

IRIS SULIMANI : **Diodorus' Mythography: The Distinctive Features of Mythology within Universal History**

Diodorus Siculus wrote a unique mythography. It forms an integral part of a universal history and, embracing the myths of various peoples, is in itself 'universal'. There are, in addition, two levels in Diodorus' mythography. The first is the myths as narrated by his sources and the second is the tales with Diodorus' own modifications. This study concentrates on the second level, demonstrating that Diodorus' accomplishments as a writer of the myths agree with his statements on the nature of mythography and its importance within a historical work. Influenced by both the Greek and Roman worlds, Diodorus updates the mythical tales to correspond with the events of his own day. Concomitantly, he incorporates into his descriptions his own thoughts and convictions. Furthermore, attempting to offer his readers a useful universal history, Diodorus integrates in his mythography elements borrowed from the literary genres of historiography, biography and geography. It seems that he employs the mythical section of the *Bibliothèque* not only to tell the *archaiologia* of peoples and their ancient myths, but also to provide a geographical introduction to the entire work, to convey notions that he considered essential and to present his readers with role models to emulate.

**Keywords:**

Diodorus Siculus – universal history – historiography – biography – geography – mythography – role models