

Mythology symposium first in Oregon

By MARTHA BLISS
Of the Emerald

Herakles — the mythical Greek hero known as Hercules to the Romans — will highlight a University symposium on ancient mythology, Thursday through Saturday.

Some 250 persons from throughout the United States and Canada are expected to attend the gathering which will be the first such event in Oregon. It will be sponsored by the architecture and allied arts, liberal arts and graduate schools, ASUO, Cultural Forum, Eugene Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and Eugene Transient Room Tax Funds.

The special exhibit on Herakles, entitled "The Labors of Herakles on Antiquities from West Coast Collections," will illustrate the most important parts of the hero's life — his 12 labors. According to myth, these super-human tasks were

set before Herakles by the king of the Argolid, Eurystheus. Enraged by learning that Zeus had sired a son (Herakles) by a mortal woman, the goddess wife of Zeus agreed to allow Herakles to become immortal if he could perform these labors.

"Herakles came to represent the hero's hero, and his adventures became one of the most popular themes in art," explains Robert McClain, symposium chair.

He notes that to the Greeks, Herakles symbolized all that was virtuous and beneficial in life. The exhibit on his labors thus not only illustrates one of the great themes of Greek mythology, but also represents Greek art in general, which influenced Roman art and much of later European art.

Items of rather common, everyday use are featured in the exhibition, which has been organized by Frances Stern, University assistant professor of art history and president of the Eugene Society of the AIA.

Tiny coins and gems are included which show Herakles in his traditional lion skin garb, carrying a club. Also featured are statuettes, terracotta figurines, mosaics and painted vases which depict whole episodes in Herakles' labors.

More than 40 objects are in the exhibition and are "typical of the kind of thing ancient people would have around the house," according to Stern. The objects, many of which are shown only rarely, are from the following institutions: Seattle Art Museum, Maryhill (Washington) Museum, Portland Art Museum, Robert H. Lowie Museum of Anthropology at Berkeley, De Young Memorial Museum and Palace of the Legion of Honor at San Francisco, Stanford University Museum of Art, and two private collectors in Eugene.

A catalogue of the exhibition, edited by Stern, is available for \$2.

Formal opening of the Herakles exhibit will be held in the

University Art Museum at 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

Another major event of the symposium will be the opening address, "The Orpheus Legend in Art," by Prof. Darrell Amyx of the University of California, Berkeley, at 8 p.m. Thursday. He will also discuss "The Many Loves of Zeus (and Their Consequences)" at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

Also scheduled are a Friday evening banquet at the Eugene Hotel, and open sessions of short papers on mythology at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

Queens College professor Ellen Davis will discuss "A Re-arrangement of the Olympia Metopes," at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

All events, except the banquet and Herakles exhibition, will be in Room 177 Lawrence. The symposium is open to the public and further information is available from McClain, 2380 Spring Blvd., Eugene.

Educators plan strategy for writing instruction

By LORA CUYKENDALL
Of the Emerald

The battle against illiteracy took another step forward over the weekend as educators involved in teaching writing met at the University to plan strategies for combating the problem.

About fifty English teachers, school district curriculum coordinators and language arts specialists met all day Saturday in the EMU in the second of a series of meetings aimed at coordinating statewide activities to improve writing instruction. Concern over declining SAT scores and the level of writing competency of high school and college students has inspired the meetings.

"Meetings like these give people the chance to exchange information and ideas," said Nathaniel Teich, director of composition at the University and one of the coordinators of the statewide meetings. "We want to form a close network and work toward getting the state to see writing as an important area of instruction."

Teich has been examining the state's writing programs for some time as a member of an ad hoc committee on competence in English composition formed by

the State Board of Higher Education and the Community College Coordinating Council last spring. He said his work with that committee made him realize the importance of organizing writing instruction on a statewide basis, including elementary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities.

"People are showing a high interest in working on this problem," said Teich, "and this is an especially important time to develop writing programs."

Teich said the State Department of Education has asked all school districts to define competency levels in writing, reading and computation by 1978. He said this has increased educators' desires to know what's going on in writing programs in other areas.

One of the goals set Saturday was to work toward convincing the state's education department to declare writing a "high priority item." This would possibly funnel more money into writing programs and continuing education programs for composition teachers.

A meeting of representatives from five state regions is scheduled for June to continue working on improving the state's writing programs.



EMU Cultural Forum presents

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THURSDAY MAY 20

- 12:30 Cyclone Madrone
- 1:15 Kevin Johns and Karla Rose
- 2:00 Canyon Creek Ramblers
- 2:45 "X"
- 3:30 Knares
- 4:15 Emily Phelps and Antonia Barnes
- 5:00 Ira Herskowitz

SATURDAY MAY 22

- 12:00 Tom Schwenzer
- 12:45 Shebegen
- 1:30 Patchwork
- 2:15 Greg Field
- 3:00 Friends of the Family
- 3:45 COUSIN EMMY, country star of the 30's and 40's
- 5:00 Peter Pancreas and the High Livers
- 5:45 Ragtime Millionaires
- 6:30 Susan Arrow

FRIDAY MAY 21

- 11:30 Meg Stormont and Kevin Barnes
- 12:30 Once in a While Band
- 1:15 Woody Harris
- 2:00 Lanning Russel and Kevin McGraw
- 2:45 Pop Powers
- 3:30 Jim Page
- 4:15 SUNNYLAND SLIM, Chicago blues piano player
- 6:00 Medicine Wolf
- 6:45 Gold Ring String Band

BARN DANCE

On Friday night there will also be a barn dance in Gerlinger gym. Sue Reager will be the caller. Dance begins at 7:30.

East Lawn,
Erb Memorial Union

All Events Are FREE

-in case of rain, events will take place inside the EMU-

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