

Editorial

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Dear readers,

Amaltea, Journal of Myth Criticism publishes its 17th volume, corresponding to the year 2025.

We begin this new issue with the news of the birth, last January, of the *Andromeda Research Project*; an initiative conceived to explore the connections between myths and their representation in contemporary culture through interdisciplinary dialogue, collaboration on innovative projects, and the sharing of findings.

The consortium driving this ambitious project comprises nine research groups from Madrid universities and benefits from the valuable collaboration of various national and international associated entities. This rich composition provides a plural and transversal approach that combines philology with cultural studies.

Andromeda has quickly become a prominent force in the mythocritical scene. Below, we highlight some activities the project has promoted since its establishment.

Between March 17th and 21st, it actively participated in the *XIII International Conference Mythical Spaces UAH Journey and Myth*. This edition featured speakers who presented a diverse perspective on mythical journeys, explored through literature, cinema, art, and music.

Andromeda supported the Departments of Music and Philosophy at the UAM for their inaugural *I Spring Meeting: Aesthetics, Philosophy and Music. Listenings of Listening: Nietzsche and the Myth*. This seminar, held on April 10th, delved into Nietzsche's perspective on the nature and function of myth, especially within his work *The Birth of Tragedy*.

As a preview of future initiatives, the SIIM group, a member of the Andromeda project, has organised the activity *Madrid: Mayrit and its Influence* on June 2nd, which is part of the thematic seminar *The Pilgrimage of Myth Narratives*. During this event, the symbolism of three emblematic figures have been analysed: the Cibeles fountain, Diana the Huntress by Anne Hyatt Huntington, and Saint Martha and the Tarasca.

Andromeda's promising start and initial endeavours resonate strongly with the efforts of Asteria, the International Association of Myth Criticism, working closely with *Amaltea* to forge a dynamic path for our studies.

Asteria, always promoting mythocritical studies, recently offered a space for meeting and reflection with the *III Seminar on Cultural Myth Criticism: Myth Without Borders*. This event, held on March 4th, March 18th, and April 1st in the Faculty of Philology's board room, unveiled the multiple faces of myth in contemporary culture, tracing fascinating connections between literature, art, and cinematography.

The association will provide a unique opportunity to delve into the contemporary reinterpretation of myths through various artistic expressions. The Maruja Mallo exhibition hall (Plaza Daoiz y Velarde, 2) hosted the selected works for the *VI Contest of Mythology and Artistic Creation* from June 4th to 30th (Monday to Sunday, 10:00 am - 8:00 pm).

In its commitment to research in Myth Criticism, Asteria will organise the *III Seminar Myth and Videogames* on October 21st. The Faculty of Philology will be the setting for this initiative, which will immerse us in a fascinating analysis of how mythology intertwines with the interactive universe of video games, exploring its multiple interpretations from various perspectives.

The highlight of the Asteria's programme will be the *IX International Conference of Myth Criticism*, to be held from October 26th to 30th, 2026, at the Complutense University of Madrid, where the leading researchers in our field of study will gather. The subject of the conference will be "Myth and Woman".

Amaltea has established itself as an indispensable editorial project for academics and enthusiasts immersed in the study of Myth Criticism. The statistics of our journal tell a fascinating story about the growing interest in the study of myth from innovative and multidisciplinary approaches. A dialogue that flourished with the founding of Asteria and the recent arrival of Andromeda.

The access data for *Amaltea* illustrate a constant and significant flow of readers interested in Myth Criticism. Since 2021, our webpage has recorded an average of 20,000 visits and 37,000 downloads, which emphasises the relevance and vitality of our field of study in the current academic context. Each page view shows the search to understand the imprint of myths on our collective imagination.

The editorial statistics support this view, revealing a dedicated and varied research community. The consistent submission of national and international works, and their strict review process, underscores *Amaltea's* importance as a central platform for sharing research that enriches academic debate. In fact, from 2021 to today, we have received an average of 30 contributions yearly, confirming the confidence in our journal.

The analysis of the most visited articles offers a valuable perspective on the topics that most resonate with our readers, revealing current trends within the discipline. Their diversity reflects the scope and richness of Myth Criticism, ranging from contemporary reinterpretations of classical myths to the analysis of the presence of myth in literature, psychology, and video games.

The positive response our journal has garnered is clear and motivates our ongoing efforts. For this reason, we invite academics to send us their original papers and reviews. We rely on your participation to enrich the debate and push the boundaries of our field. Likewise, we encourage all readers to engage deeply with *Amaltea's* content, discover innovative approaches, and explore the compelling connection between myth and modern culture. Together, we will continue to establish a standard of excellence for Myth Criticism.