

Important Books

K. Marshal & W. Lung, The Benefits of Planetary Colonization, Earth, 2050

Original language: English

One of the key documents for the Mars terraforming project, outlining the ethics, sociology and ideology of terraforming. Still widely read in translations across Mars as “The Benefits” in order to understand the visions that guided the Red Era and the transformation of Mars.



Xie Ainuo, The Posthuman Future, L4 University Press, 2097

Languages: English, later chapters in a posthuman language identified as “Marain”

Generally considered to be the last book published by a known posthuman, and one of the most (in)famous at that. It discusses the desires of posthumanity and the necessity of the Dyson project whilst at the same time warning about turning inwards. Other chapters cover morphological freedom, posthuman political and economic systems and sentient rights; the system in the latter chapter was used as a foundation of the Cruithne Accords. Further chapters of the book exist but are written in a constructed language indecipherable to the unenhanced, as if the author was unable to use English to fully express his ideas.

At present the book is mainly considered to be a historical curiosity, mainly read by those who are, or wish to be seen as well read and educated in pre-Martian history and the ideology of the Sphere. The book is well respected by the InfomERCHANTS, in part due to the author apparently preempting some of the cornerstones of their philosophy, and partly due to its popularity among Dysonists. Many linguists have experimented with “Marain”, but opinions are divided on its value or even if it was a real language.

Damien Grace, The Phobos Fragments, Phobos, 2110-2119

Original language: English

Collection of the remaining masterworks of Damien Grace, collected by early post-Crash literates from samizdat publications. The fragments include *Phobos Panorama*, a story about the treatment of immigrants in the MTN and how they react to Mars, *Caryle on My Desk*, a self-revealing story about the relationship between the author and a spacer family trying to cope with the coalescence of the MTN, and several short stories, poems and fragments dealing with how the little people experience the vast changes sweeping the solar system. They remain treasured in Martian culture and essential in the InfomERCHANT canon. During the Stargazer era they were important arguments for social policies, and Exner or Vicuna wrote extensive notes (*Subject and Progress in the Phobos Fragments*) commenting and criticizing Damien’s observations.

Chen Dar-Xuang, Tharsis Upland Keening, Pavonis, 2197

Original language: Old Martian/Chinese

Terraforming romance and autobiography by a leading MTN areologist. Describes her experiences of the grandeur of Mars, the visions of the MTN and the often grubby reality in the project with a mixture of detachment and love. While mainly a historical document it has affected the popular view of the highlands enormously, despite describing a world long since changed.

Wei Lohan (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Areology* 10th ed, Areopolis, 2238

Original language: Old Martian (digital web)

The definite guide to the physical characteristics of Mars, its historical and planned geochemical, the implementation of terraforming and ecopoiesis, as well as extensive discussions of ecology and projected future developments. It was compiled by the leading experts in the fields, leaving out no relevant aspect. As things began to break down most fractions meticulously printed down the information into multivolume books, where it has been preserved. While much of the information has become outdated by landslides, climate drift and the vagaries of ecology, enough remains true for the work to be both a powerful Atlas and key for aerologists, meteorologists, ecologists and astronomers.

Shi Aoning, *Technoliberation*, Alexandria, 2367

Original Language: Old Martian

Founding manifesto of the Infomerchants. An outline of a combined cultural, economic and political strategy for restoring civilization to Mars.

Iqbal Kr, *Proper Ancestral Legacy*, Argyre, 2593

Original language: Old Argyrian

Poetic but pragmatic guide to genetic counseling and genetics. Widely used for teaching genetic counselors in Xanthe, Uzbai and Argyre. In Uzbai and elsewhere some of the texts are integrated with the ceremonies of ancestor worship, giving thanks for their genetic inheritance.

Exner ov Vicuna, *Eternal Progress*, Xanthe, 2687

Original language: Xanthian

A fairly short volume, outlining the core of Exnerism and the vision of Xanthe as a tool of Progress. Required reading for all administrators in Xanthe and often used to test the knowledge of a person considered for a promotion. Nearly all Exnerists can quote it by heart.

Exner ov Vicuna, *Writings*, Xanthe, 2660-2745

Original language: Xanthian

An extensive multivolume philosophical work. It consists of the collected writings of Exner ov Vicuna, together with commentaries and historical examples. It is the core canon of Exnerism. New editions are constantly issued by House Vicuna.

Maolebi Prinethe, *Canon of History*, Xanthe, 2668

Original language: Xanthian

An extensive analysis of the history of technology and economics, showing what inventions and economic changes led to other inventions. It is essentially the blueprint of how the Empire will progress, and it is not uncommon to hear administrator lament that “we are still in chapter 5B” or debate how to best reach beyond the tantalizing Footnote 43, “On the spread of electricity in the United States”.

Zao Feng, *The Empire's Early Commoners*, New Chryse, 2741

Language: Xanthian

The classic defence of the traditional Xanthian family order. Zao Feng pointed out that due to the matriarchy and polyandry the birth rate would be lowered, since women would often choose a career over family and there would be an artificial scarcity of men. This would have a positive ecological impact by naturally avoiding a population boom as the high-tech demographic transitions approached. The labour shortage would stimulate technological innovation, reinforcing the progress of the empire. It would also stimulate an inflow of people from the outer regions of the empire to its core to act as labour, which would lead to these colonials becoming socialised to Xanthian culture and bring it with them once they moved back. While her theory has been widely criticised many still believe that matriarchy is a good thing for the empire.

Migael Johnsphoros, *History of Mars*, Argyre, 2907

Original language: Xanthian

Major theoretical historical work, outlining the history of humans on Mars (with a decidedly west-Martian perspective). Johnsphoros attempt to show how the material circumstances of Mars force an upper limit on all Martian cultures making progress beyond a certain point impossible or cyclic. His basic idea is that Marx’s dialectical materialism was generally right: capitalist societies (or anything similar) are necessary to escape from a static agricultural state, but as they develop the inevitably creates the preconditions for counter-movements (socialism or something similar) that overtakes them and creates a non-capitalist state. This state is however at most metastable (and usually entirely unstable) for the reasons the Austrian economic school named, since it removes the preconditions keeping the advanced society possible - which inevitably leads to a collapse.

While well received among Argyrian scholars, it has largely been ignored or refuted by Xanthian scholars. It has however inspired the Encyclopedist dissidents of Xanthe, who believe a key assumption is the lack of free information in Johnsphoros’ model and that they can inspire a far more efficient and stable “hybrid society” enabling a break of the cycle.

***The Xanthian Encyclopedia*, Argyre 2922-**

Original Language: Xanthian

An encyclopedia attempting to bring together all knowledge within a single framework. It is less an encyclopedia than an attempt at an universal ontology and epistemology: it attempts to construct a system where knowledge can be defined and ordered in a simple, reliable way (“the Web of Truth”) that could enable everyone to contribute to it. At present the Encyclopedists are working on the 33rd revision of the ontology, and have translated a number of key works into the format of the Web of Truth.

The Encyclopedia project has significant political overtones, since it seeks an end to the information monopolies of Xanthe and a stronger imperial administration. The Encyclopedia is banned in Xanthe, but still smuggled into the empire from the south.

Nalila Podesaia, The Fall of Arabia, New Chryse 2943-2951

Original Language: Xanthian

Long running romantic novel series (*The Fall of Arabia*, *In the Tower of Arabia*, *The Night of Thunder and Roses*, *The White Parrot Flies*, *The Forest of Dreams*, as well as countless prequels, sequels and what-ifs) about the epic adventures of Princess Enmarta Zimdahl and her soul-mate Proman Valerey Mizuno during the last days of Felix Arabia. While being total romantic tripe lacking any deep understanding of Arabian history or culture, the novels have sold extremely well and impressed a generation of romantic readers. Part of the appeal has been the way Podesaia (actually a writer collective) have used Arabia to project many current Xanthian worries and problems to a safe distance, while giving the popular answer that love and loyalty always solves the problem.