

**«THE LABOURS OF HERCULES»
BY AGATHA CHRISTIE AS ARTISTIC PHENOMENON**

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Agatha Christie is a classic of world detective fiction. Her works have interesting plots, arrangement of characters, subtle observations on the characteristics of the human character. Christie's creative work is the focus of literary critics' attention, but the work "The labours of Hercules" is not fully investigated, as the writer has derogated from many of the canons of detective works. The relevance of this work is due to the need for further in-depth study of the writer's style.

The purpose of this article is to determine the artistic specificity of Agatha Christie's work "Labours of Hercules".

Material and methods. The material for the study is the text of the work "The labours of Hercules", the comparative-typological, cultural-historical, descriptive methods are chosen as research methods.

Findings and their discussions. "The labours of Hercules" is an original work. Some literary critics call this work a novel, as Hercules Poirot is the link in the work, the author describes his actions and deeds. Other literary critics believe that "The labours of Hercules" is a series of novels. The twelve labours of Hercules are described in Agatha Christie's work, as in ancient Greek mythology. The novels in the framework of the work are named according to the myths. They are arranged in the same order as the classical myths about Hercules. The name of the main character, Hercule, is a French version of the ancient Greek Hercules' name. The ancient Greek character amazed everyone with physical strength, and Hercule Poirot surprises everyone with the power of his intelligence. Agatha Christie widely uses humor, irony and associative plan in her work. In the first novel "The Nemean lion" the writer compares the Nemean lion with the Pekingese on the basis of a distant resemblance. Agatha Christie uses a mythological plot to depict the ingenuity of people in difficult financial situations. The second novel "The Lernaean Hydra" is a transformation of the myth about the lernean hydra. With the help of the plot, the author emphasizes that gossip in human society can be compared with the multi-headed lernean hydra, because the gossip is constantly multiplying. The third novel relates to the ancient Greek myth about the persecution of the Arcadian Deer that ravaged fields, condemning people to hunger and poverty. In the novel of the English writer peculiar arcadian deer is dancer Karina Samushenko performed the role of the deer on stage. Interpreting the myth about The Erymanthian Boar, the author gives the description of Marrascaud, a dangerous criminal. Evil is much more inventive than good in this world, but evil can be defeated by observation, resourcefulness, physical strength and the power of

mind. Agatha Christie in the novel "The Augean Stables" compares the barnyard, sinking in the sewage, with the world of big politics. The author shows how the government looks like the Augean stables. She is optimistic about the eradication of this evil: the modern character, like Hercules, will save the modern Augean stables from dirt.

The novel "The Stymphalean birds" is interesting in its content, because it reveals not only human vices, but also comprehends the mentality of the British. As is known, in the mythology of Ancient Greece the stymphalean birds are bloodthirsty birds that have copper beaks, wings and claws. The birds attack people and animals. Their most important weapon is the feathers. The main character of this novel is a novice politician Harold Waring, who has decided to spend a vacation in the fictional state. Waring meets mother and daughter, Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Clayton at the hotel where he is staying. In fact, these women are criminals, extorting money, and in view of the attitude of Harold to two women who look like sinister birds, accomplices decide to use this fact against the politician. Hercule Poirot notices the strange behavior of the English and exposes them. Two suspicious women are just harmless people. Ignorance of the other people's languages is the cause of trouble in the image of Agatha Christie.

In the novel "The Cretan Bull" the writer manages to tell the original version of the story about unrequited love and insidious revenge with the help of a mythological story about the Cretan bull. In the novel about the horses of Diomedes Christie successfully uses a metaphor, calling the people who distribute drugs the modern horses. The event line in the novel "The Girdle of Hippolyta" is built on the principle of metaphorical associations. Hercule Poirot investigates the theft of Rubens' painting associated with the disappearance of Canon King's daughter. In this novel the writer has very dynamic and witty story about the machinations and inventiveness of the smugglers. The novel "The Flock of Geryon" is also dynamic. Agatha Christie compares the spiritual pastor Dr. Andersen with the mythological three-headed Geryon. As is known, mythological Geryon lived on the island of Erythia, the headquarters of the "Flock" is near the sea, where fans of the sect gather to bypass the seclusion. In fact, they lose property and personal freedom.

A successful attempt to comprehend modernity with its acute social and moral problems is presented in the novel "The Capture of Cerberus". According to the plot of this novel, Hercule Poirot investigates the case of drug trafficking in a nightclub. The head of this club is a Russian emigrant Vera Korsakova. A favorite dog of Vera, Cerberus, is used as a hiding place. Knowledge of ancient Greek mythology helped to solve the crime. In the novel "The Apples of Hesperides" Hercule Poirot investigates the case of one of the world's largest financiers and a famous collector. The case concerns the loss of a valuable cup. It turns out that once the cup goes to the financier in an unjust way. In this novel, the writer portrays the manners of collectors. From Agatha Christie's point of view, collectors are people obsessed with the passion of acquisition,

ignoring the generally accepted rules of morality to take possession of their interest's subject.

Conclusion. The work of Agatha Christie "The labours of Hercules" is significantly different from her social and detective novels. "The labours of Hercules" have a novelistic composition. Myth acts both as an object and as an instrument of artistic interpretation. The phenomenal nature of this work at the thematic level is the author's reliance on timeless moral and ethical problems, and at the level of artistic form – in the parody transformation of mythological images and detective plot moves.

PRESENTATION OF FOLK COMIC TRADITIONS IN THE V. KOROTKEVICH'S NOVEL "CHRIST LANDED IN GORODNYA"

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V. Korotkevich's literary work is quite well researched in the Belarusian literary criticism. However, in our opinion, the influence of popular comic traditions on the writer's style has not been studied enough. Therefore, we believe that this study will be relevant for modern Belarusian literary criticism. Because our target was to explore the V. Korotkevich's style in terms of exposure to the popular comic traditions, This will give a more complete picture of the literary heritage of Vladimir Korotkevich.

Material and methods. As materials for the study served as the text of the Korotkevich's novel "Christ landed in Gorodnya". In the work we used comparative, cultural and historical methods, and analysis of a literary text too.

Findings and their discussion. Vladimir Korotkevich talked about his novel "Christ landed in Gorodnya," that it is "not a comedy or tragedy, it is tragicomedy, laughter through tears" [2, p. 492]. Next to the tragic biblical image of Christ, which is an allusion to the Yuri Bratchik, author paints a no less tragic picture of the lives of ordinary Belarusian people of the XVI century. But, at the same time, the author also seeks to convey a kind of spirit of the times, the mentality of the person and the time corresponding to the features of the national perception of the world. Known researcher Vorobey describes the main character of the novel: "Yuri Bratchik embodies the image of the medieval man, active, restless, cheerful, playful and freedom, which is released from the fetters of religious dogma and is absorbed better ideological and aesthetic and spiritual acquisition that brought with them a new era. Despite all the adversities, Yuri Bratchik remains optimistic. He scoffs at the whole bone and moribund lives, as well as its people, rich and full life "[2 p. 492].