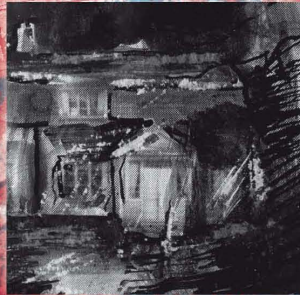
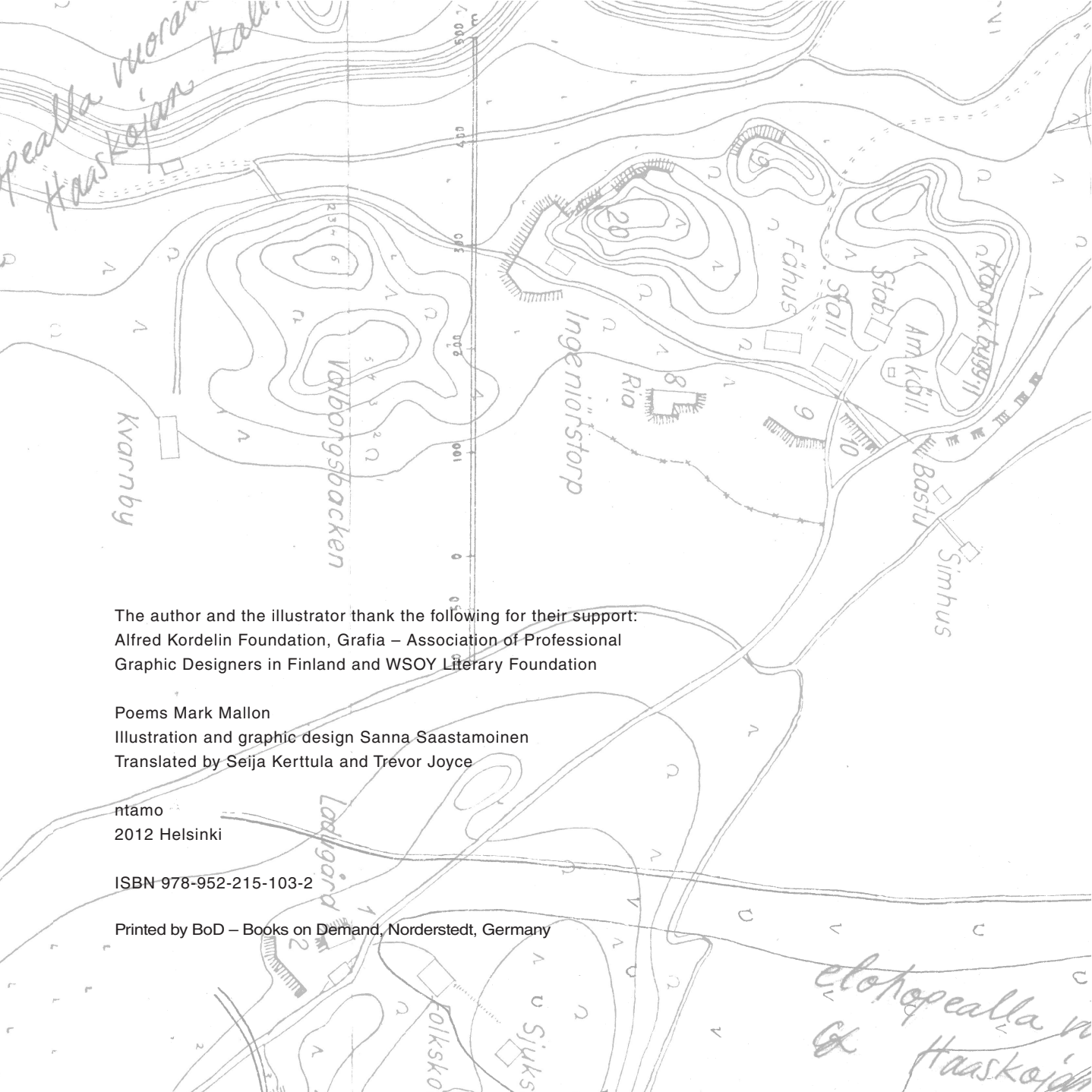


mark mallon | sanna saastamoinen

poems of **AREGEMIA**

translated by seija kerttula & trevor joyce | ntamo





The author and the illustrator thank the following for their support:

Alfred Kordelin Foundation, Grafia – Association of Professional
Graphic Designers in Finland and WSOY Literary Foundation

Poems Mark Mallon

Illustration and graphic design Sanna Saastamoinen

Translated by Seija Kerttula and Trevor Joyce

ntamo

2012 Helsinki

ISBN 978-952-215-103-2

Printed by BoD – Books on Demand, Norderstedt, Germany

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Dedicated to those whose sense of reality was changed
in underground corridors and to their descendants.



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AREGEMIA (the Union of Aregemia) is an island state in the Norwegian Sea, in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. In addition to the two main islands, the state comprises four other inhabited and numerous uninhabited islands. The islands are volcanic and mountainous, and have a total area of 33,720 km² (20,952 sq mi). The population is 684,500 (2009), of which less than 4,000 are original Aregemians. The largest of five provinces are Bernerland, where the capital Aaren is located, and Northern Aregemia, which is a communist testing area funded and partly governed by the United States.

The main island is divided by two mountain chains. In the Western Aregemia there is a large basin caused by a meteorite. Thanks to the Gulf Stream, the climate is mild but varies greatly by areas:

In Central Aregemia, the average temperature may even be over +25°C; however, the Mykene Island with its highlands is partly covered by glaciers.

The main languages are English (44%) and Norwegian (20%). Other languages: Dutch, German, Icelandic, Russian, Finnish, Gaelic, Aregemian.

The main sources of livelihood are oil, electronics, chemistry, forest and war industries, services, cattle raising, fishing, and farming. Mined products, among others, copper, iron and rhenium, for which there are abundant deposits in the main island because of the meteorite that fell there 43 million years ago.

Special features of Aregemia: wide underground caves, used for children's educational camps from the 1920s to 1970s and now employed for war industry research, as well as corridor type greenhouse networks, heated by geothermal energy and spreading widely in Northern Aregemia.

Among the population occurs an illness called Aregemian Disease that causes mental disturbances and states of unconsciousness similar to epilepsy. It is suspected that one reason for the illness is the rhenium of the ground which in crops replaces molybdenum, an element essential for the human system. The lack of molybdenum weakens the function of neural synapses. It is not known how the lack of molybdenum and the excessive intake of rhenium interact.

...en av pet
...an sista ha varit bitter
...vriga medlemmar, var det helt säkert
...att begiva sig bort från den gård, där man i alla
...upplevat en av livets största tillfredselse. Sjunde barna
...av nu sin hembygd som var





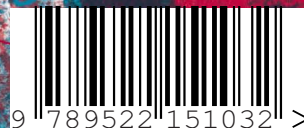
“Poems of Aregemia” is a collection of episodes, visions and dialogues of people living in the archipelago of Aregemia. These poems include the main part of the original “Aregemia”, published in Finnish (Tammi 2010), but one-fifth of them, and the accompanying illustrations, are newly published here.

“*Aregemia* is an unusually consistent and controlled debut collection. Its world remains distant, yet troubling in its remoteness, like an obscure photograph of which we are only allowed to know a few rays of light, separated from their origin.” (Kuisma Korhonen, Helsingin Sanomat)

“Above the everyday setting, there hangs an undefined threat, like an omen of coming accidents or tragedies, which charges the realism of the poems with angst. Perhaps an undertone of Kafka or Peter Handke.” (Claes Andersson, Hufvudstadsbladet)

“Among the shreds of text, you begin to realise a tragic love story set in a society controlled by structural violence. – – At times, the dark and subtly messed up reality deviates chillingly little from the external reality in which Mallon’s work has been written.” (Miikka Laihinen, Turun Sanomat)

Mark Mallon (b. 1967) is a German-Finnish poet who also teaches creative writing and organises literary events. **Sanna Saastamoinen** (b. 1977) is a Finnish artist and graphic designer. Both are founders and central figures of “Särö”, a Finnish cultural magazine. They currently live in Berlin. The poems were translated in collaboration by Finnish translator **Seija Kerttula** and Irish poet **Trevor Joyce**.



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