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Abstract for the poster presentation during the “Drawing on the Past. The Pre-Modern World in Comics” conference, at Senate House, University of London (London, UK), Sept. 10-11. 2018

Marathon

A new database of examples of classical antiquity’s receptions within young people's culture is currently being developed within the European Research Council- funded project *Our Mythical Childhood. The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children’s and Young Adults’ Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges* (<http://www.omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/> ; <http://www.panoply.org.uk/omc.html>). Entries are being prepared for a considerable number of graphic novels and comics. This paper will include a brief introduction to the database project and the benefits that it will bring to research on classical reception within comics.

A poster presentation will discuss a specific database entry and the research that went into its preparation. This will involve an analysis of *Marathon*, a graphic novel written by Boaz Yakin and illustrated by Joe Infurnari for First Second (2012). *Marathon* is a work of realism, illustrated in black and white. It tells the story of Eucles, an Athenian who runs from Athens to Sparta and back during the fateful days of the Marathon campaign in 490BCE. The entry and this paper will discuss how the creators of *Marathon* have adapted the Herodotean tradition to create a visual narrative for young readers. It will analyse how antiquity has been represented, with particular reference to ancient values, particularly in the areas of politics, religion, violence, ethnicity, and masculinity.



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