

Foreword

The International Association for Comparative Mythology (<http://compmyth.org>) is happy to present the inaugural issue of our long-planned journal *Comparative Mythology*.

IACM was founded in 2006, and we have held annual conferences on three continents. *Comparative Mythology* was conceived near the beginning of the organization, but the birth has been (like that of *Väinämöinen*) protracted for technical reasons. The aim of the new journal – the only one dedicated to comparative mythology with a worldwide scope – is to study ancient and current mythologies by employing various appropriate methodologies, some traditional, some radically new.

We have long felt that the field of mythology is in need of an international journal dealing with world-wide mythology, as distinct from journals with a local or regional focus and from those of the adjacent field of folklore. The lack of a journal fully dedicated to comparative mythology has been and still is a large lacuna in the field. Even though the new French journal (*Nouvelle mythologie comparée* <http://nouvellemythologiecomparee.hautetfort.com>) covers some of the same territory as ours, it rather seems to focus more narrowly on Indo-European myths. Instead, we want to include accounts of mythologies from all regions and time periods, including prehistory as far as visible in Stone Age rock art or as appearing in careful reconstructions. The latter includes the innovative approach of combining traditional comparison with the historical study of myths, both extinct and current, which allows for the reconstruction of earlier stages.

Comparative Mythology will thus include studies on the various forms that mythologies have taken in history and prehistory, including their use in ritual, their presence as archaeological remnants and in various religions, while making use, when relevant, of philological, linguistic, genetic and other scientific information and methods. Attention will also be given to the study of the origin and spread of the mythologies of human populations out of East Africa, possibly remnants of the tales of the “African Eve”.

We now offer the first issue of *Comparative Mythology* as a remedy for the perceived lack of a comprehensive professional journal and to further the burgeoning field of comparative (and historical) studies of mythology.

The journal is open to all serious scholars of mythology, worldwide. Contributions – preferably in English -- are to be submitted electronically.

Comparative Mythology will publish invited and submitted papers as well as important papers from the past conferences of the International Association for Comparative Mythology (IACM).

The journal is edited by an international board, including
Klaus Antoni (Tübingen)
Yuri Berezkin (St. Petersburg)
Louise Milne (Edinburgh)
Kazuo Matsumura (Tokyo)
Michael Witzel (Harvard)
Nataliya Yanchevskaya (Harvard)

The journal is published online (<http://compmyth.org/journal/>). It will appear with at least one volume per year, and with irregularly spaced issues within a volume. We also plan to create a print version later on.

Submissions:

Working languages are: preferably English, but also French and German. Other contributions, such as in Spanish, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, etc., will have to be translated to be more widely accessible. (In these cases we may publish both the original and an English translation to accommodate diverse audiences).

There is no restriction on size, but book-length papers are discouraged. An abstract should be included.

We encourage prospective contributors to submit both a pdf and also a Word version of their papers. Due to the large number of diacritics employed in certain languages, we suggest the use of one of the widely available Unicode fonts (such as Arial Unicode MS, Times Extended Roman, Gentium, Gandhari, etc.).

Maps, photos, and diagrams should be supplied in pdf, jpg or similar popular formats, and they should be included in the pdf submission of the article.

Submissions can be made through our website:

<http://compmyth.org/journal/>

or by email: International Association for Comparative Mythology:

iacm.admin@gmail.com

For the editors,
M. Witzel