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AUTOBIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR

Mort d'un silence/Death by Silence (My Dad Is Into Terrorism: title of film adaptation)

Clémence Boulouque

(Gallimard, 129 pages, 2003)

A daughter's memoir of her celebrity father, an antiterrorism judge who took his own life, by the author of Nuit Ouverte.

When Clémence was 10 years old, her father, "Juge" Boulouque, took on a high-profile case related to the bombings that rocked Paris in the mid-1980s, becoming an overnight celebrity. He then became a target and could never go anywhere without bodyguards or without being in a bulletproof car in a motorcade. This cost his family members the freedom to live a normal life; they had to contend with high-security measures and the judge's notoriety.

Mort d'un silence is a daughter's memoir of the difficulty of growing up with a famous parent whose life is in constant danger and also a memorial to that father. At the end of 1990, Judge Boulouque received strong criticism both from the press and from his superiors, leading to his undoing: He took his life on December 13, 1990.

Clémence Boulouque is the celebrated author of *Mort d'un silence* (Gallimard, 2003; film adaptation in 2006, *La Fille du juge* by William Karel/*My Dad Is Into Terrorism*). She is also the author of *Sujets Libres* (Gallimard, 2004), *Chasse à courre* (Gallimard, 2005), *Au pays des macarons* (Mercure de France, 2005), and *Nuit Ouverte* (Flammarion, 2008). In 2008 Denise Epstein, the daughter of Irène Némirovsky, published a memoir in interview form with Clémence as the interviewer, called *Survivre et Vivre* (Éditions Denoël).

Flash ou le grand voyage/Flash, or, The Long Trip

Charles Duchaussois

(Librairie Arthème Fayard, 480 pages, 1971)

*****Complete English translation available*****

A cult text in the vein of Hunter S. Thompson's drug-fueled travelogue Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, Flash ou le grand voyage tells the tribulations of Charles Duchaussois's odyssey from Marseille to Katmandu, with stops in Lebanon, Istanbul, Baghdad, Tehran, and Kabul.

May 1968: After a few years of the vagrant life in South France, Duchaussois receives a telegram from an old friend inviting him to visit him in Beirut. This is the start of a long journey that will take him to the Lebanese mountains, Turkey, Kuwait, Iran, and finally Nepal, where he discovers the seductive world of hippies and experiments with all kinds of drugs. From the first injection of heroin to his LSD-induced trips, Duchaussois is caught up in an overpowering downward spiral. To get out of it, he decides to take a last trip to the Himalayas to kill himself with a lethal dose of a combination of drugs. In the mountains, he sees a level of poverty that he

has never seen before and starts dressing the wounds of the villagers. Reduced to skin and bones, his clothes in tatters, he wanders, ready to die. In a twist of fate, a friend comes to rescue him and brings him back to Katmandu. He soon realizes that this so-called friend tracked him down only so that he could continue to pay his bills. Alone and delirious, he is eventually sent back to France by the French mental-health authorities, where he enters a rehab clinic.

An original and compelling memoir, *Flash* exposes the adventures of a survivor, a chameleon torn between good and bad, between his medical sessions in Himalayan villages and his petty robberies and drug addictions.

Charles Duchaussois was born into a family of diplomats in 1940. He published his memoir, *Flash ou le grand voyage*, in 1971.

J'étais un chef de gang/I Was the Leader of a Gang

Lamence Madzou

Followed by *Voyage dans le monde des bande/A Trip into the Gang World*, by

Marie-Hélène Bacqué

(Éditions de La Découverte, 252 pages, 2008)

This memoir and the analysis that follows open a window onto the brutal everyday life of a boy from the Congo who ended up the leader of one of the most famous gangs in France, from its beginnings in the 1980s to his repatriation in the late 1990s.

With detachment and a great attention to detail, Madzou speaks of his émigré youth and recalls the events that led him to turn to gang life, eventually becoming the much-feared leader of the Fight Boys. This notorious gang from the Parisian *banlieue* (the low-income housing projects that ring the city of Paris) became his world and affected his relationship with his family and friends from outside the gang. He tells how he and members of this and other gangs fit into the social equation of the housing projects. He recalls how he gradually learned the intricate gang codes and the lay of the land. He tried at one point to break free and reenter normal life, succeeding for a short while. He explains why he was unsuccessful and succumbed to the temptation of drugs and auto theft, ending up in jail. Finally, he describes his harrowing return to the Congo in 1997, where he was confronted with a whole new world of violence: the raging civil war.

More than a simple autobiography, *I Was the Leader of a Gang* is a poignant journey into the world of gangs, eloquently analyzed by sociologist Marie-Hélène Bacqué, who puts Madzou's story into the context of today's urban gangs.

***Lamence Madzou* was the legendary leader of one of the most famous gangs of the Parisian banlieue. Today he is completely reformed, helps produce reports on gangs in the projects, and is studying to become a filmmaker.**

Marie-Hélène Bacqué is a French sociologist who specializes in life in the low-income housing projects of France's urban regions.

Ceux qui ne dormaient pas/Those Who Didn't Sleep

Jacqueline Mesnil-Amar

Preface by Pierre Assouline

(Éditions Stock, 215 pages, 2008)

The 37-day diary of a woman awaiting news from her husband, a member of the French Jewish resistance, during the last months of the Nazi occupation in Paris

Jacqueline Mesnil-Amar comes from a wealthy family. André, her husband, is a banker and a member of the Jewish resistance. They live in a bourgeois neighborhood of Paris and are liberal, highly cultured, and totally assimilated.

It is the summer of 1944, and Paris is about to be liberated by the Allied forces. Yet for Jacqueline the joyful anticipation is overshadowed by worry and fear because she has been without news of her husband since the evening of July 18, 1944, when he did not come home. That same night, to calm her distress, Jacqueline began to write a journal. It ends 37 days later when she learns that André was able to escape from what was the last train to the extermination camps.

This diary, an exceptional testimony on the period, combines one woman's memories and reflections on the "final solution" and an eyewitness account of the last moments of the occupation of Paris, a unique consideration of how the French were feeling at that time, and for the author, a renewed interest in her own Jewish roots.

At the end of the volume are a few articles relating the long, desperate wait of the families of deportees.

*Jacqueline Mesnil-Amar was born in 1909; she died in 1987. The book was first published in 1957 by Éditions de Minuit. This new edition from Éditions Stock adds a preface by acclaimed author **Pierre Assouline**.*

CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT

Du bon usage de la torture; ou comment les démocraties justifient l'injustifiable/

On the Fair Use of Torture, or, How Democracies Justify the Unjustifiable

Michel Terestchenko

(Éditions La Découverte, 216 pages, 2008)

The moral condemnation of torture has failed to prevent the exacting challenges of its theoretical legitimization as a “lesser evil.” In this audacious essay, Terestchenko dissects the arguments of thinkers, philosophers, and judicial authorities for whom torture, in its various incarnations and in varying circumstances, can be justified. In a thorough refutation of the school of thought known as the liberal ideology of torture, he explains how the use and legitimization of torture creates a deeply corrupting poison for civil society and its institutions.

First Terestchenko presents a genealogy of new torture practices, from their origins in the 1950s to their present-day forms. He shows how such practices as “sensory disorientation” and “self-inflicted pain,” among others, have evolved over time. Then he examines the legal aspect, giving the example of the way the United States justified, or refuted, what went on in Guantánamo Bay and Abu Ghraib. He goes on to debunk the myth of the noble torturer, illustrated by the fictional counterterrorism agent Jack Bauer in the TV series *24*, and vigorously refutes the liberal ideology designed to show that even perfectly compassionate citizens might justify torture to find a ticking bomb. Developing the notion of abuse of public trust, he argues that this dangerous fallacy will turn our democracies into illegitimate states.

Michel Terestchenko teaches philosophy at the University of Reims and the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence. He is the author of several books of moral and political philosophy, among which Un si fragile vernis d’humanité: Banalité du mal, banalité du bien (Such a Fragile Veneer of Humanity: The Banality of Good and Evil; La Découverte, 2005) has been hailed by critics as one of the most outstanding and noteworthy contemporary works.

DANCE

Angelin Preljocaj: Topologie de l'invisible/Angelin Preljocaj: Topology of the Invisible
Angelin Preljocaj, Françoise Cruz, Aki Kuroda (designer)
(Éditions Naïve, 184 pages, 130 color illustrations and photos throughout plus 50-minute DVD, 2008)

Angelin Preljocaj, if not the most prominent choreographer on the international modern dance scene, is certainly in the top 10. Of Albanian origin, he studied in France where he is now based. His company, Ballet Preljocaj, was started in 1984. Recent projects include *Blanche Neige (Snow White)*, *Eldorado*, *Les Quatre Saisons (The Four Seasons)*, and *Empty Moves*.

In 2009 the company will be touring the United States with performances in California in April and May. *Topology of the Invisible* reveals the genesis of three of Preljocaj's most important choreographic works: *Annunciation*, based on the biblical tale; *Les Raboteurs*, based on Gustav Caillebotte's masterpiece *Les raboteurs de parquet*; and *Un Trait d'union*, based on the story "La chambre" by Jean-Paul Sartre.

Presented in a luxury boxed-set created by the Japanese designer Aki Kuroda, the book includes rare images and abundant archival material from the choreographer's personal collection. Photographs, handwritten notes, orchestral scores, preparatory sketches, and memorabilia guide the reader through the drama of dance creation. Preljocaj's choreographic process, his methods, and pictorial, literary, and musical influences are illustrated in bold colors and unevenly sized pages. *Topology* will appeal not just to those concerned with dance and choreography, but also to artists and designers and to all interested in the creative process.

FICTION & LITERATURE

À la recherche d’Alice/In Search of Alice

Sophie Bassignac

(Éditions Denoël, 208 pages, March 2009)

In Search of Alice is a delight that confirms—if not more—all the good one already could have been thinking about Sophie Bassignac.

—*Livres Hebdo*

A charmingly Parisian love story between a quirky tour guide and a police inspector in which bad behavior turns out to be wonderfully good.

Alice is a mother of two and a tour guide at the Louvre. She is also the recipient of an anonymous letter claiming that her husband has a mistress—a famous photojournalist. Alice’s response to the letter, as to many other things, is more than slightly unusual. After reading it, Alice goes to the photographer’s home, speaks to her, and determines that the letter is telling the truth. After inadvertently making a chaotic mess of the house, she ties the photographer to the bathroom faucet . . . and leaves. Then, seized by sudden remorse, mainly out of consideration for the woman’s gorgeous breasts, she returns to untie her. The photographer immediately calls the police. It was a baffling revenge at best, and now Alice sits in the waiting room of a Paris police station. And then the plot thickens . . .

Inspector Picasso recognizes Alice from the past, as a best friend of his wife’s. But that was years ago, and besides, his wife has all but left him. . . . The more Picasso listens to Alice—and looks at her—the more deeply he is taken with her. He will have plenty of opportunities to be around her, as he must find out who sent the letter and whether Alice is being followed. Picasso himself follows her to the Loire Valley for her mother’s funeral, looking for clues in what he thinks is a simple investigation, finding instead a taste of fleeting, but true, happiness.

Sophie Bassignac is the author of a celebrated first novel, *Les aquariums lumineux*, which was sold in six countries (Italy: Einaudi; Spain: Grijalbo Mondadori; Poland: Amber; Russia: Atticus; South Korea: Mellon; China: Phoenix). *À la recherche d’Alice* is her second novel.

Mémoires d’un jeune homme dérangé/Memoirs of an Insane Young Man

Frédéric Beigbeder

(Éditions de La Table Ronde, 148 pages, 1990, 2001)

A stylist of considerable talent.

—the *Daily Telegraph*

The first novel by the acclaimed author of Windows on the World relates the love stories and rantings of his alter ego, Marc Marronnier.

A young Parisian dandy, Marc Marronnier has just recently graduated from the exclusive

Sciences Po. His fast social life is at odds with his peaceful love affair with Anne, and this tears him apart. From jet-set parties and debaucheries, from doubts to certainties, Marc tries to make sense of his life.

With style and wit, Beigbeder convincingly depicts the preoccupations, quirks, and expectations of a gilded youth and introduces us to the hero of his latest works, *Holiday in a Coma* and *Love Lasts Three Years*—Marc Marronnier. Annoying and arrogant, sometimes touching, and always sarcastic and brilliant, Marc epitomizes Beigbeder’s signature character, the “egotistical romantic.”

Frédéric Beigbeder was born in 1965 and wrote this first novel at the age of 24. Author, commentator, literary critic, and pundit, he is the author of several books translated into English, including the 2003 Prix Interallié winner *Windows on the World* (Grasset, 2003; Fourth Estate, 2004; Miramax, 2006); 2008’s winner of the Scott Moncrieff Prize for best translation, *Vacances dans le coma* (Grasset, 1994; Fourth Estate, 2007); *L’amour dure trois ans* (Grasset, 1997; Fourth Estate, 2007) and *99 Francs* (Grasset, 2000; Picador, 2002).

Ô, Maria
Anouar Benmalek
(Éditions Fayard, 468 pages, 2006)

An English version would be welcome.

—*World Literature Today*, March 2009

A Mediterranean Faulkner.

—*L’Express*

A monumental novel.

—Associated Press

Benmalek picks up where Camus left off.

—*Harvard Review*

Al-Andulus was the name given to the part of Spain that Muslims dominated physically and culturally for 500 years, starting in the early 700s. “Every Arab writer,” the author writes, “wants at some point to write a novel about Andalusia.” This is Benmalek’s Andalusian novel: a novel of cruelty, beauty, and intolerance, but most of all, a novel about a woman.

The Christians who defeated Muslim Andalusia soon introduced an expanded Inquisition. The Spanish Law of Purity decreed that everyone had to be free of Jewish or Muslim blood for four previous generations to be considered pure. Those who were Jewish were killed; those who were Muslim were deported to North Africa. The story of the prosecution of the Jews is often told, but Benmalek selected the lesser known, although no less harrowing, tale of the Spanish Muslims under the Inquisition.

The author based his novel on records he found in the archives of the Inquisition. During his research, he was impressed with Maria's acts of heroic proportion: Her love was so great that she tore out her tongue so that even under torture she would not betray her family.

Maria, a headstrong and seductive young woman of rare beauty, was brought up to believe that she was a Christian by blood. At the time of her first menses, however, she was told the truth: Her family was Morisco—they were Muslims converted to Christianity. While she was still trying to take in her background and come to terms with her faith, her entire village was captured by Christian slave-traders. Maria became a slave to a cruel man obsessed with her and her virginity. But before he could take possession of her, she gave herself to her true love. That same day, Maria is raped by her owner. Marriage to a much older, converted Muslim, a carpenter who is dazzled by her beauty, allows Maria to escape both the owner and a future of sure slavery. The man is willing to accept her pregnancy and adopts and raises as his own the son she bears. Her son's parentage, and thus his bloodline, is uncertain, however, and Maria will go to any length to spare him the fate of a Morisco. As she tries to protect him, it is she who is caught in the grasp of the Inquisition.

Mathematician, novelist, and journalist Anouar Benmalek was born in Casablanca in 1956; he has lived in France since 1992. After the 1988 riots, he cofounded the Algerian Committee against Torture. He is the author of four previous novels, including Les Amants Désunis (Éditions Calmann Lévy, 1998; The Lovers of Algeria, Graywolf, 1997), which was a best seller in France and the winner of the Rachid Mimouni Prize. His works have been translated into 10 languages. He was invited to the first Pen World Voices Festival, and he travels to the United States often to testify on torture. Recently he was in New York at the behest of the American Constitution Society and PEN American Center for the panel Writers Against Torture, which included Jane Mayer and Dahlia Lithwick. Ô Maria has been published in Spanish and in Portuguese.

Là où les tigres sont chez eux/Where Tigers Feel at Home
Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès
(Zulma, 784 pages, 2008)

- Winner of the 2008 Prix Médicis, Prix du Roman FNAC, and Prix du Jury Jean Giono
- Shortlisted for the Prix Goncourt, Prix Goncourt des Lycéens, Wepler and Découverte Le Figaro Magazine—Fouquet's.
- Rights sold to Germany (Ammann Verlag), South Korea (Open Books), Greece (Polis), Italy (Frassinelli), the Netherlands (Ailantus), Czech Republic (Host Nakladatelství), Poland (Sonia Draga), Croatia (Novela Media) and Romania (Trei)
- 80,000 copies sold
- Translated sample available

With one foot in Borges and the other in Conrad, we are strolling, rummaging, smiling. It's Montaigne in an Indiana Jones movie.

—*Telerama*

This is erudition at the service of a universal adventure-series. Umberto Eco revisited by Indiana Jones in Malcolm Lowry, with a zest of *African Queen* and Lévi-Strauss in *Nambikwara*. No, the tropics are not sad!

—*Le Figaro Litteraire*

Là où les tigres sont chez eux is a deeply researched adventure epic that takes the reader from seventeenth-century Europe to today's Brazilian favelas.

Eléazard von Wogau lives in Alcântara, a ghost city in the wild north of modern Brazil. He is a foreign correspondent . . . and an expert on the Baroque-age German scholar Athanasius Kircher. Kircher was the founder of Egyptology, a renowned geometer, astronomer, and the inventor of the first megaphone—perhaps the last of the Renaissance men. One day, a fascinating biography of Kircher, seemingly written in the seventeenth century by a Jesuit priest, falls into Eléazard's hands. Eléazard's journey into that biography intertwines with the intriguing destinies of the book's other characters. There is Eléazard's ex-wife, on a jungle expedition in a search of precious fossils; Moéma, his cocaine-addicted daughter who is studying the origins of primitive tribes; a diabolical local governor; a seductive Italian journalist; and Nelson, a child from the favelas out to avenge his father's death. The story de Roblès tells—and yes, it is a page-turner—is intellectually and geographically far-reaching, suspenseful, and wickedly humorous.

Globetrotter and polyglot Jean-Marie Blas de Roblès is a specialist in submarine archaeology. After studying philosophy and history, he wrote La mémoire de riz et autres contes (Seuil, 1982), which received the Académie française award for short stories.

L'Atelier d'écriture/The Writing Workshop

Chefdeville

(Le Dilettante, 253 pages, 2009)

Side-splitting, biting and simply riveting . . .

—*evne.fr*

. . . an anti-*Entre les murs (The Class)*: Chefdeville charges whereas Bégaudeau chats.

—*Ouest France*

Verlan, the argot common among French young people that is used with general slang and is accompanied by constant and inventive swearing, is the language and the spirit of *The Writing Workshop*, a hilarious—and horrifying—look at a creative writing teacher's experience in the toughest recesses of the French school system.

Chefdeville is the main character in a novel by an author of the same name. Fifteen years earlier, he published his first and only book, a detective novel. Since its publication, he has been unable to write, passing his time swatting flies and staring at blank paper. Then the phone rings . . . would he be willing to teach a writing workshop at the Lycée Jean-Moulin, an inner-city high school? He would. He arrives at the job and stares into what is referred to as the “aquarium,” a

glass-walled classroom of students—his students—sitting at desks in a U formation. He can get the students to spell out their names on a piece of paper, fold the paper, and give it to him, but he gets no more from them. He spends most of the class time dodging insults and biting his tongue, yet somehow, his “work” is thought to be good. He receives more and more offers to teach: a screenplay workshop at the Lycée Marcel Aymé, a writer’s residence in an agricultural school, and an engagement to help the students of the Collège Pablo Neruda write a puppet show. He has become a specialist, he believes, in conducting writing workshops in schools awaiting demolition. On a normal day, his classes are simply out of control. And then a student broadcasts the news that Chefdeville is sleeping with his—the student’s—mother. Just when there seems no way out of the resulting hell, Chefdeville receives a contract to write a book that is based on his experience as a writing workshop teacher. Both Chefdeville and his readers are lucky that he did.

Chefdeville is the author of one previous novel. He has a Web site at <http://chefdeville.monsite.orange.fr>.

Plus tard, tu comprendras/Later, You Will Understand

Jérôme Clement

(Grasset, 230 pages, 2005, 2009)

Plus tard, tu comprendras is so rich and subtle in its construction that anything I might say about it can only impoverish it. . . . Love is the source and the framework of this beautiful book.
—*Le Monde*

*****Now a feature film directed by Amos Gitai and starring Jeanne Moreau*****

Plus tard, tu comprendras tells the story of a son who seeks to understand how his Catholic father and Jewish mother survived the Occupation and why, after World War II, they refused to talk about his family’s experience of the Holocaust.

After the death of his mother, a Russian Jew married to a French Catholic, the narrator finds himself back in the apartment where he once lived with his family. As he sorts through his parents’ furniture, paintings, personal objects, and books, he finds a few photos and letters that bring back memories and help him piece back together his family’s wartime stories.

Obsessively, he searches for evidence of what happened to his maternal grandparents, the Gornicks, and the possible involvement of his paternal Catholic relatives in their fate. He wonders how his father was able to save his Jewish wife and daughter and whether he collaborated willingly with the Vichy regime. His mother always hid behind a wall of silence about this period, so he can only rely on scattered fragments of her life story to find answers.

This new edition of the text, originally published in 2005, contains 100 pages of updated materials in a section entitled *Now I Know*. In it, the author recounts the filming of his book and concludes with a heartrending account of a journey to Auschwitz with his own wife and children.

Born in Paris in 1945, **Jérôme Clement** has been president of the Franco-German cultural television channel Arte since it was launched in 1991. He has published several books, including *Un homme en quête de vertu* (Grasset, 1992), *La Culture expliquée à ma fille* (Le Seuil, 2000), and *Les Femmes et l'amour* (Stock, 2002). Plus tard, tu comprendras, published in 2005, sold more than 40,000 copies in France.

Inassouvies, nos vies/Our Lives, Unfulfilled
Fatou Diome
(Éditions Flammarion, 272 pages, 2008)

*****Translation sample available*****

Unfulfilled! This word howls, whispers or murmurs in our ears of so many misses and failures. It surely captures a good part of what we have to grasp in order to make sense of our joys and sorrows.

—Prologue to *Inassouvies, nos vies*

The hot emotions—anger, desire, ambition—are traditionally thought to beget change, but a lack of fulfillment too can alter lives. Betty, in her mid-thirties and quite alone, sits in her window and watches the people who live in the building across the street. She is particularly intrigued by a joyful elderly woman she decides to call Félicité.

When Félicité is forced into a retirement home, Betty moves away from her window and her solitude to track her down and become her friend. Betty grows into a confidante, not just of Félicité but also of the other residents in the home. She listens to their stories and in return keeps them informed about the lives of her neighbors across the street: the neglected bourgeois wife, the single “bobo-environmentalist” literature teacher on the third floor, and the elderly couple on the second floor who met in the concentration camps.

Quite suddenly, in response to a piece of news, Félicité is plunged into a deep silence. A few days later she dies. The melancholy Betty then experiences is caused by more than Félicité’s death; long-buried and painful memories emerge.

*Like her novel, **Fatou Diome** is a warm blend of Africa and France, of small town and large city. She was born in 1968 in Niodior, a small island in Senegal. At 22, she moved to France, where she pursued a doctorate in modern literature at the University of Strasbourg. Her first novel, *Le Ventre de l’Atlantique* (Anne Carrière, 2003; *Serpent’s Tail*, 2004), was a great commercial and media success and has been excerpted in the Penguin Anthology of Contemporary African Writing, to be published in May 2009. Her other works include the novel *Kétala* (Flammarion, 2006) and a collection of short-stories entitled *La Préférence Nationale* (*Présence africaine*, 2001).*

Satan Lake
J&G Dryansky
(Éditions Actes Sud, 2010)

*****Original manuscript in English*****

“J&G Dryansky's latest novel has that seductive combination rarely found in fiction these days—powerful suspense, emotional depth, and real entertainment. Which, once you start reading, makes *Satan Lake* diabolically difficult to put down.”—**Alan Furst**

A dark and clever coming-of-age novel about two teenagers, a series of high crimes, and punishment, Satan Lake skillfully combines horror, hope, and even humor to tell a story that brings to mind The Virgin Suicides and American Beauty.

Things couldn't be worse for Angie and Ross, two 14-year-old friends. Angie's parents are recently divorced, and though her father has custody of her, he forces her to spend the summer with her mother because he is too “busy” in Manhattan having an affair with his 18-year-old intern. Her mother has moved back to her hometown in upstate New York and is also too “busy” with her newfound sexual freedom to care much about her daughter. Angie takes a summer job at her Uncle Vinnie's pizzeria. Come the end of her workday, Angie seldom has a home to return to; her mother needs the house for “parties” and often locks Angie out.

Her only friend is Ross, who works with her at the pizzeria. He is the son of the town's police chief—and has problems of his own. Ross's mother has a terminal illness and only a short while to live, and his father Will is on a hunt for a killer who repeatedly manages to sneak up on people during the sex act. When the local librarian is shot during an S&M session, the town manager sends for help the police chief doesn't want—and that's only the beginning. . . .

Twenty-five years later, Angie tells how she fell in love with Ross and about their unforgettable journey to *Satan Lake*. The story of the murder investigation is told in a parallel narrative that includes Will's mentally ill brother Charles, Thurston, a local murder suspect, and a town that keeps its nasty secrets carefully hidden.

Gerry Dryansky is the senior European correspondent of Condé Nast Traveler, and Joanne Dryansky is a screenwriter. Both are native New Yorkers who moved to Paris in the mid-1980s. This husband-and-wife team wrote Fatima's Good Fortune, which was published to critical acclaim in 2003 by Miramax in the United States and Hutchinson in the United Kingdom. Gerry has published two other novels, Other People (Saturday Review Press/E.P. Dutton, 1973) and The Heirs (Putnam, 1978).

***Al-Hafida al-amerikiyya*/The American Granddaughter**
Inaam Kachachi
(Published in Arabic by Dar el-Jadid, 2008, and in French by Liana Levi, fall 2009)

*****Original Arabic manuscript available*****

*****Shortlisted for the 2009 International Prize for Arabic Fiction*****

The American Granddaughter is a portrait of an Iraqi expatriate who, on her return home, struggles to reconnect with her country and herself.

After her father was accused of conspiracy and then tortured by the regime of Saddam Hussein, Zeina fled Iraq for the United States with her parents and her brother. Raised with a love for her native country, she is nonetheless convinced of the stance of her adopted home. She volunteers to return to Iraq as an interpreter for the U.S. Army, believing in the nobility of her mission. When her grandmother comes to greet her in the military camp, however, Zeina begins to feel ashamed to stand in front of her wearing the uniform of a foreign army. She is sent to work in the city of Tikrit and soon finds out that her role goes beyond translating. She is asked to be present during the interrogations of Iraqi prisoners and must accompany her unit when it bursts into houses in the middle of the night.

During a visit to her grandmother, she falls in love with Moyaymen, the son of her nanny. But to him, Zeina is on the side of the enemy and no longer an Iraqi; he refuses her advances. When she returns to Detroit, her American boyfriend also cannot understand her actions and ignores her. Zeina decides to return to Iraq, but she arrives just in time to see her grandmother die.

Inaam Kachachi was born in Baghdad in 1952. She worked as a journalist for the press and radio of her country until she moved to Paris in 1979, where she earned a Ph.D. in Islamic civilization at La Sorbonne. A press correspondent for Arab magazines and newspapers in Paris, she was the editorial director of the Arab edition of Marie-Claire. Kachachi has published two nonfiction books, Lorna, Her Years with Jawad Selim (Arabic, Dar el-Jadid, Beirut, 1998), and Paroles d'Irakiennes (Le Serpent à Plumes, Paris, 2003). In 2004, she made a 30-minute documentary about Naziha Al Dulaimi, the Iraqi physician who, in 1959, was the first woman to become a minister in an Arab country. Her debut novel, Sawaqi al-Quloob (Streams of Hearts), was excerpted in Banipal 26 and published in Arabic in 2005 by Al-Muassassa al-Arabiya lil-Nashr.

Une femme sans qualités/A Woman Without Qualities

Virginie Mouzat

(Éditions Albin Michel, 177 pages, 2009)

A woman is traveling from despair to strength, from Paris to Shanghai, from internal solitude to the possibility of sharing. . . . She needs to explain her journey to the man she is learning to love, but how? In a stunning debut novel, written as a letter, the author draws a vivid picture of a woman's changing sense of her femininity.

The narrator is seen by others as beautiful, sexy, and successful, a woman whom men walk across a room to be close to. She plays the part, but behind the mask of the femme fatale is another sort of woman. From childhood, she had felt she was unlike other girls. As she grew, her feelings intensified and she came to believe she was not quite a woman . . . but certainly not a

man. What was she? Then a physician confirmed her fears. She had no ovaries, her uterus had never fully developed; she was irreversibly sterile. How does one feel womanly, she wondered, when your body has betrayed you?

She tries to arrange her life to suit what she believes are her needs. She makes an arrangement with Sontaar, a Swedish man, and lives with him in his house in Paris. They are seldom together: She has her own room and comes and goes as she pleases with no need for explanation. When she realizes that her life consists of pretense, of boring dinners where alcohol and drugs are common, of endless business trips and casual sex, she searches for a way out. She asks Sontaar to buy a house by the sea where she can try to understand herself, try to find peace.

Then, during a trip to Shanghai, she meets a man who in many ways is like her. He is always on the run, always between flights and countries. He already has two women in his life, and yet they fall in love. Truly in love. But she does not yet understand herself . . . or him. Who is he? Will he be able to accept her condition? How will she tell him? She chooses to write so that she need not face him as he learns her story. This book, this long and beautiful love letter, a tribute to life, is the result.

Virginie Mouzat is a fashion journalist living in Paris. Une Femme sans qualités is her first novel.

Qui a tué l'ayatollah Kanuni?/Who Killed the Ayatollah Kanuni?
Näiri Nahapétian
(Liana Levi, 278 pages, 2009)

*****Spanish rights sold to Alianza Editorial*****

A debut novel and first of a series, Qui a tué l'ayatollah Kanuni? takes us behind the scenes of political and religious Iran.

Narek Djamshid was just a child during the Islamic Revolution, when he and his father fled the country. In 2005, just a few weeks away from the Iranian presidential election and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's surprise victory, Narek returns to discover his lost roots and begin a career as a journalist. One evening, he escorts Leila Tabihi, a friend of his late mother and a celebrated "Islamic feminist" as well as a candidate for the presidency, to meet the Ayatollah Kanuni, a high-placed judge also known as the Butcher of Mashad. When they arrive at his office, they discover that he has been murdered, his lifeless body lying on the floor, and they don't have a chance to say a word in their defense before they are arrested and sent to the infamous Evin prison.

Thanks to Leila's connections, and in exchange for her promise to withdraw her candidacy, they are let go. Once outside, they both try to discover who killed the Ayatollah Kanuni, each following their own leads. Tracing evidence all the way back to the foundations of the Islamic republic, their investigations reveal the secret activities of a religious foundation and its

connections to Iran's oil industry. Narek will also discover the circumstances of his own mother's death in the aftermath of the 1979 revolution.

Näiri Nahapétian was born in Iran in 1970, grew up in Paris, and returned to her country as a correspondent for French newspapers. *Qui a tué l'ayatollah Kanuni?* is her first novel.

N'oublie pas d'être heureuse/Don't Forget to Be Happy
Christine Urban
(Éditions Albin Michel, 218 pages, January 2009)

How do we give our values to our children? Can the value of happiness be passed on to the next generation? With humor, and in a novel rich in personalities, the author helps her children understand the importance of being happy with one's life. To do so, she invents Marie-Lila, whose father, before he died, told her, "N'oublie pas d'être heureuse."

Marie-Lila, as a child, looks out her bedroom window and sees the coast of Morocco. The ocean view is spectacular . . . but it doesn't make her happy. What would make her happy, she believes, is a view of the city of her dreams—a view of Paris.

The Paris she longs for is the Paris of her mother's cousin Fifi. Each time Fifi arrives for one of her frequent visits, she brings a suitcase full of gifts for her little cousin—wonderful gifts, even lingerie—from glorious Paris. She also brings an endless stream of stories about the city and advice that Marie-Lila takes to heart.

"Only if you are thin and live in Paris," Fifi tells her, "will you attain nirvana." Finally, after years of dreaming herself there, she moves to Paris to live with Fifi. But the Fifi she lives with is not the Fifi she thought she knew, a Fifi who was "tout Paris." Instead she is a middle-aged homebody, uninterested in social life. Marie-Lila, however, still dreams of the snobbish high life Fifi had told her about when she was a child. She becomes involved with a young aristocrat, heir to a fortune but weighed down by family obligations.

In this lyrical novel, self-acceptance and a deeper understanding of life slowly evolve. Marie-Lila realizes that she is no snob and that even if one is thin and living in Paris, nirvana—the highest happiness—does not come by denying one's true self.

Christine Urban grew up in Casablanca and is now a journalist as well as the author of a number of previous novels. A memoir, *One Day My Sister Disappeared* was published by Random House in 2004 and in Random House Trade Paperback in 2005.

Le Testament syriaque/The Syriac Testament
Barouk Salamé
(Éditions Payot et Rivages, 522 pages, March 2009)

- **Italian rights already sold in auction**

Le Testament syriaque is an explosive thriller—and a cry against religious ignorance—that involves an ancient sacred manuscript, the world and underworld of collectors, Islamic militants, and, of course, a beautiful secret agent.

Paul Mesure, a journalist, has just returned to Paris from Timbuktu, where he found, by chance, an ancient Syriac—old Aramaic—manuscript. Broke, he expects to resell it easily, but he has not factored in the bizarre behavior of the wealthy amateur collectors of such relics. He finds out that they form a worldwide subculture that keeps track of coveted items, especially when there's money to be made.

As soon as word about the Syriac Testament gets out, bodies begin to pile up, including those of Paul's best friends and neighbors. He knows that there are people—even seemingly civilized people—who will kill to get the manuscript. But why are secret agents from different countries, including Algerian Islamic militants, trying to track him down? He cannot decipher the Syriac Testament but assumes that it must contain something that gives it more than simple commercial value. Could it be Mohammed's testament, an early version of the Koran, or even a lost gospel?

Out of fear, curiosity, and a desire for revenge, Paul and his girlfriend, Sonia, try to investigate on their own, but the police soon become involved. The matter is handed over to police chief Sarfaty, a philosopher-investigator well versed in Middle Eastern culture. The murder investigation takes Sarfaty deep into the origins of Islam, with its hidden enigmas and traditions of encoded texts. He thinks that he understands . . . but what he doesn't know is that a brilliant Pakistani beauty is working behind the scenes, unafraid of leaving a trail of blood as she tries to return the sacred text to its country of origin.

Barouk Salamé is of Franco-Arab descent and is an expert in the philosophy of religion and in hand weapons. Le Testament syriaque is his first novel.

L'art de la joie/The Art of Joy

Goliarda Sapienza

Translated from the Italian by Nathalie Castagné

Foreword by Angelo Maria Pellegrino

(Éditions Viviane Hamy, 636 pages, 2005)

- A best-selling novel in France, with more than 150,000 copies sold
- Rights sold to Spain, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Greece
- Film rights sold to Catleya Productions in association with TF1 International

An unquestionable discovery, a phenomenal skimming of the political, moral and social history of Italy, under the watchful eye of a marvelous Sicilian narrator with her sometimes rational and sometimes passionate impulses. It's the discovery of an exceptional writer.

—*Le Monde*

Modesta, the Sicilian heroin of Sapienza's stunning rediscovered novel, was born at the very beginning of the twentieth century into extreme poverty. Her mother's affection and attention turn to her younger sister, who has Down's syndrome. Modesta's childhood does not last long; by the age of 10, she has been raped and has lost what family she had in a fire she deliberately started in their home. She is sent to a convent, where, in addition to receiving an education, she draws the attention of Mother Leonora and becomes her protégé.

But happiness is short-lived for the young girl. After Mother Leonora's death, she is forced to leave the convent and become a maid in a wealthy aristocratic family. Despite an inauspicious beginning for her there, her status in the family evolves over time, and she marries the retarded son and heir. Now a member of society, Modesta nonetheless maintains a fierce independence and carves out a life for herself that is way ahead of her time. Thirsty for adventure and freedom, she embarks on an affair and gives birth to an illegitimate child. Still thirsty for more than her bourgeois life, she engages in sexual experimentation and gives shelter to the poor and persecuted against the background of World War II and the rise of fascism.

Goliarda Sapienza was born in Sicily in 1924 into a socialist-anarchist family. At the age of 16, she enrolled in the Academy of Arts in Rome and worked with directors such as Luchino Visconti. L'Art de la joie was published in its entirety in 1998, 20 years after the manuscript was completed. Indeed, the book was rejected by most publishers, and Sapienza decided to put it aside to pursue other writing projects. She died in 1996, never having had the chance to see the publication of her novel, a brilliant and shocking saga often compared with Lampudesa's The Leopard.

Le banquier et le perroquet/The Banker and the Parrot
Philippe Simiot
(Éditions Albin Michel, 474 pages, 2006)

This historical novel, inspired by the true story of Stephen Girard, witnesses the life of the merchant, banker, philanthropist, and patriot who lived the American dream from its beginning.

July 4, 1776: The American ports are blockaded by the English Crown. Etienne Girard, a French sea captain, is chased away from the port of New York and steers his boat up the Delaware River to Philadelphia. There, making friends with Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams, who, like him, were motivated by the principles of the Enlightenment, he found himself in the midst of a revolution. On October 27, 1778, as George Washington is taking the presidential oath in New York, Girard swears fidelity to the state of Pennsylvania and becomes citizen Stephen Girard.

As the United States grew and prospered, so did Girard who became a merchant, using his maritime abilities to increase his profits. When, in 1791, the Congress of the United States sanctioned a national bank and permitted the public to buy shares, Girard invested heavily. By 1811, he was the bank's largest stockholder and was later able to buy out the government. When the U.S. Treasury failed at the start of the War of 1812, it was Girard's bank, which provided a loan of \$8 million, that made victory possible.

Girard was both a visionary and a philanthropist. During the terrible 1793 outbreak of yellow fever, he established a hospital in Philadelphia for patients with the disease, and unlike other well-to-do citizens, he stayed in the city to care for the sick and dying. His young wife became increasingly insane, so Girard led a life that was often solitary except for the company of his parrot, Macao. At the time of his death, Girard, one of the wealthiest men in America, bequeathed nearly his entire fortune to charitable and city institutions in Philadelphia and New Orleans, including an endowment for a boarding school for orphans, now Philadelphia's Girard College.

Combining his talents of novelist and historian, Simiot gives life once again to the long-gone man who became the first American millionaire. Written in the style of a journal, this historical novel gives us an intimate vision of the birth of America.

Philippe Simiot is the son of Bernard Simiot, a famous French historical novelist. At his father's death, he undertook the editorship of the new adventures of the Carbec family saga in the novels Carbec, mon empereur (Albin Michel, 1999) and Carbec l'américain (Albin Michel, 2002). Le banquier et le perroquet is his third novel.

Erevan

Gilbert Sinoué

(Éditions Flammarion, 353 pages, 2009)

Greek rights sold

The battle between the Ottoman Empire and its Armenian minority is told by Gilbert Sinoué through the lives and deaths of the Tomassian family. He takes them—and us—from the arrests in Constantinople to eastern Anatolia and to the deportation trails across the desert of Mesopotamia. The story is fiction, the facts are not.

Constantinople, August 26, 1896: To make known their poor treatment by the Turks, a band of Armenian rebels, *fedais*, infiltrates the Imperial Ottoman Bank and takes 150 people hostage. Although arrested, they are soon liberated, thanks to the pressure of Western ambassadors. The men are exiled to France, but in revenge for their act, 5,000 Armenians are massacred.

Eastern Anatolia, July 1914: Three generations of the Tomassian family live in Erzurum. The patriarch is Vahe. Living with him are two sons, the younger Achod and the elder Bedos, who has a wife, Anna, and two children—Aram, their 12-year-old son, and Yeva, their 14-year-old daughter.

The start of World War I, 1914: “Young Turks” reign over the country with an iron hand and cause Turkey to take sides with Germany. In January 1915, the third Ottoman army is crushed in Sarikamish. The Young Turks then decide to resolve the “Armenian question” once and for all by exterminating all Armenians.

Constantinople, the night of April 24, 1915: The Turkish army arrests all Armenians with intellectual or political standing and deports them. Bedos is among those taken. In the following days, in Erzurum, Aram and Yeva must watch as the rest of their family is slaughtered. As part of a group of 100,000 Armenians of all ages, they are then forced on a deportation march—to avoid immediate massacre—into the deserts of Syria and Mesopotamia.

Erevan tells the story of a true road through hell for the two children and those they travel with. He writes in human detail the life on the deportation trails, the resistance of some, the death of many, and the unquenchable spirit of the uninhabitable desert.

Gilbert Sinoué is both a writer and a historian. Born in Cairo, where he lived until the age of 18, he arrived in France in 1968. He is the best-selling author of 17 novels, essays, and biographies.

Véra

**Alexandre Skorobogatov; translated from the Russian by Dany Savelli
(Éditions Autrement, 112 pages, first published in 1991, April 2009)**

Dutch and Greek rights sold

Voted best novel of the year by *Yunost* magazine

In the tradition of Gogol and Dostoyevsky, Véra is a suspenseful tale of a mind tormented by jealousy.

Nikolai is obsessed by the belief that his actress wife is unfaithful. His obsession, his frightening jealousy, is manifested in the form of SB, a malicious advisor, who lives inside Nikolai's head and home. During a perverse mental dialogue, SB tells Nikolai about Véra, describing in loving detail how beautiful she is and what is needed to keep her happy. Everything SB says torments Nikolai. Gradually the space between dream, imagination, and reality blurs. Time and time again, Nikolai cries out in vain as he watches through a small window from behind closed doors as SB seduces his beloved Véra.

Drawing us deeply into Nikolai's mind, Skorobogatov carefully crafts scenes of unease and suspense. We come to understand that Nikolai suffers not only from the visions conjured by SB but also from tragic memories of his past and premonitions of what surely will occur. To test his obsession with Véra's infidelity, Nikolai goes to the theater at which she works. Convinced he sees her performing naked onstage, Nikolai storms out. His fury, which cannot be contained, is expressed in acts of violence on the unfortunate souls who cross his path. When Nikolai is sent to a psychiatric hospital, is he even aware that Véra, loyal despite his behavior, will do to anything to help the man she truly loves?

Alexandre Skorobogatov was born in Byelorussia in 1963. He is the author of five novels, and his short story, "The Executioner" (EKSMO, M, 2007) was selected for an anthology of the best Russian short stories of the twentieth century. After the fall of the Soviet regime, he settled in Antwerp, Belgium. Véra was published for the first time in Russia in 1991 under the title Sergeant Bertrand and was voted best novel of the year by popular magazine Yunost.

Mariage Mixte/Mixed Marriage

Marc Weitzmann

(Éditions Stock, 332 pages, 2000)

- Short-listed for the Prix Médicis

Outstanding for the intensity of its story and for the risks taken by the author in writing it...

-Philippe Sollers/Le Journal du Dimanche

As singular as an Echenoz, as troubling as a Modiano, and more profound than a Houellebecq, we would without hesitation give this young author [...] the Goncourt.

-Marie Claire

Mariage Mixte leaves one breathless...

-Le Magazine Littéraire

The notorious tale of the “affaire Turquin,” about a veterinarian in Nice in 1997, becomes the basis for a best-selling novel and succès de scandale about identity and self-alienation. Based on a true family drama, Marc Weitzmann’s dark novel recounts the story of Jean-Christophe Cottard, a veterinarian accused of murdering his son.

On the surface, Cottard’s life seems idyllic: He has a wife, a child, a good job, and a place in the high society of Nice. But with his son’s sudden disappearance, everything falls apart to reveal layers of bizarre sexual perversion, abuse, psychological manipulation—and the onset of anti-Semitic behavior once his wife breaks the news about her Jewish lover. The narrator, a writer looking for inspiration, investigates the crime and digs into the family members’ lives. What really happened to the child? How far can you delve into your own madness to discover the madness of others?

Skillfully blurring the line that separates fiction from reality, Weitzmann has created a psychological masterpiece. The real “affaire Turquin” preceded by a few years the rise of a new anti-Semitism in France that the novel subtly reveals.

Marc Weitzmann spent 10 years as the editor-in-chief of the magazine Les Inrockuptibles. He is the author of Enquête (Actes Sud, 1996), Chaos (Grasset, 1997), Livre de guerre (Stock, 2001), and Une place dans le monde (Stock, 2002), among other works. He received a residential fellowship to the McDowell Colony in 2003 and translated into French David Rieff’s Swimming in a Sea of Death: A Son’s Memoir.

HISTORY

Le National-socialisme et l'Antiquité/National Socialism and the Classical World

Johann Chapoutot

(Presses Universitaires de France, 538 pages, 2008)

A historical, literary, and epistemological study of the Nazis' plundering of the intellectual heritage of the classical world to justify their own cultural and political aims.

It is often believed that the historical underpinnings of Nazism were exclusively Germanic, dating back to Frederick II of Prussia and to Bismarck. However significant they may have been, the most central beliefs of national socialism, as Johann Chapoutot shows, emanate from the ancient Mediterranean world.

References to antiquity were prevalent in Nazi-Germany in official speeches, in official state architecture; in sculpture, cinema, and journalism; and in the organization of festivities such as the Olympic Games of 1936. Greco-Roman culture conferred prestige on the Nazis even as it served as a model for the new man, a future society, and an empire yet to be defined.

It was from the ideological foundations of the classical world that the Nazis derived numerous tenets of their empire: In particular, the supposed importance to the survival of the empire of the purity of race found a precedent here. The very story of the failed empires of Greece and Rome gave the Nazis a further impetus to place this struggle at the heart of their world and not let it go.

A graduate of the prestigious École Normale Supérieure and Sciences Po, Johann Chapoutot is a history expert. He is an assistant professor at the University of Grenoble and teaches contemporary history at the Institut d'Études Politiques and the École Polytechnique, both in Paris. In 2003–2004, he was a lecturer at Harvard University.

Le traité des trois imposteurs: Histoire d'un livre blasphématoire qui n'existait pas/

The Treatise of the Three Impostors: History of a Blasphemous Book That Never Existed

Georges Minois

(Éditions Albin Michel, 327 pages, 2009)

Religious scandal and political intrigue in the thirteenth century involved the Holy Roman Emperor, three popes, blasphemy, excommunication, religious wars . . . and a book—a book that probably never existed. Georges Minois, in his latest examination of forgotten religious history, tells the story of an antireligious book that roiled religion and rulers for centuries: *The Treatise of the Three Impostors*.

In the early thirteenth century, there was a struggle for power between the pope and Frederick II, the holy Roman emperor. Church and state disputed territory, the right way to think of the Arabs, and scientific reason. It was a nasty fight. Then a nefarious rumor began to circulate that Frederick had written a blasphemous book that rejected the three great monotheistic religions.

Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed, the book was said to claim, were illusionary symbols of religion—and yet people were dying in their names.

Rumors of the book reached many people, but for hundreds of years, no one had laid hands on a copy. Then, starting in the eighteenth century, a succession of printed texts appeared—and in an increasing number of languages.

Historians have debated the origins and influences of these texts ever since. Now, Georges Minois has written the biography of the supposed book. He discusses two important versions—one Latin, one French—that differ in content. In doing so, he provides a new view of the existence and power of atheism, blasphemy, and free thought during a time when it was claimed that everyone was a true believer. Through the centuries, the book was an intellectual resistance to the religious power held by rabbis, priests, and imams and was considered clandestine literature. *The Treatise of the Three Impostors* changed history even though it never existed.

Georges Minois is a historian, a specialist in religious history, and the author of Les Origines du mal: Une histoire du péché original (Fayard, 2002), Histoire de l'athéisme (Fayard, 1998), Histoire de l'avenir: Des prophètes à la perspective (Fayard, 1996), and L'Eglise et la science: Histoire d'un malentendu (Fayard, 1990–1991).

La vie sexuelle à Rome/The Sexual Life of Ancient Rome

Géraldine Puccini-Delbey
(Éditions Tallandier, 383 pages, 2007)

The sex life of ancient Romans is examined by a specialist in ancient Latin literature who finds that it explains much about the structure of Roman society.

Sexual preferences are now generally thought to be primarily biological in origin, with community-wide constraints placed on some sexual practices. But ancient Romans would have been bemused by a view of people as primarily heterosexual or homosexual in desire or practice. To the Romans, sexual choice was about broader preferences and quite different societal constraints. All of Roman behavior, including sexuality, appears to have been organized by sex, social status, and age. A male citizen of Rome—the highest level within the population—could penetrate anyone, but depending on age could never be penetrated by another. Other members of the population—male and female—were subject to other rules about sexual penetration, rules that depended on status. One set of such rules applied to the respectable matriarch, another to a younger wife, and a quite different set of rules and conditions applied to free-spirited courtesans and certainly to slaves of either sex. The few known exceptions to these codes of behavior were emperors Tiberius, Caligula, and Nero.

The author explores ways in which the structure of sexual codes mimicked that of the general Roman society and makes clear a fascinating, complex, and interconnected set of social beliefs and behaviors that were quite different from our own.

Géraldine Puccini-Delbey is a professor of Latin language and literature at the Université de Bordeaux III. She is a noted authority on the author Apuleius, a novelist of the second century CE.

Hadrien, l'empereur virtuose/Hadrian, the Virtuoso Emperor

Yves Roman

(Éditions Payot, 527 pages, 2008)

Yves Roman, a specialist in the history of the Roman Empire, traces the fascinating life of Hadrian, emperor of Rome from AD 117 to 138, and the third of the so-called five good emperors. Roman explores in depth the complex facets of the emperor's personality and the arc of his life, drawing comparisons with Marguerite Yourcenar's novel *Mémoires d'Hadrien* (*Memoirs of Hadrian*). Hadrian was a stoic, an epicurean philosopher, and a scholar of Greek and law. He was also an exceptionally gifted man, passionate about science, astrology, and the arts and about bringing their benefits to his people. He was, however, an arrogant and authoritarian leader, both admired and hated by his contemporaries. Hadrian's relationship with his lover, Antinous, was complicated and deeply important to his reign: When Antinous died, Hadrian had him worshipped as a god throughout the empire and had cities built in his honor.

During Hadrian's long reign, he introduced policies that improved his administration and enforced cultural cohesion within the empire, but he had difficulty explaining his political visions to the Roman people. He abandoned the expansionist policies of his adoptive father, Trajan, establishing instead a culturally and geographically broad Greco-Roman world—protected by fortifications such as Hadrian's Wall in Northern England.

Yves Roman is a professor of ancient history at the University of Lumière-Lyon II. He is the author of several works on the early Roman Empire, notably Empereurs et sénateurs: Une histoire politique de l'empire romain (Fayard, 2001) and Histoire de la Gaule (VIe s. av. J.-C.-Ier siècle ap.J.-C.) (Fayard, 1997).

L'Invention de la culture hétérosexuelle/The Invention of Heterosexual Culture

Louis-Georges Tin

(Éditions Autrement, 208 pages, 2008)

L'invention de la culture hétérosexuelle by Louis-Georges Tin is a study of the social, artistic, religious, medical, and political origins of heterosexual culture. According to Tin, the first emergence of a truly heterosexual society was not until medieval times, and it grew out of the "homosocial" culture of knights, and despite resistance amongst members of the clergy, and in the medical community.

Turning to examples in medieval prose and lyrics, Tin unveils a portrait of gender behavior in the couple in the twelfth century. Representations of couples are predominantly about two

knights and their manly friendship, a relationship based on love, trust, and devotion. Tin points to these “homosocial” values as the basis for the nascent heterosexual culture. Omnipresent in these relationships are ideals of love and chivalry most often expressed through song. The clergy was resistant to this development, as was the medical community, for whom love was considered a sickness, best avoided in relation to marriage.

***Louis-Georges Tin** is the chairman of the IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia) committee, which every year organizes an antihomophobia day. He is also director of Paris town hall’s gay and lesbian archive center and directs the “Sexes en tous genres” (“Various Genders”) collection at Autrement. He is also a spokesman for CRAN (Conseil représentatif des Associations noires/Representative Council of Black Organizations). Among other projects, Tin directed, in 2003, Le Dictionnaire de l’homophobie, published by Presses Universitaires de France, and translated in English by Arsenal Pulp Press in 2008, and entitled The Dictionary of Homophobia: A Global History of Gay & Lesbian Experience.*

ILLUSTRATED BOOKS

L’Affiche Antisémitique en France sous l’occupation/The Anti-Semitic Poster in France during the Occupation

Diane Afoumado

(Berg International Éditeurs, illustrated throughout, 172 pages, 2008)

Providing a unique political history of anti-Semitic propaganda in France during the Occupation, *L’Affiche Antisémitique* traces the impact of posters as well as broadsides, banners, and billboards on public opinion. Afoumado also provides an analysis of each print, from its artistic to its technical aspects. Indeed, hundreds of illustrations reveal how the French were confronted in their daily lives with a carefully designed view of the world in which a mythical Jewish enemy was portrayed as a political threat to the nation and hence had to be expelled.

Underpinned by meticulous research and some striking visual images of “the Jewish enemy,” Afoumado’s study convincingly demonstrates how this type of propaganda helped the non-Jewish population willingly accept the new anti-Semitic measures introduced by the occupying forces and the Vichy government.

Diane Afoumado is a historian who specializes in Holocaust studies. She has taught history at the University of Paris X and collaborated on several research projects, including one with renowned historian and attorney Serge Klarsfeld on the French internment camps. She also contributed to a collection edited by Michael Paris, *Repicturing the Second World War: Representations in Film and Television*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2008. She now works for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

MIDDLE EAST

Avoir vingt ans au pays des ayatollahs: Vivre dans la ville sainte de Qom/Being Twenty Years Old in the Country of Ayatollahs: Living in the Holy City of Qom

Farhad Khosrokhavar with Amir Nikpey
(Éditions Robert Laffont, 405 pages, 2009)

The headlines tell us about the thoughts and actions of the leaders of Iran, but here, for the first time, we hear the voices of hundreds of young Iranians. Through their own words, we learn of their lives, thoughts, hopes, and dreams.

Being Twenty Years Old in the Country of the Ayatollahs lets young Iranians—those who were born after the Islamic Revolution—tell their own stories. Zoubeida, Peyman, and the many others who are quoted in this book live in Qom, the holiest city in Iran. Islamic students come to Qom from all over the country to study the Koran to become an ayatollah.

Here the students have the opportunity to speak for themselves. When they do, we hear their attempt to balance their faith and their respect for the Koran with a desire to live a modern life.

In their hyperrepressive society, family life and relationships, work, study, and leisure time are all organized around Islamic standards. In public, secularization barely exists; women are required to wear the chador, alcohol and drugs are banned, and the morality police are everywhere. The young generation finds clever ways to avoid the rules, learning that hypocrisy is necessary just to get through the day. Yet with even greater hypocrisy, the elders and the authorities pretend not to see the students' actions.

Over a period of three years, the author interviewed hundreds of young Iranians to explore their world of bizarre contradictions, a world that is seemingly opposed to Western society yet in reality hungers for modernization without loss of core beliefs. Khosrokhavar is the only sociologist who has been able to conduct an investigation of this magnitude in the country of the Ayatollahs and is thus in a unique position to expose us to the new emerging Iran.

Farhad Khosrokhavar, a specialist in religion, is director of research at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. Amir Nikpey, an anthropologist, has previously published Politique et religion en Iran contemporain: Naissance d'une institution.

Iran, L'heure du choix/What Future for Iran?

Reza Pahlavi with Michel Taubmann
(Éditions Denoël, 254 pages, February 2009)

Thirty years after the Islamic Revolution, the son of the last Shah of Iran speaks out about the country of his birth, the legacy of his father, and his commitment to the cause of a democratic Iran.

Reza Pahlavi was a teenager in 1979 when his father, the shah, was ousted at the start of the

Iranian Islamic Revolution. In the years since, Pahlavi, who now lives in Maryland, has been a leading advocate of the principles of freedom, democracy, and human rights for Iranian citizens; he is involved with reformist activists both inside Iran and abroad. Pahlavi's message to the international community is simple: The only choice is not between the endless negotiations, which serve only the Islamic republic, and a military option with terrible consequences first for the Middle East and then for the rest of the world. There is a third way, less costly and more legitimate. This option proposes the support of democratic forces in Iran and a genuine dialogue, not with the mullah regime but with the Iranian people.

In *What Future for Iran?* Pahlavi, in discussion with journalist Michel Taubmann, considers how the third option can be achieved. Among his suggestions: the institution of a democratic parliamentary system based on a monarchy or a republic, with a constitution founded on the International Declaration of Human Rights, the establishment of a lawful state guaranteeing the civil liberties of its citizens, a national reconciliation based on the model of South Africa, and finally the separation of religion from the state.

Pahlavi recognizes and discusses the faults of his father's regime. Although he is the legitimate heir to the peacock throne, he does not seek restoration of the monarchy. What he does want is that Iranian people alone be given the right to choose the eventual form of their new system, whether that is a parliamentary monarchy, or a republic.

Reza Pahlavi was born on October 31, 1960, in Tehran, Iran. He was in Texas, studying to be a fighter pilot, at the time of the Islamic Revolution. He then completed his education at the University of Southern California. Pahlavi is the author of *Winds of Change: The Future of Democracy in Iran* (Regnery Publishing, 2002) and has given interviews to VOA Persian TV, CNN, and BBC One, as well as to international periodicals such as El-Watan, Newsweek, and Time magazine.

Michel Taubmann is a French journalist. Just after the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, he formed a think tank, Cercle de l'Oratoire, which he now leads and which produces a journal, Le Meilleur des mondes.

For more information on Pahlavi's latest speeches and press releases, please visit his Web site: <http://www.rezapahlavi.org>.

OENOLOGY

Les vins effervescents: Du terroir à la bulle/Sparkling Wines: From the Vine to the Bottle

Gérard Liger-Belair and Joël Rochard

(Éditions Dunod/Éditions La Vigne, 276 pages, 2008)

A book of science and charm, giving us a glorious taste of the sparkling creations that have been called “the Devil’s wine.”

In 2004, Liger-Belair published, to critical acclaim, *Uncorked: the Science of Champagne* (Princeton University Press). Now, with Joël Rochard, he has written about the latest advances in the making of effervescent wines.

Although French monk Dom Perignon (1638–1715) is often said to have invented champagne, an English scientist and physician, Christopher Merret, documented the process 40 years earlier. That *méthode champenoise*, honored by custom and by law, has been used for generations. Yet there have been advances, changes that make the manufacture and thus the consumption of champagne and other effervescent wines easier and even more enjoyable.

The authors describe the winemaking process—from harvesting the grapes to tasting the wines—using a combination of their experience. Liger-Belair specializes in the physical chemistry of carbonated beverages; Rochard is an oenologist and agricultural engineer. Their broad knowledge of viticulture and agriculture and their passion for the bubbly help everyone—the professional, the student of viticulture, and the avid wine lover—better understand the winemaking process. The wines produced in France and the rest of the world are explored in detail, including both traditional and modern technologies. The authors present the science behind the mystery of wine’s bubbles, its complexity, and its heady aromas.

Gérard Liger-Belair is a professor of chemical physics at the Université of Reims Champagne-Ardenne, in the heart of the Champagne region. He has been awarded numerous national and international prizes for his research on the physical chemistry of bubbles in carbonated beverages. Joël Rochard is a well-known agricultural engineer and oenologist. He has conducted extensive research into technologies for producing carbonated beverages and written many review articles. With Carine Herbin, he recently wrote Découverte de la Dégustation du Champagne.

PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Paroles du Dalai Lama aux femmes/Collected Sayings from the Dalai Lama to Women

Catherine Barry

(Éditions du Rocher, 291 pages, 2009)

Includes a lexicon of Tibetan words and chronology of the history of Tibet

His Holiness, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, often praises women and has said that he believes that the next Dalai Lama could be a woman. This book is a tribute to those he has called “the source of genuine human compassion.”

During his last stay in France in August 2008, the Dalai Lama made a point that the future belongs to women and that to survive, the world needs to adopt the values that women embody. Catherine Barry has known the Dalai Lama for 20 years; as a woman and a Buddhist, she felt that the world needed to better understand his views of women. She collected the interviews she had had with him over the years and the notes she had taken during his seminars and conferences. Barry then read the material again, gathering the thoughts specifically related to women and organizing them into this important volume.

The book opens with a letter from the author to the Dalai Lama, addressing a wide range of topics—political, social, personal, and spiritual—having to do with women. This is a book about women, but it is also a book for everyone, to help us move into our future.

Catherine Barry is a journalist. She has published a number of books, including Sages paroles du Dalai Lama (Éditions 1, 2000, published in the United States by North Atlantic, 2002). For 10 years, from 1997 to 2007, she hosted a show on Buddhism on French television on which the Dalai Lama appeared several times.

Mon autobiographie spirituelle/My Spiritual Autobiography

The Dalai Lama, with Sofia Stril-Rever

(Presses de la Renaissance, 340 pages, March 2009)

*****Foreign rights already sold to Italy, Germany and Spain*****

Tenzin Gyatso, the fourteenth Dalai Lama, was born in 1935 to a peasant family in a remote part of Tibet. Although living in exile, he is the beloved traditional and religious leader of millions of Tibetans and has become a global icon of peace, compassion, spiritual living, and nonviolent struggle for justice.

The Dalai Lama's *Mon autobiographie spirituelle* brings the world a message: of suffering, success, and hope. This vivid and moving portrait of the Dalai Lama's life journey is personal in tone but universal in scope. Using previously unpublished materials, augmented by interviews, the Dalai Lama presents his views on the issues of our time—great and small—including his

thoughts on what he would like to see happen when he steps down. Memories, stories, anecdotes, and ideas are gathered together to make an accessible and comprehensive whole.

The book is organized into three parts. In the first part, he uses his childhood memories to show his human dimension and stresses the importance of relating to each other on the basis of common humanity rather than on differences in belief. In the second part, he considers himself as a Buddhist monk. He explains the source of his bodhisattva ideal and invites us to transform the world by transforming our own mind. His third aspect, that of a Dalai Lama, provides an opportunity to explain his wish to establish Tibet as a sanctuary of peace for the world, where humanity and nature can live in harmonious balance.

Sofia Stril-Rever is a specialist of the Kālachakra tantric Buddhist scriptures; she has written about the scriptures and about Tibet: Enfants du Tibet (Desclée de Brouwer, 2000). She has been a friend of and an interpreter for the Dalai Lama for many years and was the first to translate from Sanskrit to an occidental language the Kālachakra Tantra and other teachings given by the Dalai Lama.

Le bonheur des petits poissons/The Happiness of Little Fish

Simon Leys

(Éditions Jean-Claude Lattès, 214 pages, 2008)

A beautiful book to be savored, read, and read again. It is a wonderful introduction to art.
—*L'Express*

From 2005 to 2006, essays about art by Simon Leys appeared in the prestigious *Magazine Littéraire*. Month after month, Leys considered an aspect of art and modern life, filtered through his deep knowledge of Chinese literature and philosophy.

To the great joy of his readers, Leys has collected the *Magazine Littéraire* essays in *The Happiness of Little Fish*. He contemplates the relationships writers have with their work, the art of understatement, criticism, and writer's block. He uses references to literature and Chinese philosophy—Leys is an expert in Chinese studies—to illuminate art and to chronicle modern life. Each essay is a gem, the glowing facets often unexpected: a paradoxical examination of Paul LaFargue's *Éloge de la paresse (In Praise of Laziness)*, a discussion of Mozart's obsession with death, the best books to take on a polar expedition, novelist Joseph Conrad's seasickness, and, of course, the happiness of little fish.

Simon Leys is the pen name of Pierre Rykmans, a writer, sinologist, and literary critic. The author of many books on the Cultural Revolution in China, he has also translated works from the Chinese such as Analects of Confucius (Norton, 1997) and Le préfet Yin by Chen Jo-hsi (Denoël, 1980). His works translated into English include The Burning Forest: Essays on Culture and Politics in Contemporary China (Henry Holt & Co., 1983), The Chairman's New Clothes: Mao and the Cultural Revolution (Allison and Busby, 1981), The Death of Napoleon (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992) and The Wreck of the Batavia: A True Story (Basic Books, 2005).

SELF-HELP

L'homme qui voulait être heureux/The Man Who Wanted to Be Happy

Laurent Gounelle

(Éditions Anne Carrière, 220 pages, 2008)

A surprise best-seller in France, already sold in 10 countries

A romantic parable about finding happiness provides easily accessible information to aid personal development.

Andy, a young tourist on vacation in Indonesia, decides, out of interest rather than illness, to visit a renowned Balinese healer. In spite of Andy's good physical health, the healer finds that all is not well with him and wonders what the problem could be. As he learns more about Andy, the wise old man realizes that the Westerner is completely unaware of his condition.

The healer invites Andy to look more deeply into himself and thus starts him on an intense adventure of self-discovery. During a seven-day period of inner examination, Andy comes to understand that what he believes has become his reality. Through the reflections, experiences, and ordeals that the healer prescribes, Andy learns to free himself from the long-held beliefs that have prevented him from being truly happy.

Laurent Gounelle is a life coach. He has studied the humanities and epistemology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. A lecturer at the Université Blaise Pascal Clermont-Ferrand in France, he divides his time between leading international seminars and consulting on personal development. L'homme qui voulait être heureux is his first novel. The book became a word-of-mouth hit in France, and the rights quickly sold to Spain, Portugal, Korea, Poland, Japan, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, and Bulgaria.

La voix pluridimensionnelle/How To Find Your Voice

Patrick Veret & Cristina Cuomo

(Éditions Désiris, 2006, 155 pages)

Electronically and in person, our voice represents us. And yet few people know how the voice develops and what can be done to alter it. Here, an accessible guide to understanding voice and improving its performance.

The authors, grounded in medical science, describe the ways in which, as we mature, our voices change along with the rest of our body. As we grow, our voices reflect our physical development. Children all start with the same voice tones. As a boy grows toward manhood, his voice deepens as his body changes. A girl's voice too changes as her body does. Additionally, throughout life, our activities, our postures, and even our diet, may all contribute to the qualities

of our voice. Psychological factors, too including relationships between an individual and parents, or, later in life with partners, can play a decisive role in voice quality. .

The authors suggest some simple exercises, and include pictures and illustrations, that can help develop the voice in connection with the body. As a complement, the authors recommend custom-made pills that they found may help to improve voice quality: a natural treatment called . "nutripuncture." Nutripuncture is thought to work on a cellular level to alter the same currents in the body influenced by acupuncture.

***Patrick Veret**, a medical doctor, has additional degrees in nutrition, psychosomatic medicine and phonetics. He is a developer of nutripuncture.*

***Cristina Cuomo** has a degree in psychophysiology and sports psychopathology.*