

A. ARRIAZA. **Multiple characters, one name: Heracles' multiplicity in Herodorus of Heraclea and its influence in Late Antiquity**

The multiplication of characters from one single name is not an uncommon mythographic phenomenon. The case of Heracles is a particularly productive example. His duality is already implicit in Homer (*Od.* 11.602-4) and Herodotus (2.43). But the early mythographer Herodorus of Heraclea (V-IV BC), who exhibits “rationalizing” tendencies, goes a step beyond. He claims that there might be seven individual Heracleis that share the same name. This statement can be found in a fragment (fr. 14 Fowler) that belongs to his monumental work devoted to Heracles in seventeen books, the *Heracleia*. The purpose of this presentation is to ponder the motives behind this multiplicity of Heracleis that might suit Herodorus' rationalizing programme. Exploring the relevance of this division in the subsequent mythographic tradition will also be examined, since several imperial authors bring back this plurality.

Keywords:

Mythography – Rationalization – Heracles – Pythagoreanism – Herodorus of Heraclea.