

Editorial

In February 2017, the research group *Antiquity and its Reception* of CHAM- Centre for the Humanities organized an international conference under the theme “Expressions of Antiquity in Modern and Contemporary Art and Literature”, at NOVA FCSH, Lisbon. The choice of this thematic was impelled by the profound interest about ancient civilizations that marked the so-called “western-world”, from the 15th century onwards, and which allows us to identify a prolific artistic and literary production whose referential framework lies in Antiquity.

Hence, by gathering national and international researchers, from different disciplines and specialization areas, this conference was crucial for promoting the much-needed interdisciplinary debate on Reception Studies in what concerns the national academic panorama.

The present issue of *Res Antiquitatis* thus opens with a thematic dossier that includes some of the contributions presented and discussed in this scientific encounter. Anselm Kiefer’s paintings that evoke memories of ancient Egypt (Helena Trindade Lopes), and the elaborations on the iconographic productions regarding the famous Tower of Babel (Katia Maria Paim Pozzer) are analyzed from the standpoints of an Egyptologist and an Assyriologist, respectively.

On its turn, the influence and impact of Antiquity on dramatic arts are debated in two case-studies: the cinematographic vision of David W. Griffith on Babylon depicted in his renowned film *Intolerance* (Maria de Fátima Rosa) and the (re)uses of ancient Asiatic elements on the masks and puppets of Ariane Mnouchkine in the Théâtre du Soleil (Catarina Firmo).

Two Early Modern historians furthermore analyze the importance of the Greek and Latin traditions in Portugal, during the 16th century. By focusing on the presence of works by Classical historians in the library of D. Teodósio I, duke of Bragança (Ana Isabel Buescu) and on the Classical references within the three known rutters wrote by D. João de Castro, vice-Roy of the Portuguese State of India (Rui Manuel Loureiro), these two papers illustrate the profound impact Antiquity had on Portuguese early modern political and cultural milieu.

This present issue also includes a *varia* section, which counts with two contributions solely focused on Antiquity *per se*. The first one concerns the preliminary results of the third archaeological campaign in Tell el-Far‘a during 2019 (Juan-Luis Montero Fenollós et al.). It must be stressed that this project is led by an international team which includes researchers from the University of A Coruna, from NOVA FCSH and from the Department of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage of Palestine. The second one is focused on the Assyrian presence in the Euphrates valley, during the 13th century BCE, specifically in what concerns its regional organization amidst a turbulent period marked by rivalries between the Mesopotamian powers and the Hittites (Aline Tenu).

In a difficult year such as this one, one last word must be said in remembrance of António Ramos dos Santos, whose recent death saddened us all (†2020). As a dear friend and colleague, always available to embark in new collaborations and fruitful discussions on ancient Mesopotamia, his absence will be deeply felt, and his friendship will be truly missed.

Francisco Caramelo

Editor-in-chief