

Editorial

Number 3 (2011) of *Amaltea* focuses on the mythic double self, one of the most recurrent and fruitful topics within the development of universal literary history. The subject has been generally related to myth and fantasy. Since Jean Paul Richter used the word *Doppelgänger* in *Siebenkäs* (1797), inserting this narrative within the tradition of the numerous classical versions of the treatment of duality —Plato, Plautus, Shakespeare, Corneille, Goldoni...—, there have been multiple recreations of the double as a modern myth, as, for instance, those of representative and illustrious writers like Hoffmann, Poe, Dostoevsky, Maupassant, Stevenson, Oscar Wilde, Pirandello, Borges, Cortázar, Saramago, and many others.

Contributions to this volume reflect the significant projection of the theme of the double. Gerald Bär presents a comparative study of fragmentation in Conrad, Kafka and Pessoa; Sabine Müller tackles the motif of the double taking the figure of Alexander the Great as paradigm; Miquel Pomar deals with the representation of duality in the works of the English postmodern writer Julian Barnes; Cécile Voisset-Veysseire studies the double in the works of Alain Robbe-Grillet, whilst Laura Monrós carries out a new interpretation of the myth of Echo in contemporary English Literature. Esther Lorenzo analyzes the manifestations of the mythical double in the poetry of Fernando Pessoa, Antonio Machado and Juan Ramón Jiménez, and Giovanni Magliocco devotes an article to the meaning of the mythical double in Ruxandra Cesereanu's *Kore-Persefona*. Another myth taken into consideration in these digital pages is that of Eurydice, whose relevance in Amélie Nothomb's *Mercur* is emphasized by Laurence Marois. These articles, noteworthy exponents of the mythic double self, are supplemented in this issue by the writings included in the Miscellany section, like those contributed by Yordan Lyustskanov on the alchemical readings of Dmitri Merejkovski's Julien l'Apostat, Adrián Muñoz García on mythopoesis in William Blake, Charlotte Currié on the transformations of Medusa, and Lavinia Scolari on the myth of Arachne.

This issue of our journal constitutes a rigorous and enlightening approach to the mythic double self from an academic perspective which, together with the writings of miscellaneous character dealing with other myths included here, will contribute to reach a better knowledge about myth criticism as a necessary literary and humanistic discipline.

Among the numerous articles received written in the six official languages of *Amaltea*, the Coordinating Team, after anonymous report of at least two reviewers, has selected those published here. Taking into account the statutes of the Journal, the authors have had complete freedom in the choice of works, literary genres, and the epistemological treatment.

We would like to thank all the authors for their effort and their invaluable contributions. We sincerely wish that our readers enjoy the volume.

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