

James Joyce Argonauta in Adriatico

CARLA VAGLIO MARENGO

Università di Torino

Abstract

James Joyce: Argonaut in the Adriatic

*The heroic journey “abroad” to the Adriatic Sea and Trieste meant for Joyce the possibility of re-enacting the quest for the Golden Fleece as a way of regaining his “self-respect”. Setting down at Pola, city of exiles (the Colchis, pursuers of the Argonauts), having chosen Trieste as his second fatherland and assumed Triestine gestural and verbal traits, Joyce could think of having inscribed his name next to those of the Argonauts on the maps of Ortelius. Living on the “amaro Adriatico”, a sea in which myth and history are always dramatically felt as present and never completely exhausted, Joyce’s readings of *Odyssey* and *Argonautika* intersected and intertwined surveying the entire domain of literary forms. In the refashioning of the formula “Mare Vestrum and Nostrum”, Joyce intended to stress the Janus-faced nature of things, as in Trieste, where East and West, as well as North and South meet, a place on which the presence of the Greeks left an ineffaceable cultural mark.*

Keywords: *Odyssey; Argonautika; Ulysses; periegetic journeys; Greek community in Trieste.*