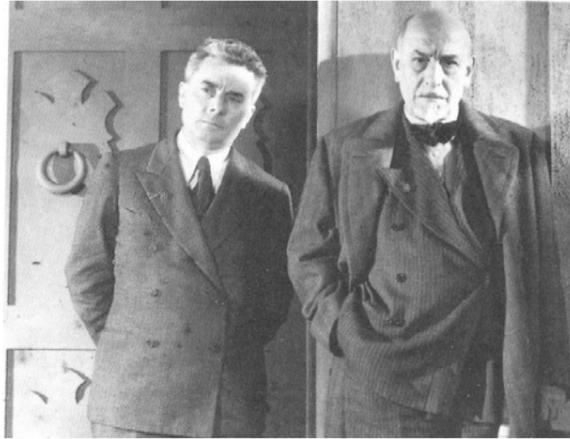


## Massimo Bontempelli

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Poet, novelist, essayist (1878–1960), he has been called the father of the Magical Realism. His novels are widely regarded as masterpieces of the Italian literature. A lifelong friend of De Chirico and Pirandello, he was awarded the Strega Prize in 1953.



from left, Massimo Bontempelli  
and Luigi Pirandello

## Piero Scanziani

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Swiss journalist, playwright and novelist (1908–2003), he travelled for many decades around the world, visiting all the continents. During the fascist era, his Swiss house became a safe shelter for many dissident intellectuals. Thanks to his international success, he was awarded the Schiller Prize and was twice selected for the Nobel Prize in Literature, with the support of Mircea Eliade.



Scanziani in his Swiss house



Cohesion between every single book, each one its own chapter of the whole catalogue, is the cornerstone of Utopia. Literary value, poetical significance and design are going to be the cardinal points of this consistency. This is why Utopia will not publish highly marketable books, but it will market those books that need to be published.

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Utopia is a European publishing house founded in Milan in January 2020. Its first books will be in stores this coming September thanks to a joint venture with the biggest Italian distributor, Messaggerie.

Utopia's editorial line is shaped by a strict selection of high quality literature. The catalogue will contain some of the leading voices of contemporary fiction and non-fiction, both European and foreign, in their Italian translation. Only a few weeks from its foundation, Utopia can already boast the exclusive Italian rights on two Nobel Prize laureates and a Strega Prize winner. Utopia is working on two parallel paths. On one hand, the repechages of impressive authors from the 20th century. On the other one, a careful scouting of new authors from all over the world.

# Massimo Bontempelli

## People in Time (Gente nel tempo)

One of the finest beginnings in the history of the Italian literature, the novel starts in 1900 with the death of the Gran Vecchia, literally the “Big Old (Lady)”, a very authoritarian woman who had a great influence on her son Silvano and his family. The woman warns Silvano that the whole family will die young and then, alone in her room and fair, she dies. Time goes on and, in 1905, Silvano dies. Five years later, in 1910, his wife passes away too. Reality turns out to a paradox and the survived daughters start thinking that a family member should die every five years, till a shocking ending.



### For readers who appreciated:

*The Late Mattia Pascal* by Pirandello

*Fictions* by Borges

*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by García Márquez

### Fiction, 130 pages

Originally published in 1937  
Utopia's new edition: **Fall 2020**  
Price: € 16  
English sample translation available

## The Boy with two Mothers (Il figlio di due madri)

In a Rome of the early 20th century, the novel follows the bonds between father, mother and son Mario, severely tested when it is revealed that Mario was somehow born twice on the same day seven years before. While the mother does her best to fathom the phenomenon, attempting to share her son with his other mother, Luciana, the mystery proves too much for her and eventually she collapses under the strain. Bontempelli does not spare his other characters, either: even the spirited must answer for their own brand of selfishness. The elegantly restrained passion of this novel, penned in Bontempelli's delicate prose, proves yet again the writer's literary genius.



### For readers who appreciated:

*The Tartar Steppe* by Buzzati

*The Path to the Spiders' Nests* by Calvino

*No One Writes to the Colonel* by García Márquez

### Fiction, 134 pages

Originally published in 1929  
Utopia's new edition: **Fall 2021**  
Price: € 16  
Full English literary translation available

## The Life and Death of Adria and Her Children (Vita e morte di Adria e dei suoi figli)

This is an astonishing story set in early 20th century Italy and France of a woman of unusual beauty who determines that her primary function in the world is to serve this endowment. She withdraws from her husband and two children, and forces her servants, friends and family to play handmaid, devoting her life to the accentuation and preservation of her beauty, and eventually ruining those about her in her fanatical pursuit. This is a classic story which will haunt the mind long after its reading.



### For readers who appreciated:

*Madame Bovary* by Flaubert

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Wilde

*Rebecca* by Du Maurier

### Fiction, 140 pages

Originally published in 1930  
Utopia's new edition: **Fall 2022**  
Price: € 16  
Full English literary translation available

*“Bontempelli is a writer of geometric and crystalline imagination.*

*A genius of an impeccable art-deco stylization and subtle virtuosity.”*

ITALO CALVINO

*“Massimo Bontempelli is an author who looks at the world through a particular lens. He is extremely original.”*

LUIGI PIRANDELLO

# Piero Scanziani

## The Adventure of Man (Avventura dell'uomo)

This precious, poetical and heart touching essay tells the story of our lives, from the months before birth to the childhood, from the adolescence to the parenthood, until the maturity, the old age, the death and beyond. This is a biography of every man, at once psychological and spiritual, that takes the readers by the hand and shows them with unique grace the path of their lives. The celebrated Swiss writer Scanziani, who has been called a source of inspiration for Rovelli and Harari, guides his readers on a journey through our daily questions: “Who I am”, “Why I'm here”, “Where I'm going”, “Why I feel in me the eternity if I'm mortal”.



### For readers who appreciated:

*The Naked Ape* by Morris

*Seven Brief Lessons on Physics* by Rovelli

*Sapiens* by Harari

### Non-fiction, 210 pages

Originally published in 1957  
(1,000,000 readers in 50 years)  
Utopia's new edition: **Fall 2020**  
Price: € 17  
Full English literary translation available

## The White Book (Libro bianco)

A gun fires. A man, Pablo, falls dead. Yet, suddenly and dramatically, events move into another dimension. Pablo finds himself in a strange and different life, an afterlife, surrounded by hordes of men and women wandering aimlessly in some vast and boundless eternal meadow. It proves to be just the beginning of a bizarre sequence of events. Events in which Pablo is called upon to defend Adam, the father of mankind and the archetype of every man, on trial for every human crime. Pablo starts thinking at his own life, his sins and his mistakes, his passive involvement in the events which made him an inert piece in the chess game.



### For readers who appreciated:

*The Divine Comedy* by Dante

*The Trial* by Kafka

*Lincoln in the Bardo* by Saunders

### Fiction, 230 pages

Originally published in 1968  
Utopia's new edition: **Fall 2021**  
Price: € 17  
Full English literary translation available

*“I have been digging in your books for two weeks and now I am glancing through The White Book. It's wonderful. Thanks, thanks again!”*

MIRCEA ELIADE