The making of Antiquity during the Early Modern Age: 
a case study, Natale Conti’s *Mythologiae libri decem* (1567-1627)

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La survivance des dieux antiques

London, The Warburg Institute, 1940

Natale Conti's Mythologiae

Natale Conti (1581) by John Mulryan and Steven Brown, Tempe, ACMRS, 2006.

MITOLOGÍA

Spanish Translation (1581) by Rosa M.ª Iglesias Montiel et M.ª Consuelo Álvarez Morán, Murcia, Universidad de Murcia, 1988.
1. Natale Conti’s *Mythologiae libri decem*: from text to corpus

2. A digital edition: principles

3. Interrogations & current perplexities: a sample
1. Natale Conti’s *Mythologiae libri decem*: from text to corpus

- **the last mythography:**
  - It crowns *and* betrays the mythographic tradition
  - he plundered his predecessors: Boccaccio, Giraldi
  - a specific way to rearrange mythographic information
  - a specific method: he articulates cosmological and moral interpretation
  - a forger philologist: he cheats with Greek fragments (Gysembergh, 2020)
  - for two centuries, an indispensable mediation towards Antiquity (Mulryan, 1981)
  
  > its genesis and its reception highlight cultural dynamics
1. Natale Conti’s *Mythologiae libri decem*: from text to corpus

- **Conti & Renaissance philosophy**
  - fruitfulness of compilation: “penser/classer”
  - *compilatio, complicatio*: a way of writing goes with a way of thinking
  - intellectual background: aristotelism?

> an archeology of humanist knowledge
1. Natale Conti’s *Mythologiae libri decem*: from text to corpus

- **a mutating text**

  1567: first edition


  1600-1612 (illustrated): French translation by Jean de Montlyard, 5 editions

  1627: remodeled and newly illustrated French edition by Jean Baudoin

- a continuous rewriting

- a collective work

> through the material study of editions and manuscript annotations: a material approach to intellectual life
Tea Time Talk – Warburg Institute – June, 1st 2020

1. Natale Conti’s *Mythologiae libri decem*: from text to corpus

- politics of humanism: scholarship and the city
  - how does a work become a reference book: legitimation process
  - Conti’s and his editors and translator’s strategies
  - intellectual / religious / sociological / artistic “territories”
- **First step:**


- **Current project:**

  A digital and collective edition of the corpus on the EMAN platform, an Omeka-based edition platform (dir. Richard Walter)

  https://mythologia.hypotheses.org/equipe

  N.B.: A showcase version of the *Mythologia* website was opened in March 2020, soon in English
What this edition will be:

- a work in progress
- a tool (a digital ecosystem)
- aimed at studying circulations & recycling (of knowledge, quotations, ideas, images and iconographical motives)

What it will not be:

- an encyclopedia on an encyclopedia

Sources (textual & iconographical)

- editorial panorama of selected sources
- comprehensive comparison (Books II & III) with Boccaccio, Giraldi & Atheneus
- iconographical sources

> enter Conti’s laboratory & thought
> material study of the four editions

Mythologiae Libri decem

- indexation (metadata)
- transcription (TEI annotation)
- comparison of versions (synoptic presentation)

> allow circulation in the corpus
> make its metamorphoses visible

Conti’s influence & reception

- forgeries > tracing its influence
- possession marks
- manuscript annotations

> trace its circulation
> study legitimation process

> contribute to highlight the « invention » of Antiquity
3. Interrogations & current perplexities: a sample

- Philosophical background:
  * the concept of divine *complicatio* (Pico della Mirandola and others)...
  * Renaissance natural philosophy?

- Technical solutions for image indexing and tagging?

- Conti’s geography?

- Ideas on architecture in *Mythologiae libri decem*?

> a series of colloquia, starting this fall (oct. 20th-21st) at Freiburg University (Germany), org. with Ralph Haefner
Thank you for your attention.