Contemporary scholarly definitions of and approaches to myth, though influenced by the fieldwork and findings of anthropologists and folklorists working with living oral traditions over the last hundred years, are still grounded in venerable literary classics that purport to sum up ancient traditional stories about gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines, primal events, and the beginnings of the world. Such texts, which assemble related narratives into "mythologies," become canonical formulations that can function as sources, templates, and inspirations for other literary and scholarly works, both within their own literaryhistorical contexts and beyond them. There are cases, however, where these codified mythologies serve as epitaphs, seemingly marking the end of particular (oral) traditions instead of their (literary) revival.

This conference will examine the various factors (literary, cultural, political) that led to the production of mythological compendia in the Classical and Late-Antique world, and the extent to which the agenda that produced parallel works in certain medieval cultures of northwest Europe (Ireland, Wales, Iceland) operated along similar or even historically related lines. Presentations and discussions will focus on the cultural and literary contexts behind the "mythographic urge" in Classical Greek and Latin literature, as well as in Western European traditions of the Middle Ages (particularly Celtic and Norse), and on the possible historical links and typological parallels among works such as Apollodorus's Library, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Snorri Sturluson's Edda, the Irish Battle of Mag Tuired, and the Welsh Four Branches of the Mabinogi. Some of the questions to be considered are: What was the transmission history of pre-medieval mythographic works in the Middle Ages, and to what extent and to whom were they available as models to the post-Classical world? How "authentic" are ancient and medieval mythographies, and how do we determine that authenticity? To what uses were they put? Are they attempts to negotiate received or developing concepts of history, or are they formulations of an anti-historical poetic? And what are the differences in function, approach, and subtext between these pre-modern "write-ups" of myth and modern learned and popular handbooks of mythology? Mythographic issues in other cultures will also be considered

Organized by UCLA Professors Joseph F. Nagy (English) and Kendra Willson (Scandinavian), and UCLA graduate students Malcolm Harris (English), Eric Kristensson (Scandinavian), Katherine McLoone (Comparative Literature), and Anna Pagé (Indo-European Studies).

Registration

Advance registration is not required. No admission fee. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Parking

Campus parking permits may be purchased for \$9 each day from any UCLA Parking Services kiosk.

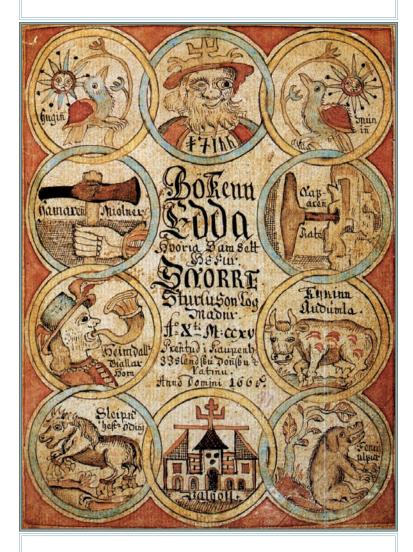
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The CMRS Ahmanson Conference Series

Writing Down the Myths: The Construction of Mythology in Classical & Medieval Traditions



April 16 – April 18, 2009 University of California, Los Angeles



Writing Down the Myths: The Construction of Mythology in Classical & Medieval Traditions



Thursday, April 16, 2009 Royce Hall 314		11:15	Craig Melchert (UCLA) "Motivations for Hittite Mythological Texts"	10:45	Katherine McLoone (UCLA) "Myth and Geoffrey of Monmouth"
5:00	Opening Reception on the Royce 306 loggia	12:00	Lunch break	11:15	Break
6:00	Welcoming Remarks	1:30	Jan Ziolkowski (Harvard University) "Latin Mythology as Death and Resurrection of Myth"	11:30	Bernhard Maier (University of Tübingen) "Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid: Celtic Myth and Christian Creed in Mediaeval Irish Concepts of the Afterlife"
	Brian P. Copenhaver (UCLA) Director, Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies	2:30	Break	12:30	Lunch break
	Joseph F. Nagy (UCLA) and Kendra Willson (UCLA) Conference Organizers	2:45	William Bodiford (UCLA) "Myths and Counter Myths in Early Modern Japan"	1:30	Margaret Clunies Ross (Sydney University)
6:15	UCLA Sounds Presents	3:15	Stephanie Jamison (UCLA)		"Snorri Sturluson and Norse Mythology"
	"Lamento d'Arianna" (Rinuccini/Monteverdi)		"India and the Graphy o' Myth"	2:30	Break
6:45	William Hansen (Indiana University) "Packaging Greek Mythology"	3:45	Kathryn Morgan (UCLA) "Saving the Myth: Atlantis and the Philosophies of Preservation"	2:45	Gísli Sigurðsson (University of Iceland) "Thor and Midgard Serpent. Whom Should We Read: Snorri or Finnur?"
8:00	"Mythic Film" Presentation	4:15	Break	3:30	John Lindow (University of California, Berkeley)
Friday, April 17, 2009 Royce Hall 314		4:30	Discussion, featuring speakers, with conference organizers Malcolm Harris (UCLA) and Elizabeth Thornton (UCLA)		"Some Thoughts on the Mythography of Saxo Grammaticus"
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8:30	Coffee, pastries		day, April 18, 2009 Hall 314	4:30	Discussion, featuring speakers, with conference organizers Eric Kristensson (UCLA) and Anna Pagé (UCLA)
9:00	Richard Martin (Stanford University) "There was a Myth before the Myth Began"	8:30	Coffee, pastries		
10:00	Break	9:00	Sioned Davies (Cardiff University) "'Venerable relics'? Revisiting the Mabinogi"		Cover illustration: Title page, Melsteð's $Edda$ (SÁM 66), an 18th-century paper copy of the $Prose\ Edda$ (Snorri's $Edda$) in the Árni Magnússon Institute, Iceland.
10:15	Rahim Shayegan (UCLA) "The Evil Brothers in Iranian History and Epic Tradition"	10:00	Break		This conference was made possible by the generous support of The Ahmanson Foundation
10:45	Darcy Krasne (University of California, Berkeley) "Ovid and Mythography"	10:15	Kimberly Ball (University of California, Irvine) "The Metamyth of Supernatural Vessels"	,	The UCLA Center for Medieval & Renaissance Studies The UCLA Vice Chancellor for Research The Humanities Division of the UCLA College of Letters & Science