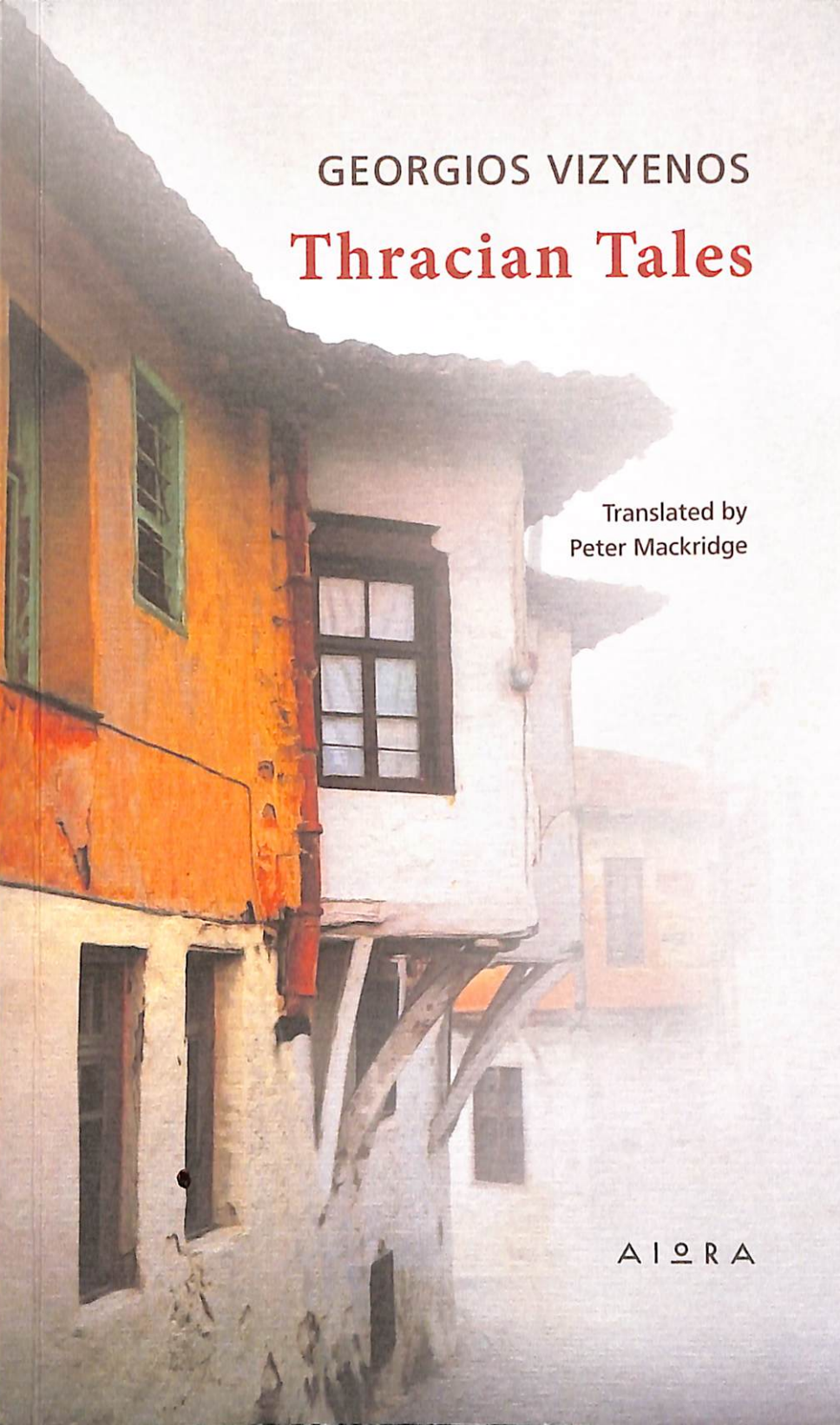




GEORGIOS VIZYENOS

Thracian Tales

Translated by
Peter Mackridge

ΑΙΟΡΑ

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Peter Mackridge is Emeritus Professor of Modern Greek at the University of Oxford. He has published several books on modern Greek language and literature, including two co-authored grammars. His translations of stories by the 19th-century author Alexandros Papadiamandis and a collection of haikus by the 21st-century poet Haris Vlavianos are due to be published in 2014.

Drawing on page 15 by Eleonora Spathopoulou.

Original titles of the short stories:

Το μόνον της ζωής του ταξίδιον

Το αμάρτημα της μητρός μου

Ποιος ήταν ο φονεύς του αδελφού μου

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

Vizyenos' stories evoke a time when individual Greeks and Turks could share each other's joys and pains despite the hostile relations between their governments.

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