

# Metamorphosis in Classical Literature and its Reception in European Modern Literature

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# 2004 Fiscal Year Final Research Report Summary

## Metamorphosis in Classical Literature and its Reception in European Modern Literature

Research Project

### Project/Area Number

15520163

### Research Category

Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C)

### Allocation Type

Single-year Grants

### Section

一般

### Research Field

ヨーロッパ語系文学

### Research Institution

Kanazawa University

### Principal Investigator

**YASUMURA Noriko** Kanazawa University, Graduate School of Natural Science and Technology, Professor, 自然科学研究科, 教授 (20293376)

### Project Period (FY)

2003 - 2004

### Keywords

Classical Greek Literature / Metamorphosis / Antoninus Liberalis / Ovid (Ovidius)

### Research Abstract

The stories of metamorphosis would claim a conspicuous position in the European literature. The most famous work of this genre would be the Metamorphoses by Ovid written in Latin in 1C. BC. However, even 400 years before Ovid, many stories of metamorphosis were already composed in Greek Literature. Among them, the oldest extant work is the Metamorphoses of Antoninus Liberalis, which contains 41 stories of metamorphosis. This work was so significant that it made a great influence on Ovid and many other later writers. It has not, however, been well studied in Japan, and the Japanese translation of this book has never been published. So, in this research project, I tried a close study on Antoninus Liberalis' Metamorphoses, firstly translating it into Japanese, and secondly, putting a very detailed commentary on the text. In the commentary, the emphasis was made on the following points :

- (1) Why did the concept of "metamorphosis" come out of the mind of the Ancient Greek people, and what does it mean for them who defined themselves as "mortal"? Did they think that the identity of the person would be maintained even after he/she experienced metamorphosis?
- (2) When Ovid composed his Metamorphoses, how much was he affected by the work of Antoninus Liberalis, and how did Ovid create his originality, by using the traditional motifs?

The study on the reception of the idea of metamorphosis in the later European literature was not well developed in this research project. This problem should be left in my future studies. The Japanese translation of Antoninus Liberalis' Metamorphoses will be published with its commentary from Kodan-sha in a year.

## Research Products (2 results)

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All 2004

All Journal Article

[Journal Article] 『オデュッセイア』第8巻の問題

2004 ▾

[Journal Article] A Study on the Book 8 of the Odyssey

2004 ▾

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