
CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA IN THE COMIC *FABLE OF VENICE* BY HUGO PRATT

Abstract

Comic *Fable of Venice* might seem like a simple story of Corto Maltese's adventure in search of the lost emerald around this beautiful city. However, the analysis of symbols and characters in drawings and text leads to the conclusion that it is, actually, the story of the Mediterranean as an area where different cultures have not only been geographically but also culturally linked for centuries. Being close to each other, these cultures associate and change, influencing one another, but still managing to keep the authenticity. Although they are the heritage of the whole Mediterranean, the symbols, legends, and characters mentioned in this comic are all placed in Venice, so that within just one walk around the city, the author can easily help the reader understand the history of the whole area. This paper aims at proving that Pratt does not allow just simple, passive reading, but requires a reader to explore actively the topics mentioned in the *Fable*.

Keywords: civilizations; legends; *Fable of Venice*; Hugo Pratt; Mediterranean; symbols