



THE WARBURG  
INSTITUTE

SCHOOL OF  
ADVANCED STUDY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

Tea Time Talk – Warburg Institute – June 1st, 2020

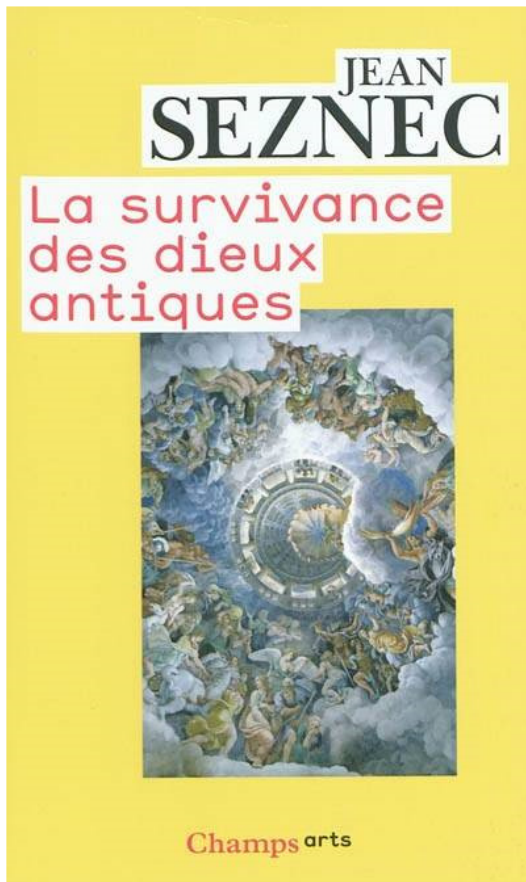
The making of Antiquity during the Early Modern Age:  
a case study, Natale Conti's *Mythologiae libri decem* (1567-1627)

Céline Bohnert

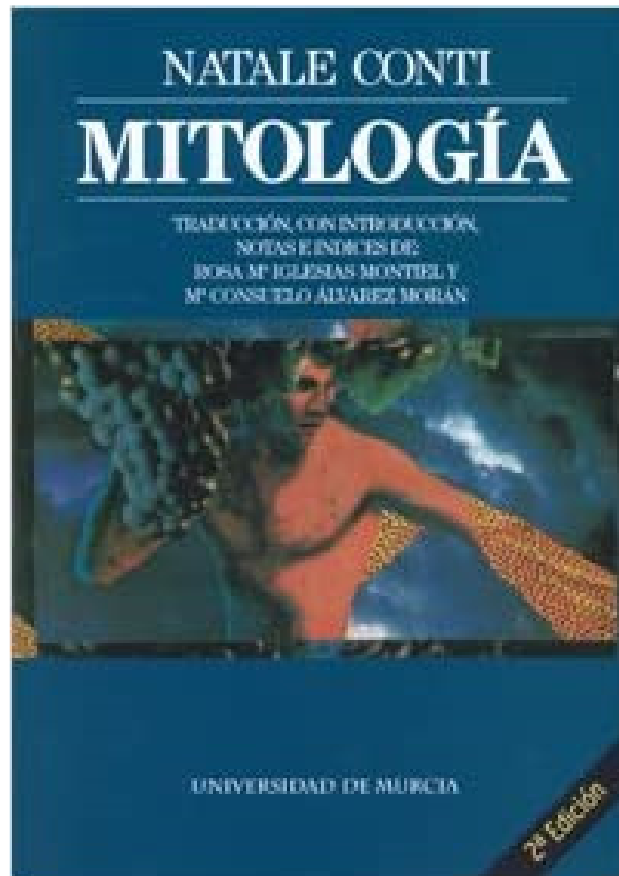
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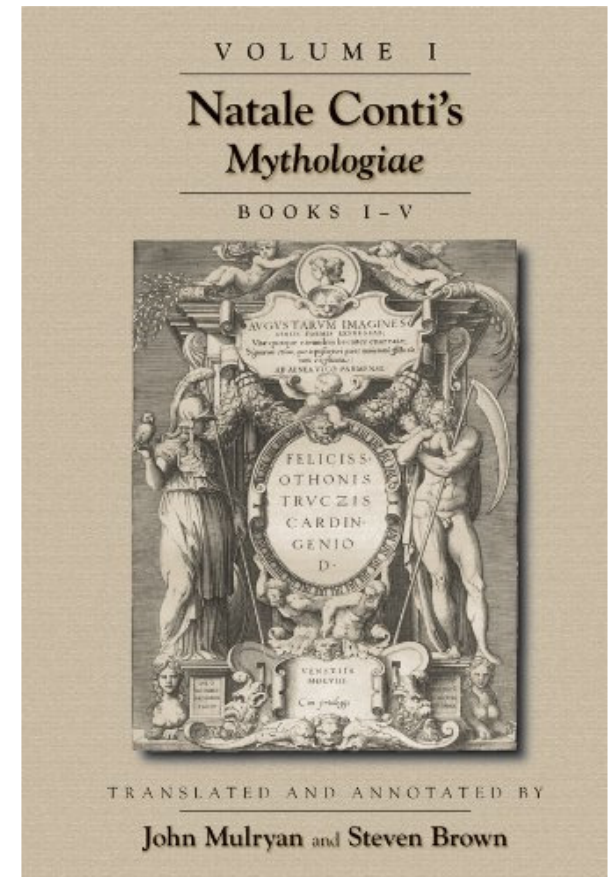




London, The Warburg Institute, 1940



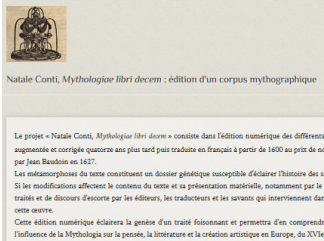
Spanish Translation (1581) by Rosa M.<sup>a</sup> Iglesias Montiel et M.<sup>a</sup> Consuelo Álvarez Morán, Murcia, Universidad de Murcia, 1988.



English Translation (1581) by John Mulryan and Steven Brown, Tempe, ACMRS, 2006.



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



2. A digital edition: principles



3. Interrogations & current perplexities: a sample



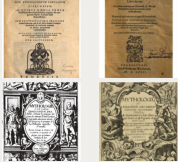
## 1. Natale Conti's *Mythologiae libri decem*: from text to corpus

- 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

1581 (A: Frankfurt/B: Venice): augmented edition

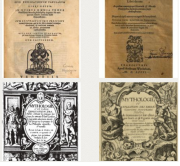
1600-1612 (illustrated): French translation by Jean de Montlyard, 5 editions

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



## 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"



## 2. A digital edition: principles - <http://eman-archives.org/Mythologia/>

- **First step:**

*La Mythologie de Conti éditée par Jean Baudoin, Livre I (1627)*, dir. Céline Bohnert & Rachel Darmon, Reims: Epure, to be published in 2020.

- **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





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2. A digital edition: principles - <http://eman-archives.org/Mythologia/>

What this edition will be:

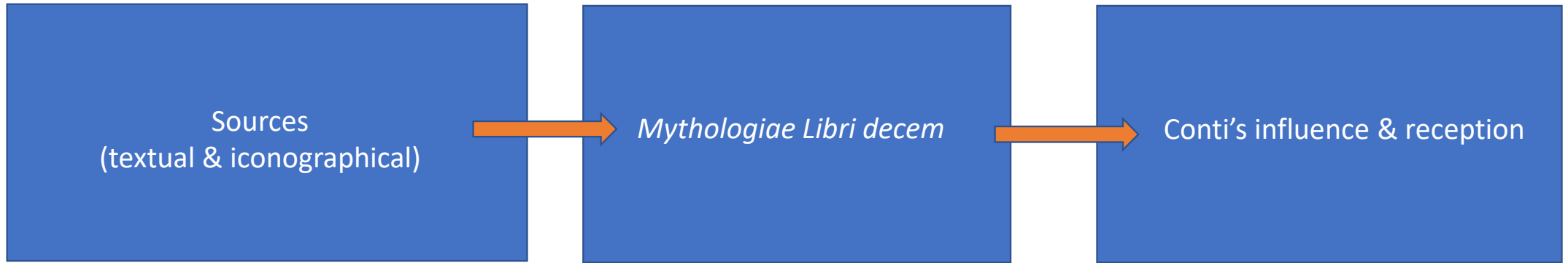
- a work in progress
- a tool (a digital ecosystem)
- aimed at studying **circulations & recycling** (of knowledge, quotations, ideas, images and iconographical motives)

What it will not be:

- an encyclopedia on an encyclopedia



## 2. A digital edition: principles - <http://eman-archives.org/Mythologia/>



- 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

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

> allow circulation in the corpus  
> make its metamorphoses visible

- 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



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Thank you for your attention.

