Presentation

The Dossier “Homo Viator in Mono-, Bi- et Trivio: Textual and Visual Religious Languages” is dedicated to a very ancient religious language that is still in use today. His development of the presentation of a single way (ladder, labyrinth, Tabula Cebetis, entire devotional books of the way of the triple mysticism (purgative way, illuminative way, unitive way), Hell and paradise of Dantes, the work Pilgrim’s Progress of John Bunyan) or for multiply paths (Hercules at the crossroads, Epsilon of Pythagoras, the two doors, the broad way and the narrow way, the bed of death and the bed of life) follows Western religion from Antiquity to Modernity. Its textual representations from Antiquity are followed in a more concentrated and then growing way from the medieval period onwards. The articles gathered in this dossier, in large part the results of the colloquium of doctoral students given in the Postgraduate course in Sciences of Religion / Umesp in the year 2020, cover texts dedicated to the motif of homo viator, the walking human being, and their visual liturgical and ethical aspects.

We open our dossier, following a chronological logic, with two texts that deal, in a way, with the importance of the journeys of images [what Aby Warburg would call Bilderfahrzeuge, vehicles of images, or images as vehicles] for the construction of the human religious imaginary. In Saint, monster and traveler: myth and image in the hagiography of São Cristóvão, doctoral student Guilherme de Figueiredo Cavalheri discusses the role of monsters in culture, cynocephaly as a cultural phenomenon of Late Antiquity and the approach to the theme by Christian narratives. Then he presents an iconographic analysis of image of Saint Christopher, considering its eastern and western versions. The second text, Ipsilon by Pythagoras, Hercules at the crossroads and Tabula Cebetis: the “survival of antiquity” in the motif of the wide and narrow path, by Professor Helmut Renders shows how Christian texts of one path and Christian images of the two paths integrated motifs from antiquity (Tabula Cebitis, Herculae at the crossroads, Epsilon by Pythagoras). Therefore he establishes a conversation with the conception of Nachleben or the survival of Antiquity by Aby Warburg. The following article, by doctoral student Vinicius Couto, Remonstrants at the
crossroads: paths and detours in 17th-century Holland, is a predominantly descriptive historiographical essay of the paths and/or detours taken by the Synod of Dordrecht in 17th century Netherlands. The next text, Homo viator and liturgy: the impact of liturgy on the identity of the walking human being and the Love Feast as a model, by doctoral student Jonadab Domingues de Almeida, talks about the time and space of liturgy, in relation to the identity of homo viator; of the formative role of the rites in the identity of homo viator, of the liturgy as a path; and cult models and structures and their influence on homo viator. He ends his journey through the Methodist liturgies with a special attention to the form of agape or the feast of love.

Now one text that deal with songs follow. The first, Ethical perspectives of homo viator in the Album De Vento em Popa de Vencedores Por Cristo, by the doctoral student Hélerson Alves Nogueira, investigates how the theme of the homo viator articulates the ethical perspective in the motif of the path in the discography produced by the Vencedores Por Cristo in the 1970s. His text demonstrates how the motive of the way, in addition to articulating the ultimate meaning of the human journey, always spoke of a penultimate ethical meaning. Follows the text From figurative to abstract: nuances of stained glass in Brazilian Protestant religious architecture in Curitiba, by the professors Ed Marcos Sarro and Marcio Luiz Fernandes. The text presents results of a postdoctoral internship with a rare reflection on Protestant Brazilian stained glass, including abstract stained glass.

The article From metaethnography to ethnographic expeditions in the northeast of Brazil: Resources and pathways to update sources on popular devotions by professor Luís Américo Silva Bonfim focuses on votive practices and canonical and non-canonical devotions in the Northeast of Brazil. The author proposes, first, a review of the taxonomic and classificatory systems of the phenomenology of the miracle and, second, he presents a stylographic synopsis of different typologies of votive objects, updating and expanding the cartography of devotional processes in the Northeast region of Brazil.

We thank you for your contributions as well as for the generous reception of our dossier by the journal Caminhando, especially its general editor Prof. Dr. João Batista Ribeiro Santos, and we wish you good readings of these interesting texts.

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