

Classical Mythology

LLCU 316.010/080



Class 19

The Age of Heroes

Jason and Medea

Readings for Thursday

Classical Mythology
pages 614-638

Reminders:

- Honors Section assignment due Thursday, May 3rd
- Exams back at end of class
 - Same instructions as last time
 - Look over addition
 - Ask if you have any questions about the grading
 - Average: upper “B”

Classics Lecture: Thursday, May 3rd @ 7pm

Memorial Hall 127



AWASH IN IMPERIAL INNUENDO

AT THE BATHS OF CARACALLA



MARYL B. GENSHEIMER

DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

MAY 3, 2018 | 7PM | MEMORIAL HALL 127 | FREE ADMISSION | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

In ancient Roman cities, baths were necessities of daily life and familiar urban landmarks. The most magnificent were the imperial *thermae*, built in Rome by the emperors between 25 BCE and 315 CE. Although previous study of these buildings has focused on their architectural design, the lived experience of these spaces warrants closer attention.

Prof. Gensheimer will explore the architectural and freestanding sculpture from the Baths of Caracalla (inaugurated 216 CE) to consider issues of patronage, infrastructure, and daily life in ancient Rome. Her fresh interpretive framework reveals that the building's polychrome marbles and masterfully-staged sculptural displays provided visual cues to the thousands of bathers who used the baths daily. Although bathing together tended to collapse distinctions between elite and non-elite Romans, the decorative program of the baths – and its messages of imperial power – affirmed traditional sociopolitical differences between bathers and the emperor.

Maryl B. Gensheimer is a historian of Roman art and archaeology. Her research focuses on the art and architecture of the city of Rome, on the Bay of Naples, and in Asia Minor. She is particularly interested in ancient cities and urban life, and the social structures and interdependent systems of urban design and urban infrastructure that impacted the ancient experience of monuments and spaces.



UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE

Department of Languages,
Literatures & Cultures
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

www.dlcl.udel.edu

Next in-class writing assignment:

Are there any modern heroes (real or fictional) that you think resemble ones we have seen in class so far? Provide a brief justification.

Heracles:



The Legend of Jason

The Argonauts

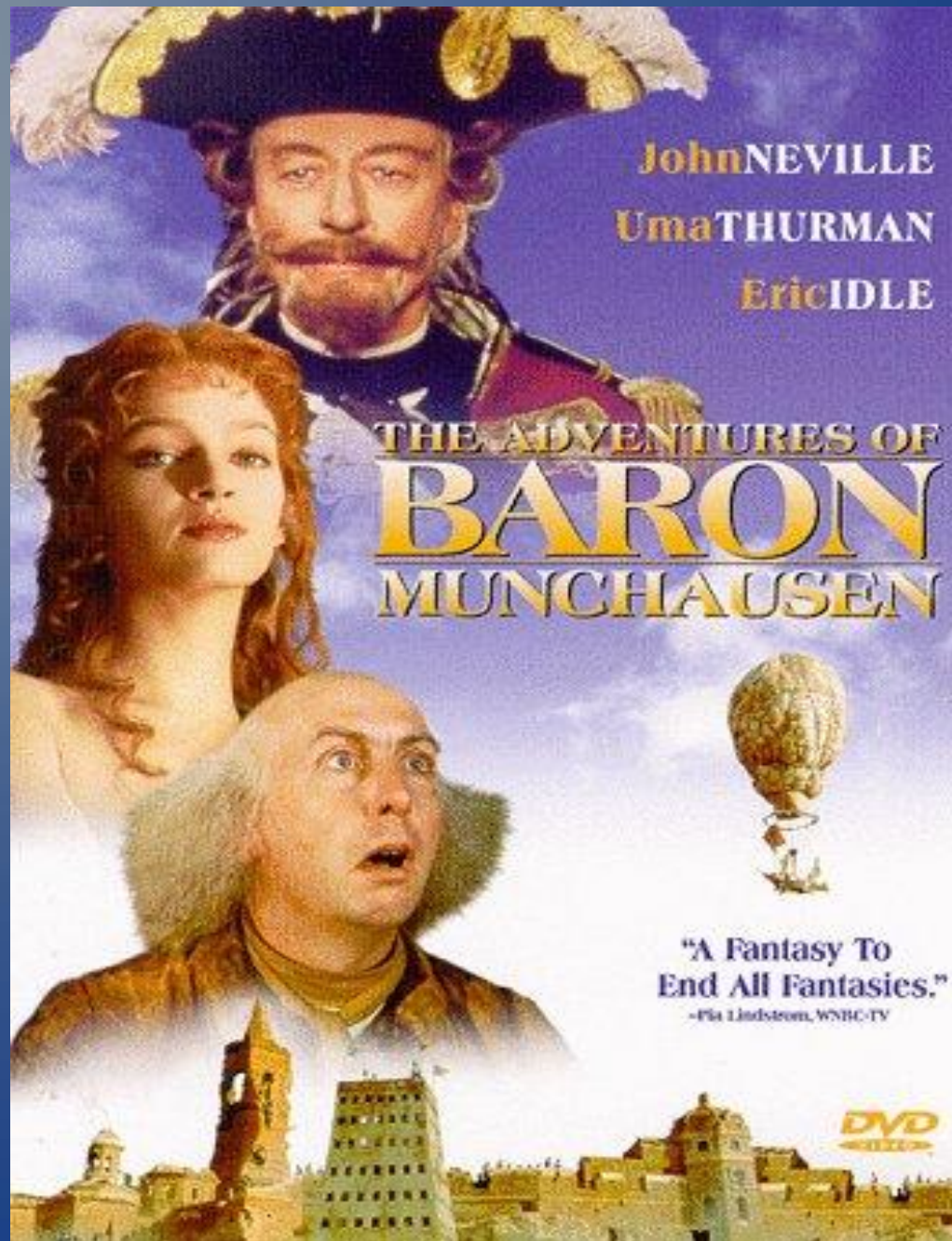
- .A who's-who of legendary heroes (about 50) – 50 oars on the Argos
- .Most notable, **Orpheus** and **Heracles**
- .Also Meleager, Augeas, Castor and Pollux, Idas and Lynceus (keen eyesight); Periclymenus (change shape); Euphemus (fast runner); Zetes and Calais (had wings)

The Legend of Jason

The Argonauts



The Legend of Jason



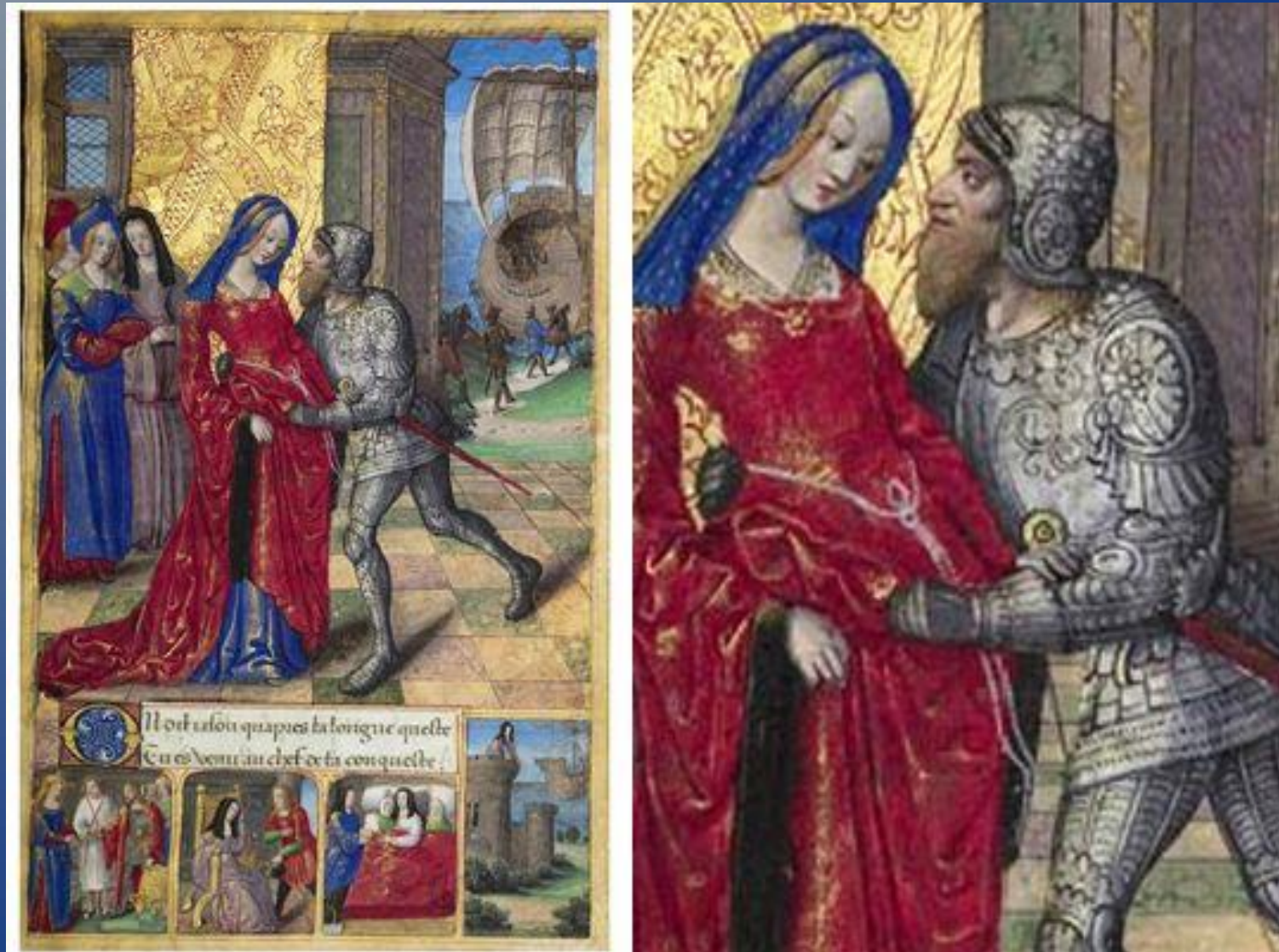
The Legend of Jason

The Argonauts

- .Joined for the sake of heroic *arete* (excellence)
- .Performed a series of *parerga* (additional labours) along the way
- .Hypsipyle and the Lemnian women
- .Phineus and the Harpies
- .Symplegades

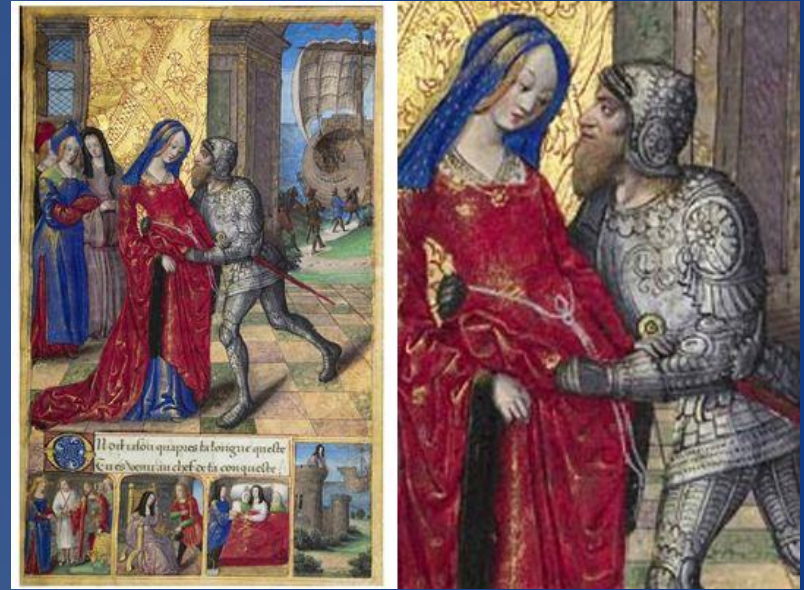
The Legend of Jason

.Hypsipyle and the Lemnian women



The Legend of Jason

- Hypsipyle and the **Lemnian women**
- Jason and his men landed on Lemnos
- The women there did not worship Aphrodite
- As punishment, the goddess made them all smell bad
- Husbands wouldn't sleep with them, took mistresses, so they killed them
- Jason had a child with Hypsipyle



The Legend of Jason

.Phineus and the **Harpies** (Zetes and Calais)

- Phineus was a blind prophet, cursed by the gods for telling the future
- Every day, he would set a full table of food outside, only to have the Harpies eat and defile his food
- Zetes and Calais (those guys with the wings) chase off the Harpies



The Legend of Jason

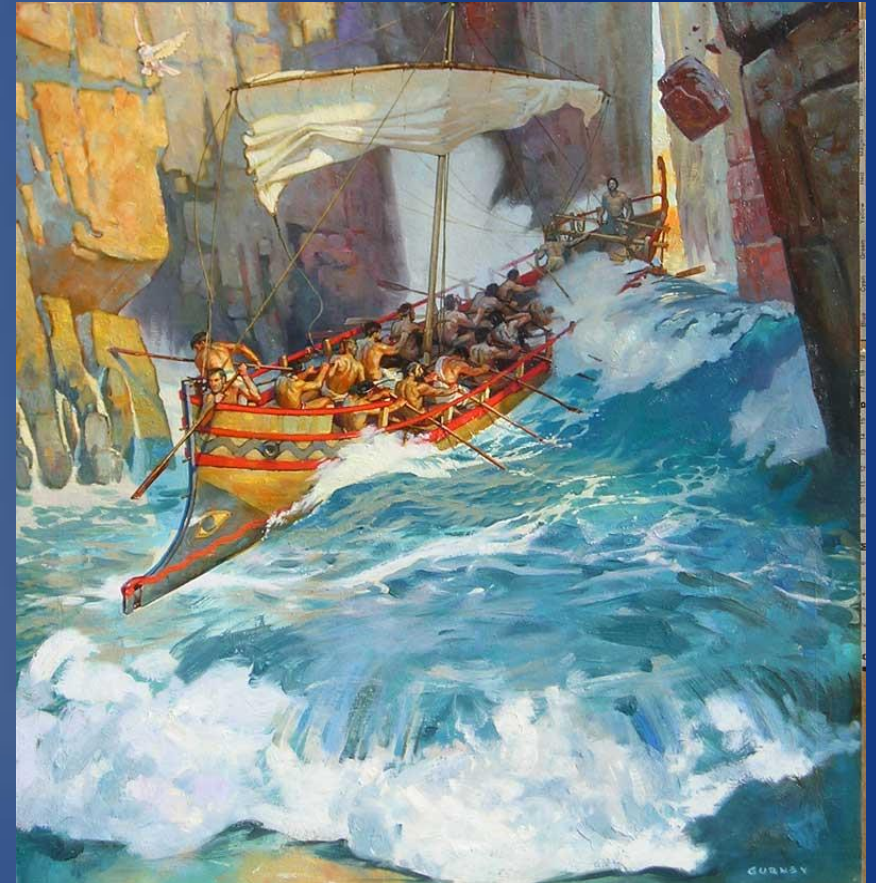
.Symplegades

.(Euphemus)



The Legend of Jason

- In English, Symplegades means “the smashers”
- Two rocks that crashed together, destroying ships
- Sent a dove through, which made it safely: indicated that they could too
- In some versions, Euphemus (the fast runner) ran ahead of the ship across the water
- Once they passed through, the rocks forever stopped



The Legend of Jason

.Euxine Sea (The Black Sea) - Colchis



Enter Medea

- Princess of Colchis
- Probably a teen at the time of Jason's arrival
- As a Colchian, she was non-Greek ("Eastern")
- Granddaughter of Helios, niece of the sorceress Circe
- Priestess of Hecate (i.e. trained as a sorceress herself)



The Legend of Jason

Jason at Colchis

- .King of Colchis **Aeetes** agrees to give Jason the Golden Fleece if he performs a set of impossible tasks
- .Fire breathing bulls
- .Army from the soil
- .Serpent protecting the tree
- .Medea (the princess) helps Jason in each of these

The Legend of Jason

Jason at Medea Escape

- .Pursued by Colcheans after Jason claims the Golden Fleece
- .At lead of chase was Apsyrtus (Medea's brother)
- .Either a) killed in ambush; or b) dismembered

The Legend of Jason

Jason at Medea Escape

- *Parerga* (side-quests)
- Visit Circe (Medea's aunt)
- Planctae – wandering rocks
- Scylla and Charybdis
- **Sirens** – man-eating singers
- Phaeaceans – nice “non-Greek” people
- **Talus** – bronze “robot” of Crete

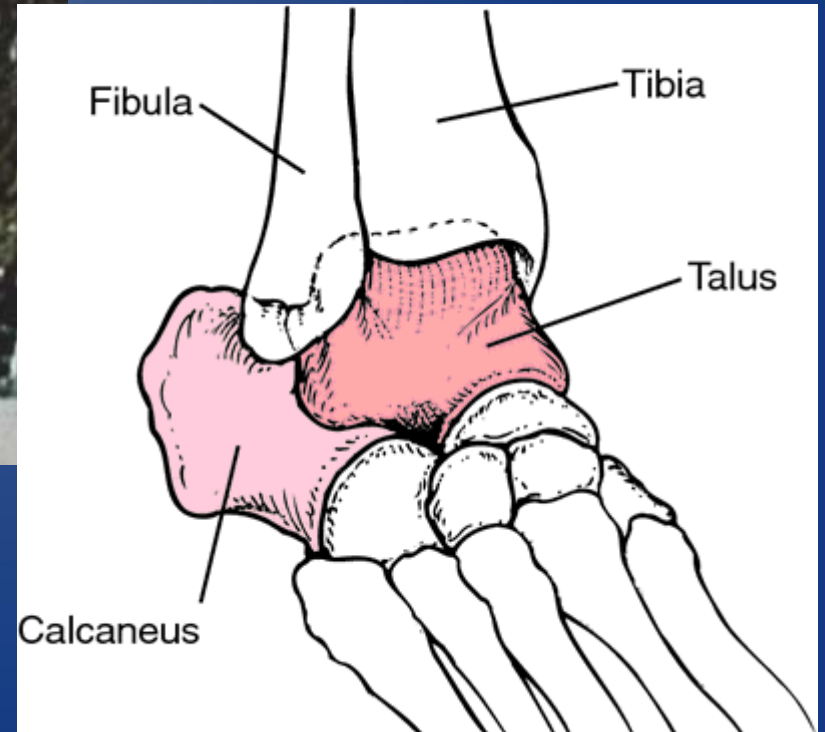
The Legend of Jason

Orpheus drowns out the seductive sound of the Sirens with his lyre



The Legend of Jason

Talus: Medea severs his “talus” vein



The Legend of Jason

Jason at Medea Escape



The Legend of Jason

Jason at Medea's Return to Iolchus



The Legend of Jason

- .Jason returns the Fleece to Pelias (but not accepted)
- . Jason insists on securing his rightful place as king
- .Medea assists and kills Pelias

The Legend of Jason: Pelias' Death

- Medea tells Pelias' daughters that they can “rejuvenate” their father
- She demonstrates by taking an old ram, dismembering and boiling it in a special cauldron
- A young ram emerges
- The daughters attempt the same thing with their father, but no success
- Medea had withheld a special ingredient for the success of the spell



The Legend of Jason

.For the murder, both Jason and Medea must leave Iolcus for Corinth

.There they are received by the king Creon and his daughter Glauce

The Legend of Jason

What does a hero do after his quest?