



## The Year 3000: A Dream (Bison Frontiers of Imagination)

By Paolo Mantegazza



**The Year 3000: A Dream (Bison Frontiers of Imagination)** By Paolo Mantegazza

First published in 1897, *The Year 3000* is the most daring and original work of fiction by the prominent Italian anthropologist Paolo Mantegazza. A futuristic utopian novel, the book follows two young lovers who, as they travel from Rome to the capital of the United Planetary States to celebrate their “mating union,” encounter the marvels of cultural and scientific advances along the way.

Intriguing in itself, *The Year 3000* is also remarkable for both its vision of the future (predicting an astonishing array of phenomena from airplanes, artificial intelligence, CAT scans, and credit cards to controversies surrounding divorce, abortion, and euthanasia) and the window it opens on fin de siècle Europe.

Published here for the first time in English, this richly annotated edition features an invaluable introductory essay that interprets the intertextual and intercultural connections within and beyond Mantegazza’s work. For its critical contribution to early science fiction and for its insights into the hopes, fears, and clash of values in the Western world of both Mantegazza’s time and our own, this book belongs among the visionary giants of speculative literature.

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## The Year 3000: A Dream (Bison Frontiers of Imagination) By Paolo Mantegazza Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In 1897, Mantegazza (1831–1910) offered a fanciful utopian speculation about the year 3000, imagining a unified Europe, world peace, an elimination of illness, and sophisticated technology. Readers follow a couple—Paolo and Maria—through a Dante-esque tour of this would-be future, exploring differing governmental models and taking a methodical look at the finance, health, and culture of the civilization of the future. Some of the technologies Mantegazza predicted include CAT scans, credit cards, and airplanes, and his forecast for societal attitudes toward divorce and abortion are decidedly ahead of his time. Jacobson's translation is strong, even if Mantegazza is more interested in presenting his ideas than in crafting a work of literature. While Mantegazza's more controversial views on, say, eugenics, can be off-putting, the book is a neat exercise, more for its ideas than its artistic value. (Nov.) (c)

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### Review

“Two welcome surprises await readers of this book: the first is simply that a nineteenth-century masterpiece of utopian literature has been made available to them in a translation that reads like an original, and the second, that a great scholar has written a user-friendly, highly sophisticated, and passionate introduction shedding light on the times of neo-positivism, its antecedents, and its legacy.”—Luigi Ballerini, professor of Italian, University of California at Los Angeles

(Luigi Ballerini)

“Thanks to the extensive introduction, *The Year 3000: A Dream* will appeal to anyone interested in the literary evolution of science fiction or the early contributions to the genre of one very talented and foresighted Italian fiction writer.”—Alan J. Couture, *ForeWord*

(Alan J. Couture *ForeWord*)

“*The Year 3000* is indeed an alternative universe where the world is a better place for all and true love is the most powerful force in the universe. Enjoy the trip.”—Patricia Contino, *Newpages.com*

(Patricia Contino *Newpages.com* 2011-05-01)

“*The Year 3000. A Dream* constitutes an important addition to the relatively small number of nineteenth-century Italian novels available in English and is an invaluable text to add to any class, whether within a comparative context or not, teaching nineteenth-century Italian literature.”—Gabriella Romani, *Annali d’italianistica*

(Gabriella Romani *Annali d’italianistica*)

### About the Author

Paolo Mantegazza (1831–1910) was a prominent Italian neurologist, physiologist, anthropologist, defender and correspondent of Darwin, and fiction writer. Nicoletta Pireddu is the director of the comparative literature program and an associate professor of Italian and comparative literature at Georgetown University. She is the editor of Paolo Mantegazza’s *Physiology of Love and Other Writings*. David Jacobson translated Mantegazza’s *Physiology of Love and Other Writings*.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Patricia Diaz:**

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