatic personality.

Charitopoulos approaches his subject with the precision and objectivity of a scholar, but weaves his narrative with the flair of a master storyteller. He has created a monumental work and a gripping biography of a man who became a legend in his own lifetime.



ΔΙΟΝΥΣΗΣ ΧΑΡΙΤΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ

ΑΡΙΣ Ο ΑΡΧΗΓΟΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΤΑΚΤΩΝ

ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΗ ΒΙΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ

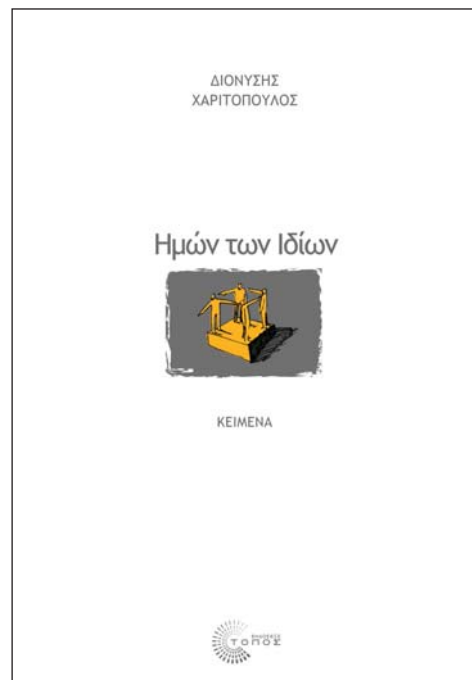
Φωτογραφίες, Χάρτες, Σχεδιαγράμματα



A non fiction book that reads like a novel

We Ourselves (first edition, 2003) contains essays that sketch the complete range of contemporary Greek society's madness in the author's inimitable manner. From the Zeibekiko dance and Kazantzidis to the stock market and television, from the Feng Shui bug and spaghetti westerns to unemployment and football, from the fake glitter of the nouveau riche and call girls to the true heroes next door, Charitopoulos doesn't kowtow to anyone. With his inexhaustible, often dark humor and proven ability to separate the wheat from the chaff, the writer offers a merciless parody of contemporary life.

It's a book of essays that reads like a novel about contemporary Greece.



A self-awareness handbook, a compendium of life wisdom

Imbecility Manual is a self-awareness handbook, a compendium of life wisdom centered on the intellect and comprehension, ingenuity and idiocy, stupidity and the simple-minded. These related phenomena are examined from an anthropological and historical perspective, as well as as clinical symptoms of contemporary life.

On the back cover, the writer pointedly notes that "because we all underestimate the number of idiots among us and are often stunned by its display by people 'beyond suspicion', we likely need to be introduced anew".

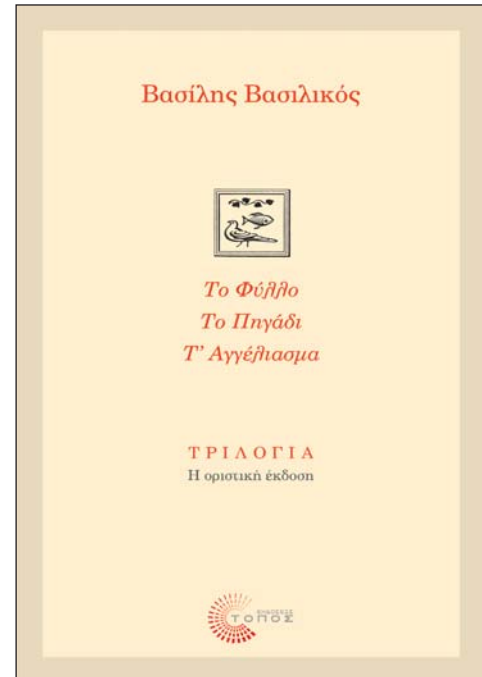
Charitopoulos has organized his original aphorisms into 88 categories that correspond to instances, examples, and interpretations of human stupidity. The book can be read sequentially, from beginning to end, as well as out of order, just as a collection of poems or short stories.



The definitive edition of a masterpiece translated in dozen of languages

Since 1961, when Vassilis Vassilikos's novella *The Plant* was first published, the three works known collectively as **Trilogy** (*The Plant, The Well, and The Angel*) have been translated into dozens of languages. A milestone in Modern Greek Literature, **Trilogy** is a modernist long-seller spanning almost fifty years of modern Greece. Half a century after the first edition of this bold, political work of fiction, Topos Books is proud to present the definitive literary edition of the **Trilogy**, including critical reviews offering context for this masterpiece, extensive bibliography, photographs, and a detailed timeline of the work's publication, in Greek and in translation.

In *The Plant*, nature takes its revenge on the hapless residents of an apartment building who acquiesce to its destruction. In *The Well*, the earth takes its revenge on those who disregard it by promoting the delusion of technology. In *The Angel*, life exacts its revenge on those who invest on the promise of another life, whether that "other" life is metaphysical or a life invested on socialist visions.

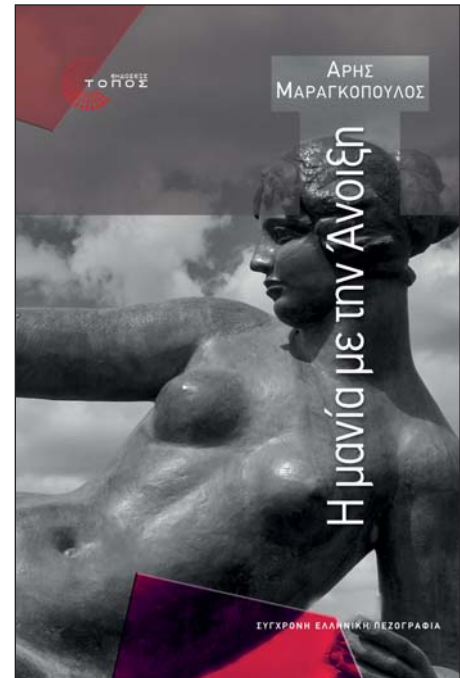


A memento mori to the armed social struggle

That which makes the book a page-turner is the atmosphere it creates: popular assemblies in an isolated mill far in the mountains, public readings, switched off TV sets. And a bomb that kills a government minister, a high priest and a doctor. What kind of island is this? Definitely it is not a paradise, it is another reality, for some better than the globalised one. It is a country paused in time with a vengeful people that have allowed others to take the law into their own hands in their name..."

Every character in the novel is a symbol of a political attitude, every movement of the heroes conceals a movement experienced in real History.

If we compare this novel with other Greek literary works that deal with the same subject matter we understand that his story has two particularities: first, it places Greek terrorism in a deeper social and historical context than its predecessors did; second, it develops a political criticism that appears for the first time in Greek literature.



A cruel game of love liaisons in the era of Myspace

True Love is a cruel game of love liaisons in the era of Myspace, YouTube and Blogging. It is entertaining to the reader but often dangerous for the book's main characters, – echoing *Dangerous Liaisons* of Laclos. It is a contemporary satire of nowadays erotic morals, with most characters in the middle of an existential crisis.

True Love is unfulfilled love from men's point of view. It is the longing for a strong relationship from women's point of view. It is the desperate quest for the Meaning of Life, in and out of a couple's life: The long ago perished dreams of May '68.



A compelling tale that weaves together historical events with erotic drama

In *Blue Suede Shoes*—the title, a reference to the Elvis Presley song, is a leitmotif that sends unexpected ripples through the story—Skroumbelos takes on the black tactics of the para-state from November 1964, anniversary of the destruction of the Gorgopotamos viaduct by resistance fighters in 1942, under a plan code-named “Red Fleece”.

Using the event as peg, Skroumbelos, once again, hangs on it an entire tableau of Greece in the Sixties woven from the threads of daily life as it evolved around the Hawaii nightclub, a hangout for transvestites in a lowly district of Athens. The club is also the meeting place of former members of X, a pro-Nazi organization, and the hub of conspiracies hatched by the darkest reaches of the para-state. Like the rest of Greece, the neighbourhood is bitterly divided between the left and fascists in the state’s innermost reaches.

Blue Suede Shoes is a political novel in the broadest sense, focusing on the politics that emerge from the clash between rigid, entrenched mentalities and those young forces in society struggling to create a brave new world.



The hidden side of our –blissful in its ignorance– contemporary reality

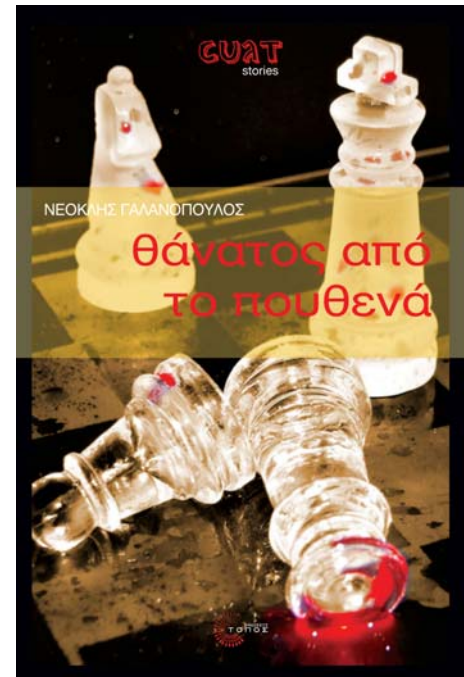
When a butcher's shop in a lowly neighbourhood of Athens can turn into a theatrical stage, then a gentle middle-aged lady who quietly prepares her roasted okra may well prove to be a wanted terrorist. Skroumbelos skilfully creates a web of characters that represent the dark and hidden side of our blissful in its ignorance contemporary reality. *The Clever and Other Stories* is a cruel and heart-wrenching collection of stories by the cult author of the celebrated long seller *Blue Suede Shoes*.



Solitary beings tied to the chessboard of a brutal life

In a small Macedonian town, and specifically in Villa Athena, death hangs out with greater ease than the villa's residents. And they are numerous: servants, gardeners, chauffeurs, sons, daughters, cousins, friends, nieces and nephews, in-laws, partners. A lively gallery of provincial stereotypes whose main trait, which oddly they share, is that no one truly appreciates anyone else. Everyone deceives and is deceived. Everyone conspires as easily as they take breakfast and all are potential victims of an intrafamily plot. Everyone has their eye on the huge estate left by the ill-mannered family patriarch when he dies unexpectedly at an engagement party (was it a suicide? was it by illness? an accident? or murder?).

In a dark but superficially innocent world the clues pointing to the murderer are constantly obscured by the heroes' souls. But the author –with the same mastery he displayed in his previous novel, *The Variant of Giorgos Darsinos*– handles his characters not as spineless pawns but as what they are: solitary beings tied to the chessboard of a brutal life.



A thrilling riddle to solve

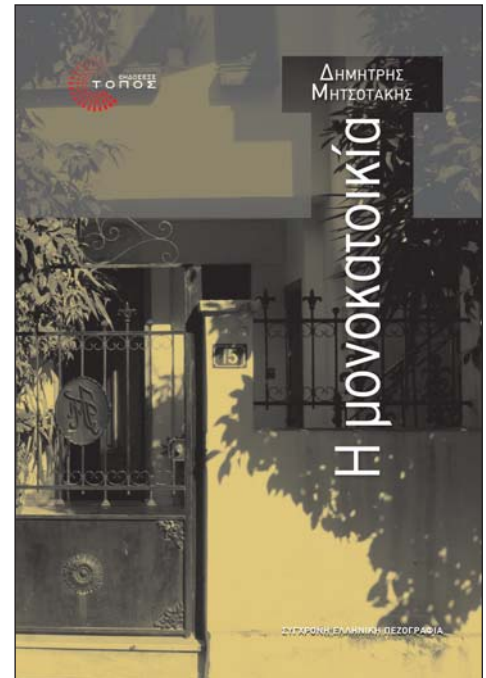
Galanopoulos's thrilling crime novel has it all: suspense, humor, sarcasm, and incredible situations that everyone can imagine but few can transform into a well-structured story. Although at first glance this book seems directed at crime aficionados, it's a noir story for all tastes. There are thirty-odd possibilities about who and how done it for the reader to consider and which give other editors, book critics, and intellectual bureaucrats reason to watch their back from now on.



A dark comedy of contemporary Greek culture

One spring afternoon, in 2015, several people gather at a suburban house in Athens: retired cop Aristotle Vatavalis, a young Czech prostitute and her pimp, a retired flight lieutenant and his jealous wife, a ruthless, bloodthirsty TV host, and the desperate and jobless Zenon Orodynis, dressed as Spiderman.

The abyss that separates the members of this odd team swallows them in a deadly trap. They all become unwilling participants of a live TV show of unpredictable cruelty.



John Palavos -
Sotiris Babatzimopoulos

San Angre - Von Braun's Tears

Two “future noir” novellas

San Angre is a dusty American town in the middle of nowhere. A jobless thirty-year-old native is accidentally immersed in a mysterious case that involves government conspiracies, depressed androids quoting Albert Camus, grocers who listen to classic rock, and Nobel laureate poets.

Von Braun's tears is the story of Joe Bulb, the second best detective of the poor neighborhoods in the east. Joe is searching for the lost tears of an old movie star. Meanwhile, he spends his time drinking sambuca liqueur at “The Blue Butterfly” bar, where he encounters all kinds of desperate men, mutants and weirdoes.



Pages: 160 • Shape: 12,9 x 19,8 • ISBN: 978-960-6760-96-9 • Price: 12.00 €

Modeling of thought on conspiracy theory

A metal-head computer nerd, a quirky philosopher who doesn't pigeonhole his thoughts according to cheap market categories, and a successful reporter who has open lines of communication to the establishment all become involved in deciphering the message. But the game takes unexpected turns as it touches international terrorism, national politics, and history: the assassination, forty years earlier, of U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy emerges as the sole solution to this incredible mystery. Yet reality is not always that spectacular. And when one event is the result of a random incident, for example a simple coincidence, few can accept it that easily.

The power of this compelling mystery lies in its ability to convincingly explain the social and psychological process that encourages everyone to model their thinking on a pattern dictated by the American media: conspiracy theory.



A journey into the cyberworld

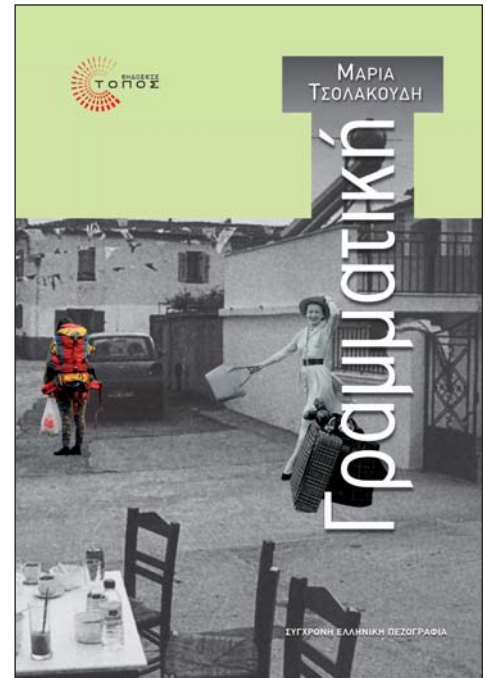
Antisocial Harry spends his day with Sheba, his digital persona in the virtual world of the internet.

Harry's Sheba has supernatural abilities, is gorgeous, crude, provocative, and immensely popular in the digital world. She has many lovers, whom she changes often, offering her creator and "pimp" endless hours of pleasure and "self satisfaction". But at the same time Harry starts communicating via chat rooms with Shirley, a graduate student in Philosophy at a university in Boston. Their relationship develops and Harry, now in love, decides to make the leap into reality and travel to Boston to meet Shirley. But there he's greeted by the absolute surprise.



A «grammar» of provincial culture in the greek sixties

Short stories depicting the change of mood in the Greek islands of the sixties. Stories of the period news, announcements and advertisements, as have passed in the local papers, are cleverly interwoven in the main plot resulting in an interesting «grammar» of the ethics and culture of the people that formed contemporary Greece.



Portraits of everyday craziness

This young but promising writer's preferred mode is meta- and stream-of-consciousness, a perspective attuned more to the inner life than to big-picture social reality. Written in a free literary style mixed with jazz and generous doses of humour.



A fresh look at the Greece of the sixties

Photo-journalist Konstantinos Megalokonomou, simply referred to as "the professor" by his peers and colleagues, amassed an extraordinary archive of photographs during his career. These images offer snapshots of Modern Greek society and culture from the inter-war years through the 1970s.

The introduction and comments by writer Aris Maragkopoulos usher the reader along on this photographic record of history, as told through the experiences of common men and women in the post-Civil War period rather than through the lives of protagonists like politicians and other prominent citizens.

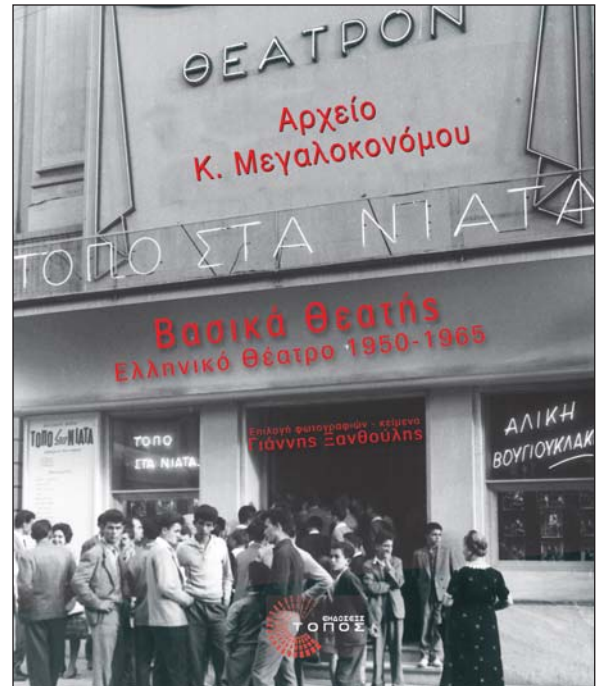
It's a sideways look at a country that is less quaint than usually portrayed and more politically aware than its travel-poster image might suggest.



Greek theatre in the sixties

Another album based on the archives of K. Megalokonomou. The subject here is the cultural life of Greece during the period with emphasis on the theatre. The material was selected, and is introduced, by the acknowledged writer Yannis Xanthoulis.

In the period covered by Megalokonomou, theatre was a vital force in Greek culture and most of the actors featured in this collection of photographs had their roots, and their hearts, on the stage. The images of Dimitris Horn, Ellie Lambeti, Dimitris Myrat, and Katerina –to name a few– aren't just fixed in the images but in Greeks' collective cultural memory.



The fleeing signs of Time

Laurium, Laurion, or Laureion is a small town in southeastern part of Attica, Greece and is one of the southernmost and the seat of the municipality of Lavreotiki, famous in Classical antiquity for the silver mines which were one of the chief sources of revenue of the Athenian state, and were employed for coinage; and notorious for the treatment of the slaves who mined it.

The mines were still worked in the early 20th century by French and Greek companies, but mainly for lead, manganese and cadmium. Giannis Jakovides has repeatedly visited the now devastated site of the ancient and 20th century mines capturing in his vivid colour images the fleeing signs of the once tumultuous industrial place.



FOREIGN ACQUISITIONS

Contemporary literature titles

1. **Jay Parini**, *The Last Station* – Canongate
2. **Rachel Cusk**, *Arlington Park* – Wylie Agency
3. **Sibylle Berg**, *Sex II* – Hermes Baby
4. **Andrew Davidson**, *The Gargoyle* – Janklow & Nesbit
5. **Julian Gough**, *Jude: Level 1* – Ed Victor 5/2008
6. **Nadeem Aslam**, *The Wasted Vigil* – AM Heath
7. **James Meek**, *We are now beginning our descent* – Canongate
8. **David Peace**, *Tokyo Trilogy – Tokyo Year Zero – Tokyo Occupied – Tokyo Regained* – Faber & Faber 2008, 2009, 2010
9. **David Cronenberg**, *Consumed* – Wylie Agency 2009 or 2010
10. **David Peace**, *Damned United* – Faber & Faber 2008
11. **Martin Prinz**, *Der Räuber* – Jung und Jung, 2008
12. **Nick Cave**, *The Death of Bunny Munro* – Canongate
13. **Peter Temple** – *In the evil day* – Text Publishing
14. **Ursula Le Guin** – *Lavinia* – P & P Agency
15. **Ali Smith** – *Girl Meets Boy* – Canongate
16. **Rachel Cusk** – *The Bradsaw Variations* – Wylie Agency
17. **Quentin Tarantino** – *Inglourious Basterds* – William Morris Agency
18. **Jason Cowley** – *The Last Game* – Tibor Jones

Masters of the 20th century

19. **Boris Vian**, *J'irais cracher sur vos tombes* – Arthème Fayard
20. **Guillermo Cabrera Infante**, *Tres Tristes Tigres* – Carmen Balcells 10/2008
21. **Alain Robbe-Grillet**, *Un roman sentimental* – Arthème Fayard 5/2008

22. **William Burroughs**, *And the Hippos were Boiled in their Tanks* – Wylie Agency
23. **William Burroughs**, *Junky* – Wylie Agency
24. **William Burroughs**, *Queer* – Wylie Agency
25. **William Burroughs**, *Naked Lunch* – Wylie Agency
26. **Sadeq Hedayat** – *The Blind Owl* – One world Publications

Science Fiction

27. **Philip Dick**, *Ubik* – Babor Intl – P&P
28. **Philip Dick**, *The Man in the High Castle* – Babor Intl – P&P 10/2008
29. **Philip Dick**, *Solar Lottery* – Babor Intl – P&P 2009

Crime Fiction

30. **Peter Temple**, *The Broken Shore* – Text Publishing
31. **John Dickson Carr**, *The Hollow Man* – Clarice M. Carr Estate – David Higham
32. **John Dickson Carr**, *He Who Whispers* – Clarice M. Carr Estate – David Higham
33. **John Dickson Carr**, *The Judas Window* – Clarice M. Carr Estate – David Higham

Graphic novel

34. **Andrei Klimowski**, *Horace Dorian* – Faber and Faber 10/2008
35. **Zadie Smith**, *The Book of other people* – AP Watt 10/2008
36. **Simon Tofield** – *Simon's Cat* – Canongate
37. **Simon Tofield** – *Simon's Cat 2* – Canongate
38. **Jon Muth** – *M* – Abrams Books

39. **Leanne Shapton** – *Important Artifacts and Personal Property from the Collection of Lenore Doolan and Harold Morris Including Books, Street Fashion and Jewellery* – Wylie Agency

History

40. **John Burrow**, *A History of Histories* – Penguin 2009
41. **Richard Stoneman**, *Alexander the Great* – Yale University Press
42. **Justin Marozzi**, *The Man Who Invented History: Travels with Herodotus* – Capel & Land
43. **Medieval & Byzantine History** (collective: with extensive references to New Cambridge Medieval History) – Cambridge
44. **Chris Harman**, *A People's History of the World* – Verso

Non Fiction

45. **Fredric Jameson**, *Archaeologies of the Future: The Desire Called Utopia and Other Science Fictions* – Verso – Imrie & Dervis, Vol. 1 published – Vol. 2: 2009
46. **T. S. Ashton**, *The Industrial Revolution* – Oxford University Press
47. **Collective**: *World Atlas History*, Daring Kindersley
48. **Louise Richardson**, *What Terrorists Want* – Inkwell Management
49. *20th Century History* series – Giunti ed. Espresso
50. **Philip Gourevitch**, *Paris Review Interviews* – Wylie Agency
51. **Alan S. Miller & Satoshi Kanazawa**, *Why Beautiful People Have More Daughters*, P&P
52. **Ken Rigby**, *New Perspectives on Bullying* – Jessica Kingsley 2008
53. **David Whitbread**, *The Design Manual* – UNSW Press (University of South Wales)
54. *Art in Centuries* (originally 8 titles) – Mondadori
55. **Rebecca Mileham**, *Powering Up: Are Computer Games Changing Our Lives?* – Wiley
56. **Davey Winder**, *Being Virtual: Who you really are online?* – John Wiley
57. **Zygmunt Bauman**, *Art of Life* – Polity Press
58. **Roger Hock**, *Forty studies that changed Psychology: Explorations Into the History of Psychological Research* – Pearson Education USA
59. **John Searle** – *Speech Acts* – Cambridge University Press
60. **Racamier** – *Le Psychanalyste sans divan* – Payot Editions
61. **Sofi Oksanen** – *Puhdistus* – Salomonsson Agency
62. **Nuedenthal / Krauth / Ric** – *Psychology of emotion: Interpersonal, Experiential and Cognitive Approaches* – Taylor & Francis
63. **McLaren / Farahmandpur** – *Teaching against global capitalism* – Rowman & Littlefield

Young Adult, Crossovers etc.

- 64, 65, 66. **Henry Chancellor**, *The remarkable Adventures of Tom Scatterhorn*, Oxford – ILA
- I. *The Museum and the Sapphire*: 2009 Book Two: 2010 Book Three: 2011
67. **David Whitley**, *The Midnight Charter*, ILA
68. **Disney's**, *Children Encyclopedia* (24 titles) – Disney
69. *Grande Enciclopedia per Ragazzi* – Mondadori
70. **Lia Hills** – *The beginner's guide to living* – Text Publishing

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THE TOPOS OF OUR UTOPIAS**

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*Tell all the Truth but tell it slant—
Success in Circuit lies.
Too bright for our infirm Delight
The Truth's superb surprise
As Lightning to the Children eased
With explanation kind
The Truth must dazzle gradually
Or every man be blind—*

Emily Dickinson, c.1866.

Topos Books

Topos Books, a newly-established independent publishing house, created by its parent company, Motibo S.A., and a core team of respected editors, writers, managers, and designers from the publishing field.

Its focus is mainly on literary fiction—Greek and foreign—and non-fiction about current affairs issues as well as academic books, with emphasis on Human Sciences.

Topos Books is proud to be the publishers of several distinguished writers, Greek and foreign, but also aims to introduce readers to new literary voices while keeping alive Readers links to literary classics.

Topos Books hopes to be the topos of the utopias of a dynamic and growing reading community.

Through its website, Topos Books also hopes to become a channel of communication between and among us by offering this website as a useful, and engaging, tool for pupils, students, young writers, teachers, journalists, and readers.

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Andrew Davidson

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Nookias Galanopoulos

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Dorysias Charitopoulou

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Ernesto Che Guevara

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