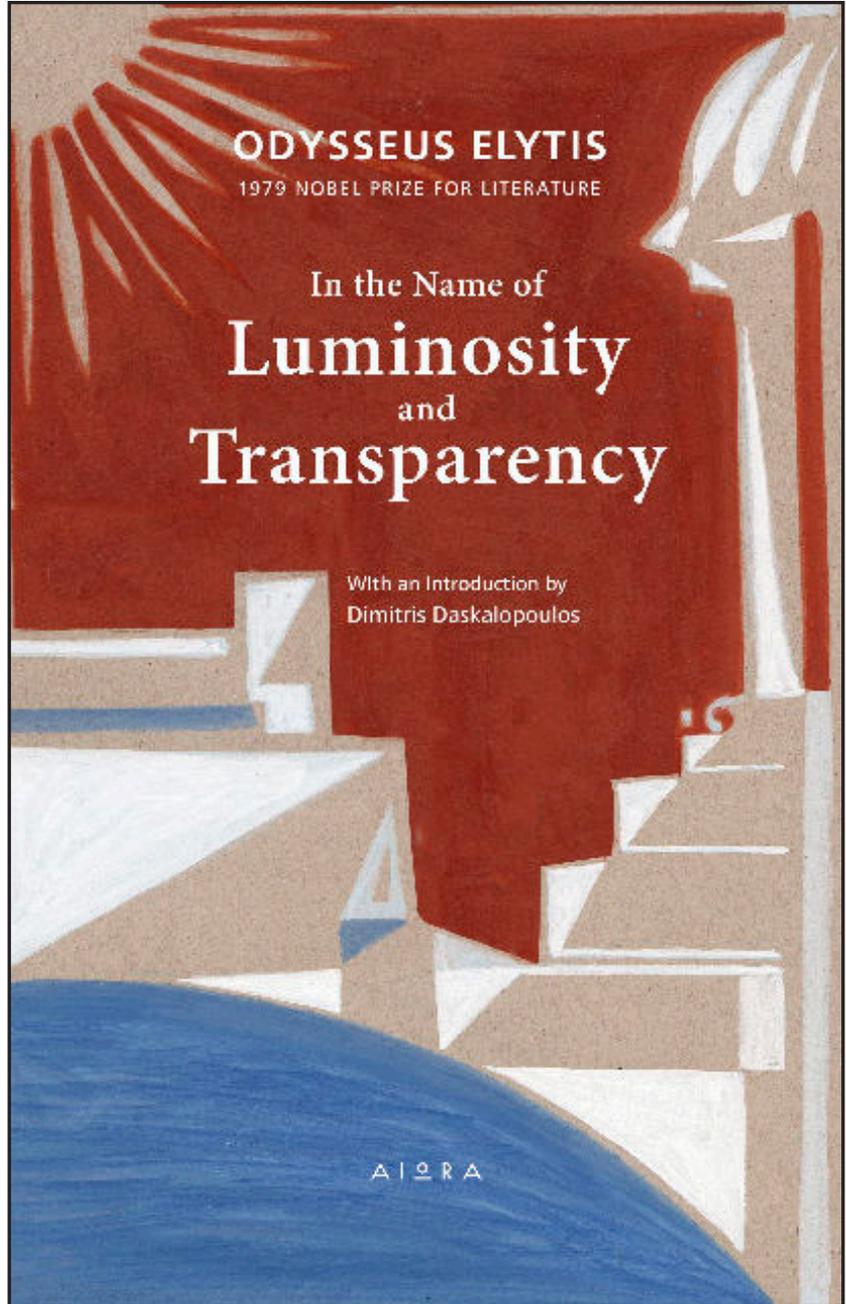


A I O R A
P R E S S



Modern Greek Classics

Pocket Greek Library

**gazelle**

Contents

About Aiora Press.....	1
Modern Greek Classics	2
Fey Folk.....	2
In the Name of Luminosity and Transparency	3
Fey Folk.....	3
Moskov Selim	4
Novel and Other Poems	5
Rebetika	6
Reflections.....	7
Selected Poems	8
Selected Poems	9
The Flaw.....	10
The Notary.....	11
Thracian Tales	12
Pocket Greek Library.....	13
Golden Verses	13
Manual on the Art of Living	14
Myths Behind Words	15
Words of Wisdom from Ancient Greece	16

About Aiora Press

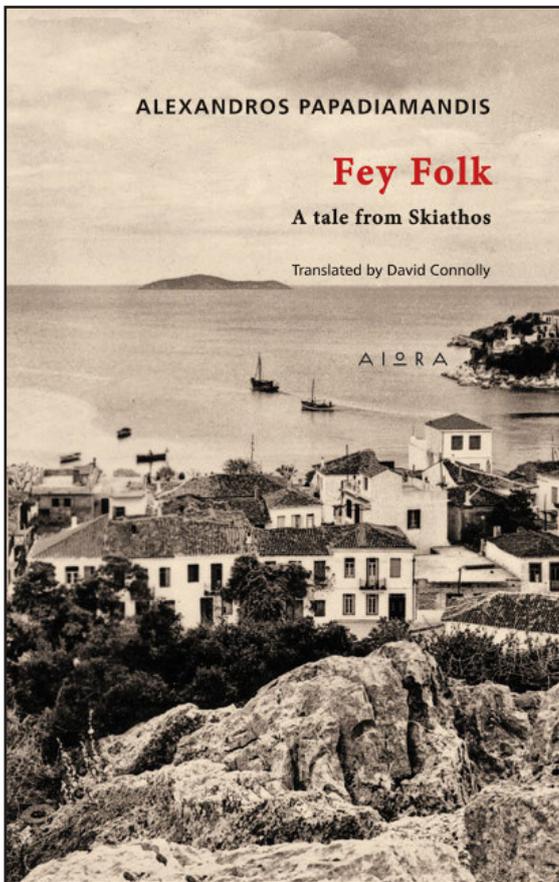
Aiora Press is an independent Greek publishing house located in Athens whose books offer a fresh perspective in politics, history, social science, literature, theatre, and Eastern philosophy. Aiora is also actively dedicated to the translation and promotion of Greek arts and letters for readers abroad as well as those living and travelling in Greece. Aiora publishes in English, German, French and Italian.

Modern Greek Classics

Fey Folk

A Tale from Skiathos

By Alexandros Papadiamandis Translated by David Connolly



PB 9786185048068 £9.99 July 2013
Aiora Books 3 b/w photos

Fey Folk is characteristic of Papadiamandis's work. Its characters are quaint, simple-hearted folk living their humble lives in accordance with centuries-old traditions and customs, delightfully described by Papadiamandis with both reverence and humour. The setting is the hinterland of his native island of Skiathos with its intoxicating vegetation, its hillsides, springs and ravines, where the belief in spirits and the supernatural is deeply rooted in the consciousness of the otherwise God-fearing and devout inhabitants. Generally recognized as one of the foremost Greek prose writers of the modern period, Alexandros Papadiamandis holds a special place in the history of modern Greek letters, but also in the heart of the ordinary Greek reader.

About the Author

Alexandros Papadiamandis (1851–1911) was born and grew up on the Aegean island of Skiathos, where he also spent the last years of his life. Though his thoughts were ever on Skiathos and its inhabitants, he lived most of his adult life in Athens and earned a basic living by translating foreign authors and writing his own stories for newspapers and periodicals. His simple, reclusive and pious life earned him the title of 'kosmokaló-yeros' (lay monk). His translations include works by authors as diverse as Dostoyevsky, Chekhov, de Maupassant, Bram Stoker and Jerome K. Jerome. His own work comprises four early novels and almost two hundred short stories.

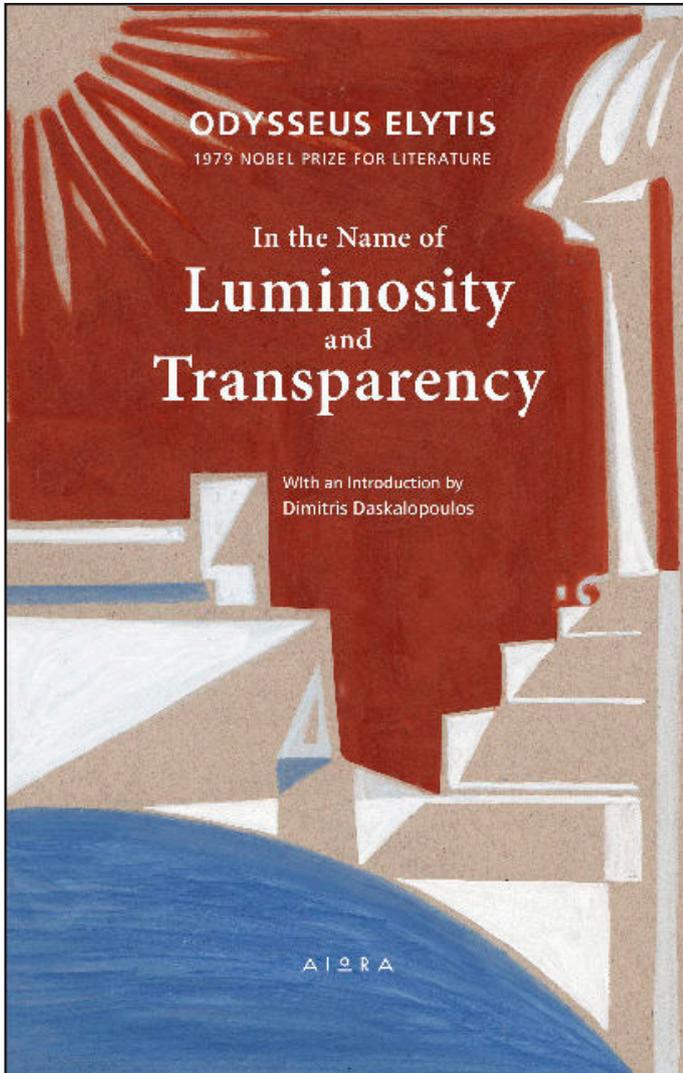
“The ‘saint’ of modern Greek letters... Papadiamandis wrote with graphic realism and unequalled passion.”

Times Literary Supplement

In the Name of Luminosity and Transparency

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Odysseus Elytis Translated by Simon Darragh



PB 9786185048518 £11.99 June 2016 Aiora Books 64 pages

The poetry of Odysseus Elytis owes as much to the ancients and Byzantium, as to the surrealists of the 1930s and the architecture of the Cyclades, bringing romantic modernism and structural experimentation to Greece. Collected here are the two speeches Elytis gave on his acceptance of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Literature, which are still strikingly relevant today. He addresses a hypertrophic and atrophic Europe in moral chaos, with as many coexisting values as languages-and to this he offers the “common language” that is found in poetry, in art, and in their base materials of sense, aesthetic, intuition. Ultimately, his is a powerful ode to beauty amid utilitarianism, and the need for poetry as “the art of approaching that which surpasses us” and “puts us at the threshold of the deepest truth”.

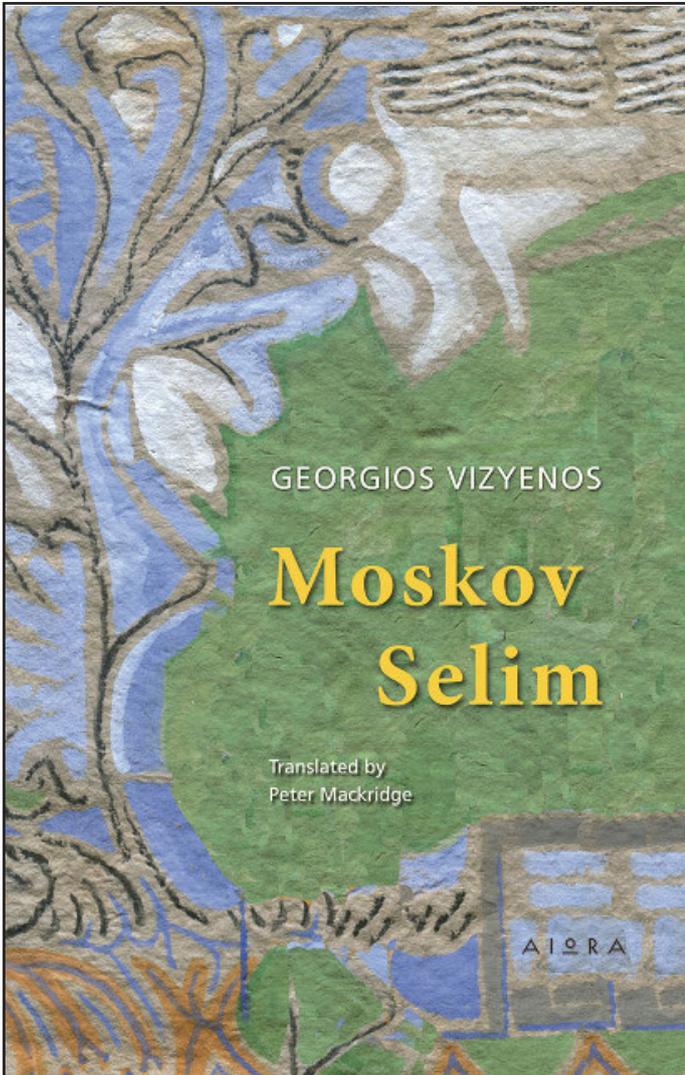
About the Author

Odysseus Elytis (1911-1996) has been a leading figure in the “Generation of the 1930s”, whose poets, influenced by surrealism, renewed contemporary Greek poetry. During the post-war years he lived for long periods in France, where he associated with the pioneers of the world’s avant-garde (Reverdy, Tzara, Breton, Ungaretti, Matisse, Picasso, Giacometti). He published seventeen collections of poetry, translations from ancient Greek and modern European poets, and two volumes of prose. In 1979 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Moskov Selim

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Georgios Vizyenos Translated by Peter Mackridge



PB 9786185048273 £9.99 March 2015 Aiora Books 96 pages b/w

photos

Georgios Vizyenos (1849-1896) is one of Greece's best-loved writers. *Moskov Selim* is set in Thrace, a corner of Europe where Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria meet. Selim is a Muslim name, yet *Moskov* implies that he is a Russian. Vizyenos' fascinating and moving story is set during a time of constant wars between Russians and Turks whose outcome would decide the future of south-east Europe: Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria were becoming independent of the Ottoman empire, while Greece was to gain huge territories at the empire's expense. Although Istanbul would remain in Turkey, it would no longer be the seat of the Ottoman Sultan, who, as caliph, was the leader of the world's Muslims. Vizyenos' story evokes a time when Greeks and Turks could share each other's joys and pains despite the hostile relations between their governments. Listening to the protagonist's life story, the narrator of *Moskov Selim* discovers that this Turk is a kindred spirit, despite the gulf of nationality and religion that separates them.

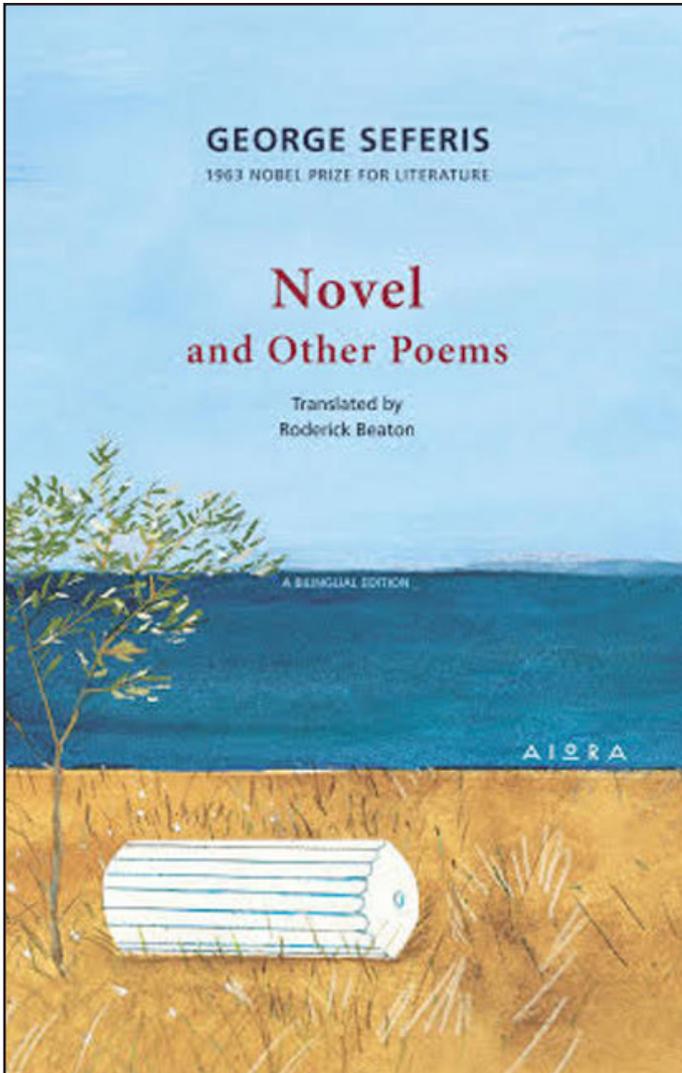
About the Author

Georgios Vizyenos was born in 1849 in the small town of Vizye (Vize in Turkish), to the north-west of Constantinople (Istanbul). His whole life was a struggle with family and personal tragedy. His father died when the boy was five years old; two of his sisters perished in early childhood; and one of his brothers died in mysterious circumstances. Despite these inauspicious beginnings, he studied in Germany and became one of the leading Greek poets and short-story writers.

Novel and Other Poems

Modern Greek Classics Series

By George Seferis Translated by Roderick Beaton



Often compared during his lifetime to T.S. Eliot, whose work he translated and introduced to Greece, George Seferis is noted for his spare, laconic, dense and allusive verse in the Modernist idiom of the first half of the twentieth century. At once intensely Greek and a cosmopolitan of his time (he was a career-diplomat as well as a poet), Seferis better than any other writer expresses the dilemma experienced by his countrymen then and now: how to be at once Greek and modern. The translations that make up this volume are the fruit of more than forty years, and many are published here for the first time.

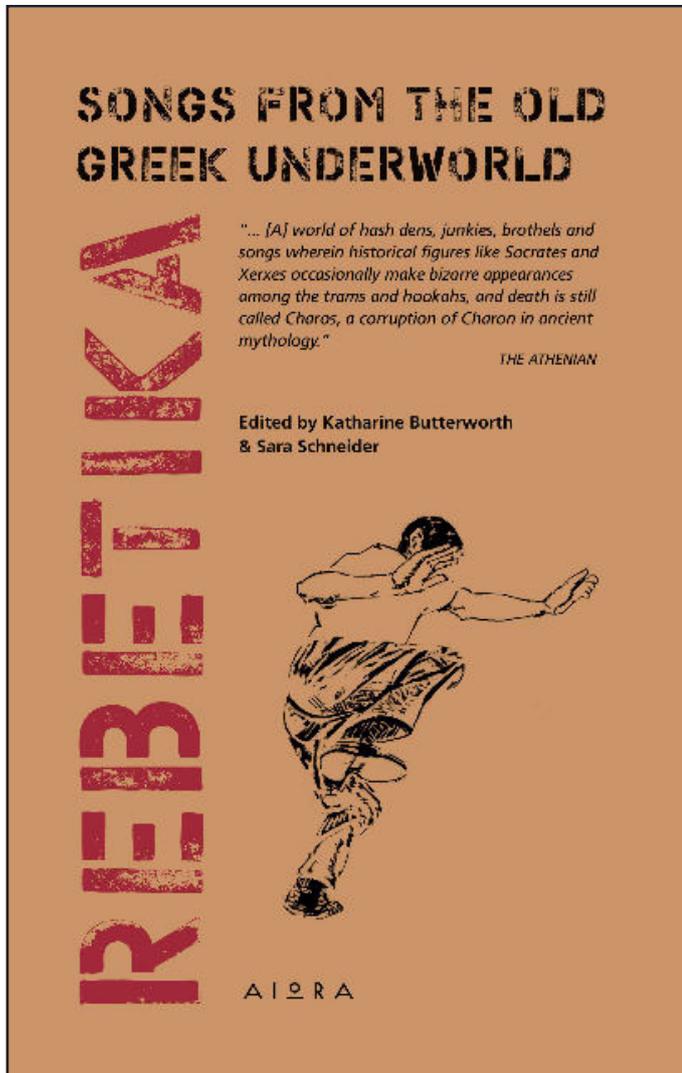
PB 9786185048433 £14.99 March 2015 Aiora Books 224 pages

The Nobel Prize in Literature 1963 was awarded to Giorgos Seferis “for his eminent lyrical writing, inspired by a deep feeling for the Hellenic world of culture”. — Nobelprize.com

Rebetika

Songs from the Old Greek Underworld

Edited by Katharine Butterworth & Sara Schneider



PB 9786185048204 £14.99 June 2014 Aiora Books 176 pages

7 b/w sketches, 1 b/w photo & 8 musical scores

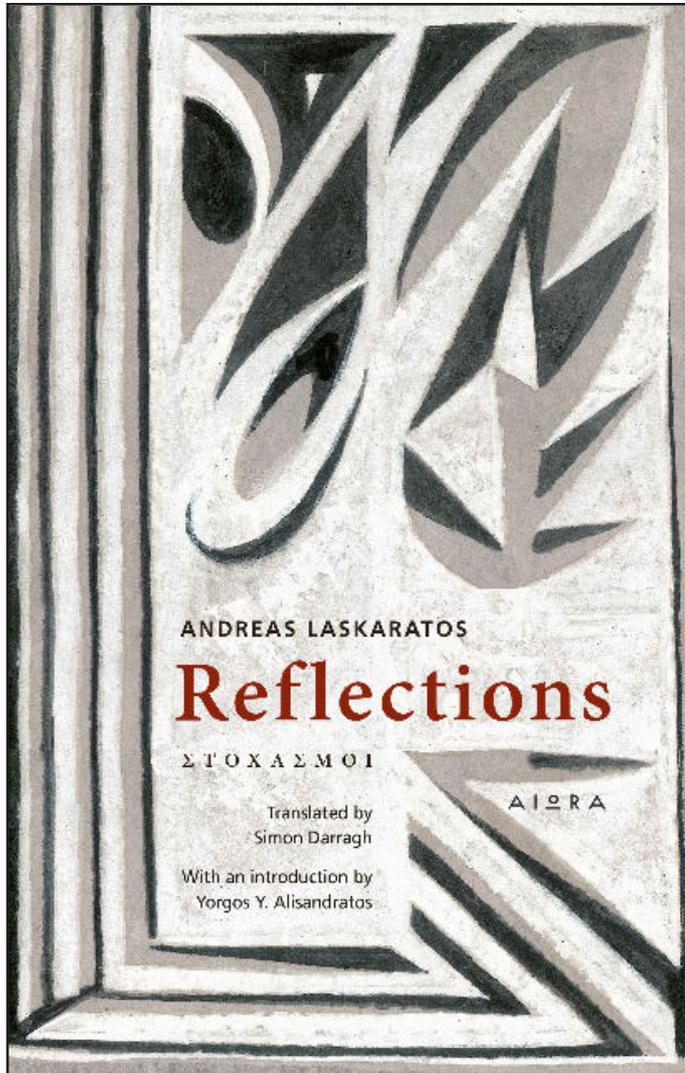
The songs in this book are a sampling of the urban folk songs of Greece during the first half of the 20th century. They are the creative expression of an urban subculture whose members the Greeks commonly called rebetes. These rebetes were people living a marginal and often underworld existence on the fringes of established society, disoriented and struggling to maintain themselves in the developing industrial ports, despised and persecuted by the rest of society. And it is the hardships and suffering of these people, their fruitless dreams, their current loves and their lost loves that these songs are about, and underlying them all, their jaunty, tough will to survive. The appeal of these songs, often compared to the American blues, is that the conflicts they express are not exclusively Greek conflicts, they are everybody's; and they are still unresolved — in urban Greece as in urban Anywhere.

“... [A] world of hash dens, junkies, brothels and songs wherein historical figures like Socrates and Xerxes occasionally make bizarre appearances among the trams and hookahs, and death is still called Charos, a corruption of Charon in ancient mythology.” — The Athenian

Reflections

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Andreas Laskaratos Translated by Simon Darragh



PB 9786185048327 £13.99 May 2015 Aiora Books 128 pages

b/w photo

Andreas Laskaratos (1811-1901), a prominent figure in modern Greek letters, was a writer and poet, a social thinker and, in many ways, a controversialist. A life-long enemy of hypocrisy wherever he found it, on many occasions he turned against politicians, while he ceaselessly fought against corruption and religious prejudice and fanaticism. Much of his writing is savagely satirical, but his *Reflections* set out calmly, clearly and wittily his uncompromising and finely reasoned beliefs. As the essence of his thought they could be read with profit by present-day politicians and teachers of any nationality, and indeed by everybody with an interest in social and moral questions.

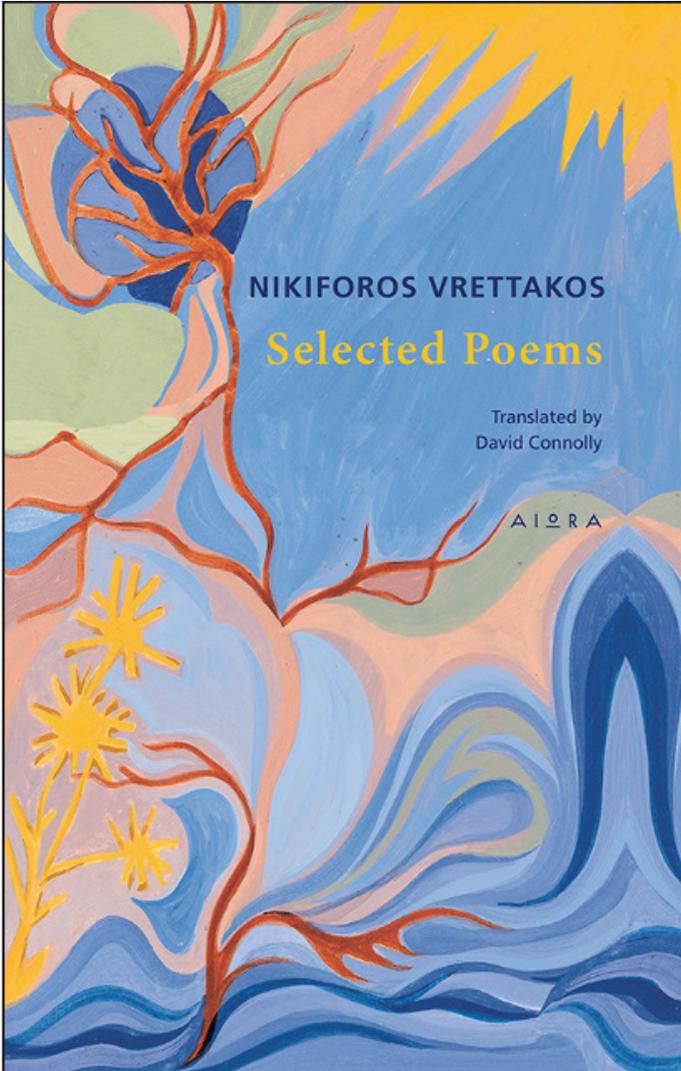
About the Author

Andreas Laskaratos was born in Lixouri, on the Greek island of Cephalonia, in 1811, at a time when the Ionian Islands were under British rule. Brought up in a wealthy aristocratic family of land-owners, he studied law in Paris and Pisa, but only worked as a lawyer for four years. He published poetry and prose but became more well known as a satirist — his satiric caricatures and parodies are considered unique in modern Greek letters.

Selected Poems

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Nikiforos Vrettakos Translated by David Connolly



PB 9786185048303 £14.99 June 2015 Aiora Books 120 pages

b/w photo

Vrettakos's poems are firmly rooted in the Greek landscape and coloured by the Greek light, yet their themes and sentiment are ecumenical. His garden, his own heart, are but a microcosm of the entire world, of the whole of humanity, and both contain divine messages that the lens of poetry can help us to perceive. His poetry sings of the beauty of the natural world and offers a vision of the paradise that the world could be, but it is also imbued with a deep and painful awareness of the dark abyss that it threatens to become. For Vrettakos, the poet has a role to play in this struggle to determine the fate of the world. He is the champion of light and truth, the high priest of beauty, whose duty it is to celebrate the world, proclaiming the cosmic message of love as that which cuts paths across the darkness. He knows only too well, however, that the poet's voice, like God's, is seldom heeded.

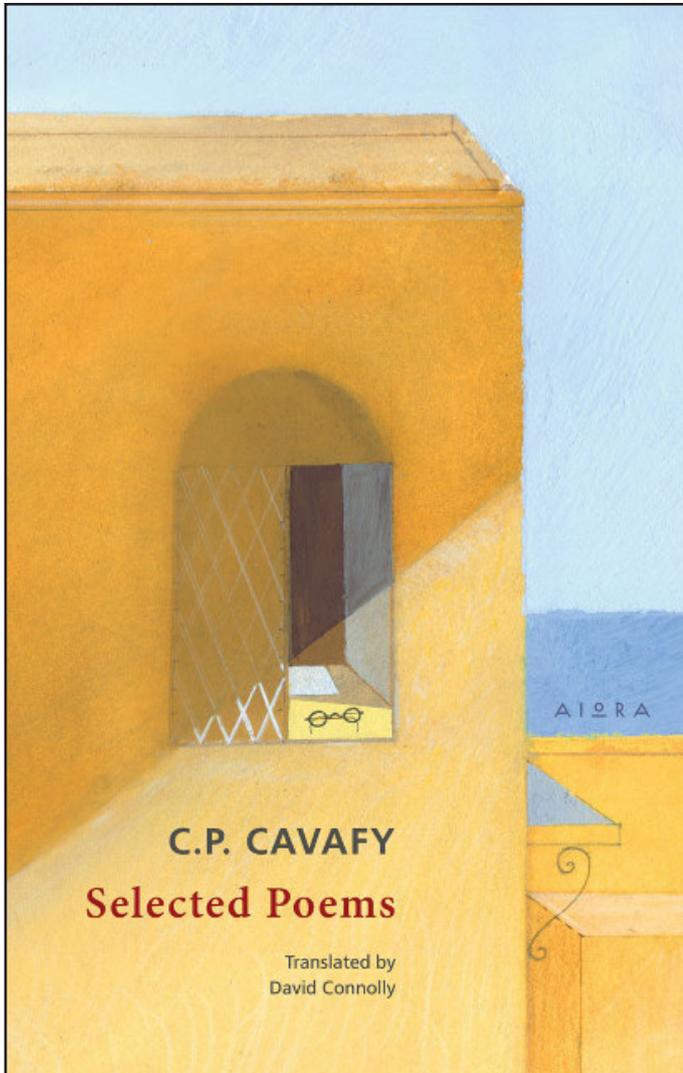
About the Author

Nikiforos Vrettakos was born on January 1, 1912 in the village of Krokees near Sparta. In a literary career lasting some sixty years, he published over eighty-five collections of poetry, eight prose works, a long critical study of Nikos Kazantzakis and wrote innumerable articles and essays for periodicals and newspapers. In Greece, he received more awards than any other poet of his generation, including three State Prizes for Poetry. In 1987, he was elected to the Academy of Athens in the Chair of Literature. He died in his ancestral home in Ploumitsa on August 4, 1991 while watching the sun rise over his beloved Mount Taygetus.

Selected Poems

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Constantine P. Cavafy Translated by David Connolly



PB 9786185048150 £14.99 May 2015 Aiora Books 112 pages 2

b/w photos

Cavafy is by far the most translated and most well-known Greek poet internationally. His work exists in multiple translations in a wide range of languages and major 20th-century poets as diverse as Auden, Brecht, Brodsky, Durrell, Milosz and Montale have all paid tribute to Cavafy, either by writing poems in the style of Cavafy, or by openly admitting their debt to his poetry in their own work. Whether his subject matter is historical, philosophical or sensual, Cavafy's unique poetic voice is always recognizable by its ironical, suave, witty, world-weary and aesthetic tones. It is a voice which lends itself to translation. Indeed, translations of Cavafy's poetry are the best possible counter to the often quoted platitude that poetry is what is lost in translation. Cavafy's is a poetry that not only survives but actually thrives in translation.

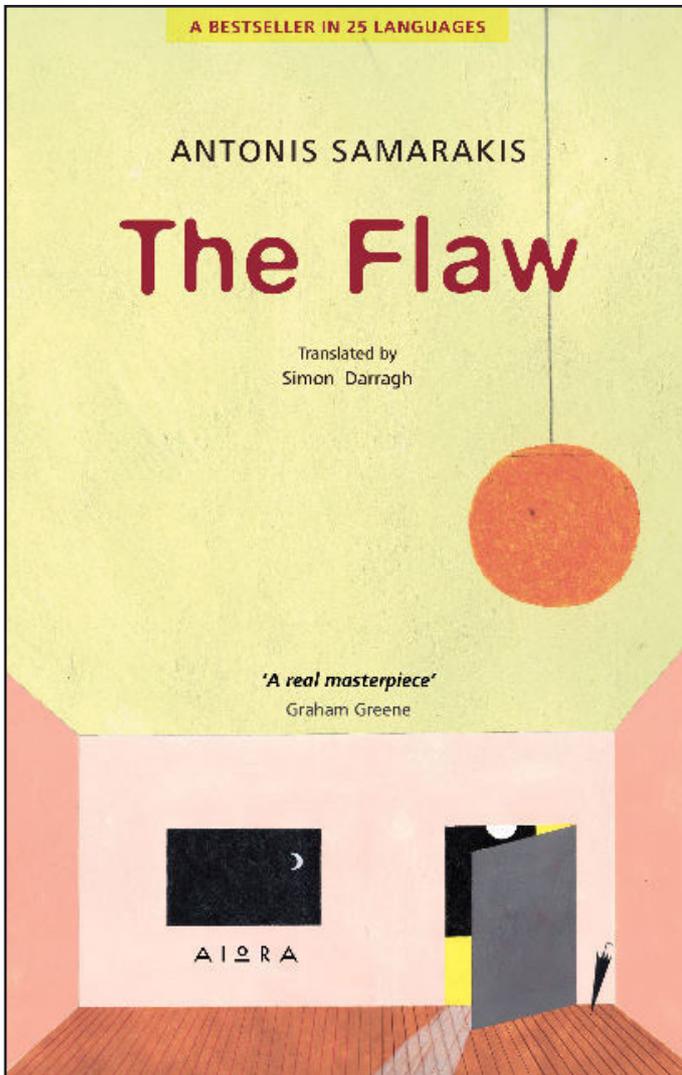
About the Author

Constantine P. Cavafy was born in Alexandria in 1863 and died there on the morning of his 70th birthday in 1933. He worked as an employee in the Irrigation Service at the Ministry of Public Works in Alexandria and was a leading figure in the literary life of the city. Surprisingly, he chose not to publish any collected edition of his poems during his lifetime, but preferred to circulate small privately printed collections among his friends, seemingly confident of the afterlife of his work and of his subsequent recognition. The first collection of his poems was published in 1935, and the international acclaim for his work has grown ever since.

The Flaw

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Antonis Samarakis Translated by Simon Darragh



PB 9786185048778 £14.99 June 2018 Aiora Books 256 pages

”A real masterpiece.”
Graham Greene

A man is seized from his afternoon drink at the Café Sport by two agents of the Regime -- though what exactly he is suspected of we do not know, and neither, apparently, does he. What follows is a journey by car toward Special Branch Headquarters, and the interrogation that undoubtedly awaits him there. With their destination approaching, oppressed and oppressor come face to face with their deepest human feeling, locked in a game of psychological skill. As the plot slowly unravels, so, too, do its main players. Part thriller and part political satire, *The Flaw* is as powerful today as it was when first published in 1965, foretelling the military dictatorship that would take hold of Greece only two years later. It is the best-known work of Antonis Samarakis and has been translated into more than thirty languages, winning the prestigious 1970 Grand Prix de Littérature Poilicière in France. This new translation marks the fiftieth anniversary of the novel’s publication in English.

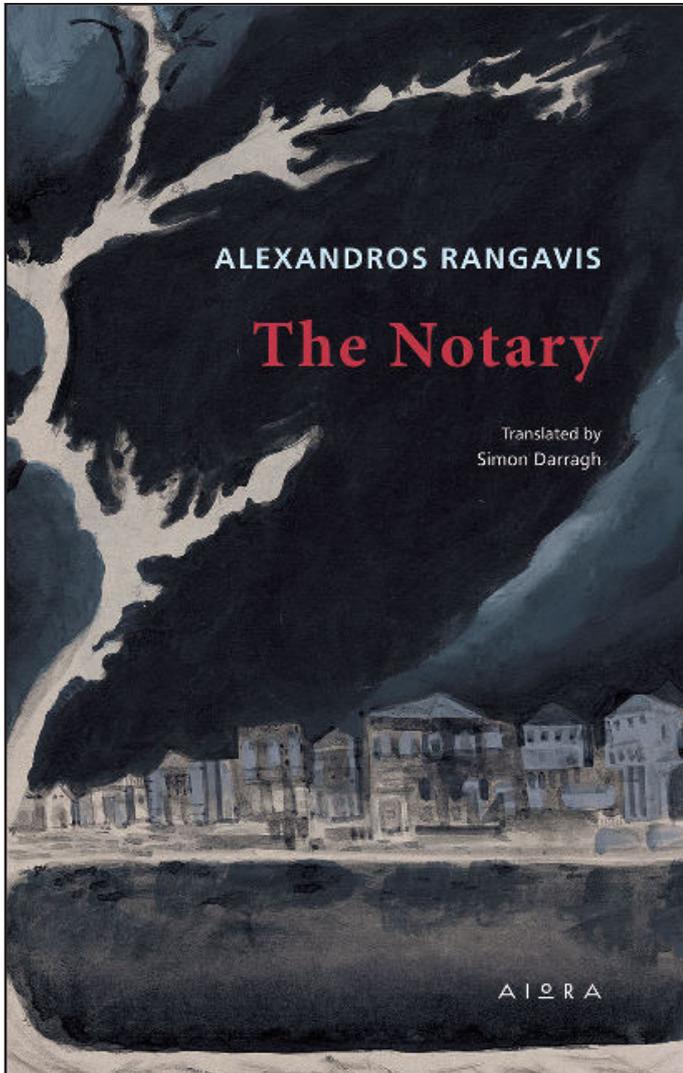
About the Author

Antonis Samarakis was born in Athens in 1919. For decades he worked as a civil servant at the Ministry of Labour, temporarily resigning during the dictatorship of Ioannis Metaxas (1936-40), and during the Second World War he was captured by Nazis and narrowly escaped a death sentence. He published his first collection of short stories, *Hope Wanted*, in 1954, and his collection *I Refuse* won the Greek State Prize for the Short Story. Samarakis has become one of the most celebrated Greek prose writers of the second half of the twentieth century, with his work translated into thirty-three languages.

The Notary

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Alexandros Rangavis Translated by Simon Darragh



PB 9786185048662 £13.99 May 2017 Aiora Books 152 pages

b/w map

A wealthy count on his deathbed, his libertine nephew, an upstanding young clerk, and a scheming notary who stops at nothing to protect his daughter make *The Notary* an iconic tale of suspense and intrigue, love and murder. The classic work of Alexandros Rangavis, *The Notary*, a mystery set on the island of Cephalonia on the eve of the Greek Revolution of 1821, is Modern Greek literature's contribution to the tradition of early crime fiction, alongside E.T.A. Hoffman, Edgar Allan Poe and Wilkie Collins.

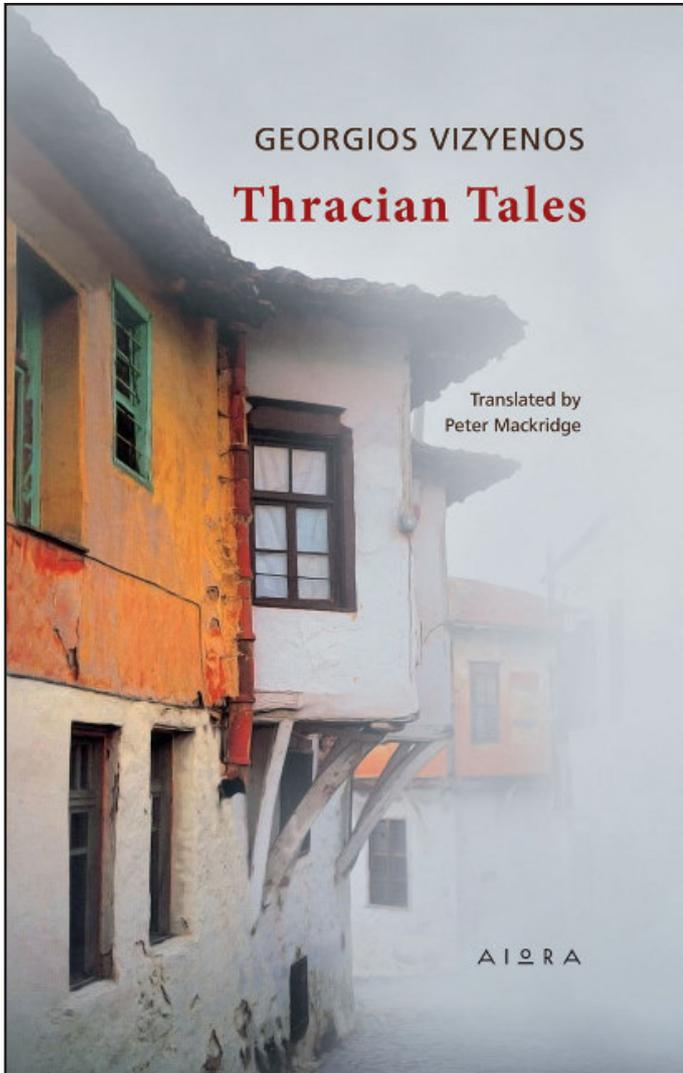
About the Author

Alexandros Rangavis (1809–1892) was a Greek man of letters, poet and statesman. Born in Constantinople in 1809 to a Greek Phanariot family, he was raised in Bucharest and Odessa, and attended military school in Munich. Following his return to Greece, Rangavis served at the Ministry of Education, helped organize the founding of the first university of modern Greece in 1834 and was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in 1856. Rangavis is the author of the first *History of Modern Greek Literature* (1877). He also wrote numerous plays and novels, and translated Dante, Schiller, Lessing, Goethe and Shakespeare into Greek.

Thracian Tales

Modern Greek Classics Series

By Georgios Vizyenos Translated by Peter Mackridge



PB 9786185048167 £13.99 May 2014 Aiora Books 144 pages

b/w illus

Georgios Vizyenos (1849-1896) is one of Greece's best-loved writers. His stories, written in 1883-4, are set in his native Thrace, a corner of Europe where Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey meet. Each title poses an enigma: Where did Yorgis' grandfather travel on his only journey? What was Yorgis' mother's sin? Who was responsible for his brother's murder? At the end of each story the narrator possesses some knowledge that forces him – and his readers – to revise their earlier assumptions, which were based on incomplete knowledge. Because Vizyenos wants us to experience the difficult transition from ignorance to knowledge, he leaves us in suspense until the very end.

About the Author

Georgios Vizyenos was born in 1849 in the small town of Vizye (Vize in Turkish), to the north-west of Constantinople (Istanbul). His whole life was a struggle with family and personal tragedy. His father died when the boy was five years old; two of his sisters perished in early childhood; and one of his brothers died in mysterious circumstances. Despite these inauspicious beginnings, he studied in Germany and became one of the leading Greek poets and short-story writers.

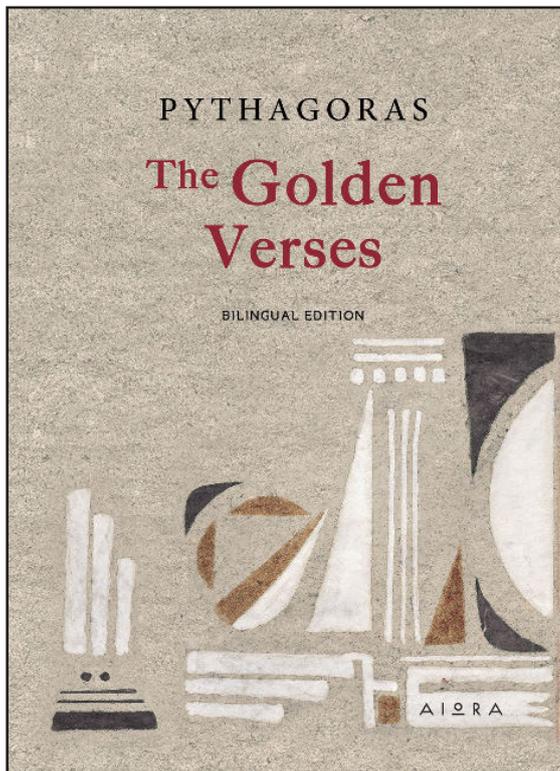
“Refined language and close observations mark Vizyenos’s dense prose. Charged with strong emotions and a love of nature, it is a triumph that the stories’ romanticism comes across fresh and true today. The demanding, complex tales are replete with character development, probing psychology and detailed descriptions.” — Publishers Weekly

Pocket Greek Library

Golden Verses

Pocket Greek Library Series

By Pythagoras Translated by David Connolly



HB 9786185048693 £14.99 May 2017 Aiora Books
98 pages

Pythagoras (ca 585 BC – 495 BC), a philosopher, mathematician and musical theoretician wrote nothing down during the course of his life, not even the Theorem attributed to him. And yet his knowledge and wisdom changed the world, and have survived through the ages to benefit us today. The essence of Pythagoras' teachings is contained in The Golden Verses, seventy-one verses constituting guidelines on how to live. Functioning as admonitions, they link the human with the divine element and determine the point at which both converge to reveal how we might ourselves attain this supreme virtue in our everyday lives.

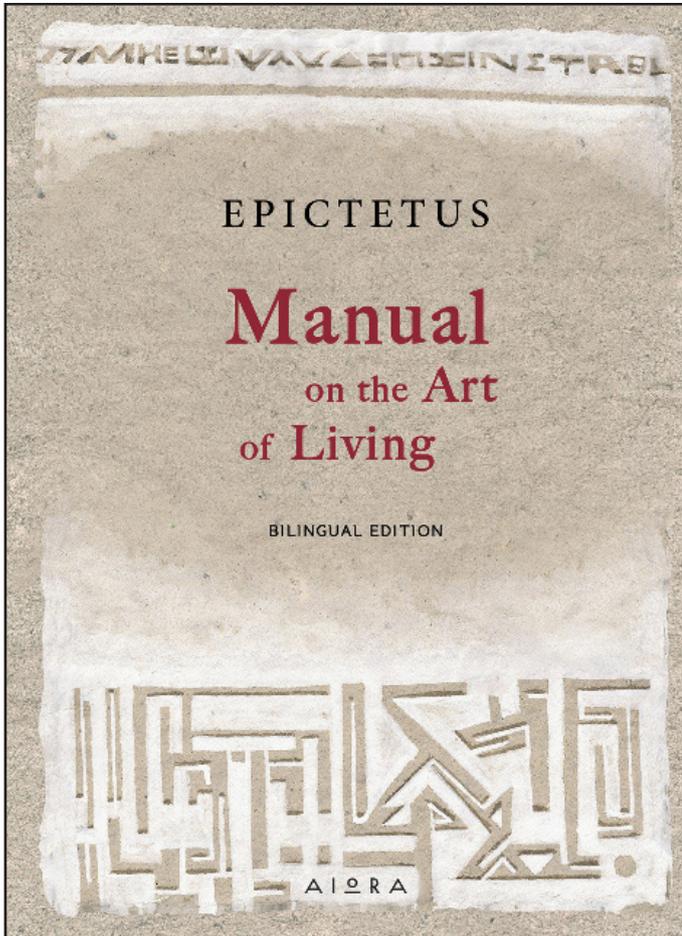
About the Author

Pythagoras, an important philosopher, mathematician and music theorist, was born on the island of Samos, probably in 585 BC. He studied with the philosopher Pherecydes in Syros and with Thales and Anaximander in Miletus, and travelled widely, including to Egypt, where he lived for more than twenty years, and Babylonia. Pythagoras eventually settled in Croton in southern Italy, where he founded his school. His teachings have come down to us thanks to his hundreds of pupils since Pythagoras himself left no written work.

Manual on the Art of Living

Pocket Greek Library Series

By Epictetus Translated by P.E. Matheson



HB 9786185048709 £14.99 May 2017 Aiora Books 112 pages

Of all existing things, some are in our power, and others are not in our power.” So begins the Enchiridion or Manual on the Art of Living of Epictetus, a collection of precepts that together provide a powerful philosophy for daily life. With practical grace and wisdom, the Manual addresses living with integrity, self-management, and personal freedom. The Manual is considered to be the pinnacle of Stoic philosophy, a school of Greek thought originating in the early third century BC, that holds that destructive emotions are the result of errors in judgement and taught an active relationship between individual will and cosmic determinism.

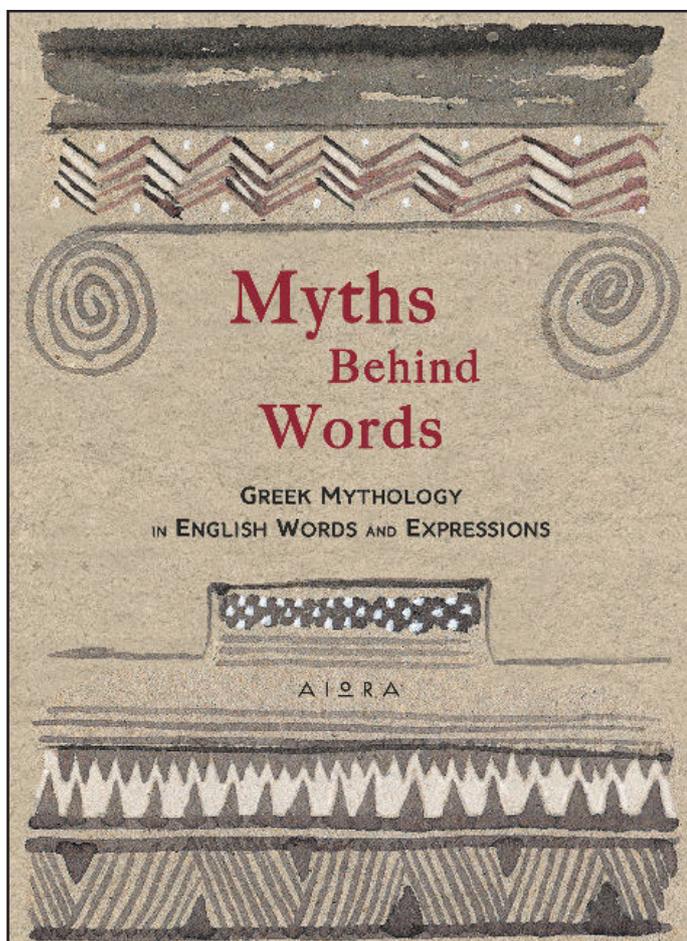
About the Author

Epictetus (ca 55 AD–135 AD) was a Greek-speaking Stoic philosopher. He was born a slave in the Greek city of Hierapolis, Phrygia (present day Pamukkale, Turkey) and, after receiving his freedom, lived and taught in Rome until an imperial edict banned all philosophers from the Italian peninsula. Epictetus then established a school of philosophy in Nicopolis in northwestern Greece. His teachings were written down and published by his pupil Arrian in the eight-volume Discourses and the Manual.

Myths Behind Words

Greek Mythology In English Words and Expressions

By Alexander Zaphiriou



Like the constellations in the sky, words such as 'aphrodisiac', 'hubris', 'museum', 'galaxy' and 'mentor' each contain within them a story, if only you knew to look closely. This collection retells the myths behind common words and expressions in English, bringing to life the heroes, monsters and gods whose deeds and battles have left a hidden mark on our language. Compiling more than seventy-five myths, the stories in this book feature well-known figures such as Zeus, Athena, Apollo, Hercules, Achilles, the Amazons, Medusa and the Minotaur. The entries are supplemented with original illustration reproductions of scenes from ancient pottery, and include translations from Ancient Greek epics such as the Iliad, the Odyssey, the Argonautica and Theogony.

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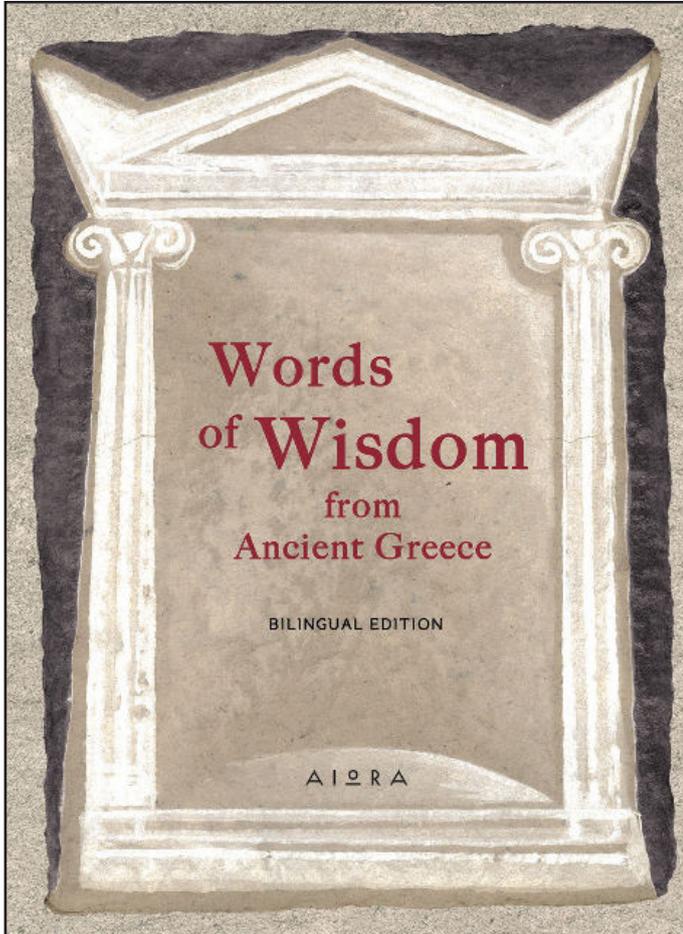
HB 9786185048891 £14.99 April 2018 Aiora Books 128 pages 8

b&w sketches

Words of Wisdom from Ancient Greece

Pocket Greek Library Series

By Alexander Zaphiriou



His poetry sings of the beauty of the natural world and offers a vision of the paradise that the world could be, but it is also imbued with a deep and painful awareness of the dark abyss that it threatens to become. For Vrettakos, the poet has a role to play in this struggle to determine the fate of the world. He is the champion of light and truth, the high priest of beauty, whose duty it is to celebrate the world, proclaiming the cosmic message of love as that which cuts paths across the darkness. He knows only too well, however, that the poet's voice, like God's, is seldom heeded. Works translated from; Aeschylus; Aesop; Alexander The Great; Anaxagoras; Antisthenes; Aristotle; Aristophanes; Bias of Priene; Chilon of Sparta; Cleobulus of Lindos; Democritus; Demosthenes; Diogenes; Epicurus; Epictetus; Euripides; Heraclitus; Hesiod; Hippocrates; Homer; Isocrates; Menander; Periander; Pindar; Pittacus of Mytilene; Plato; Plutarch; Protagoras; Pythagoras; Socrates; Solon; Sophocles; Thales of Miletus; Theocritus; Thucydides; Xenophon; Zeno Of Citium.

HB 9786185048716 £14.99 May 2017 Aiora Books 112 pages

53 b/w illus

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