Maciej Skowera, "Entry on: Amalthea the Goat [Koza Amalteja] by Franciszek Kobryńczuk", peer-reviewed by Katarzyna Marciniak and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1525. Entry version as of September 14, 2026.

Franciszek Kobryńczuk

Amalthea the Goat [Koza Amalteja]

Poland (2015)

TAGS: Amalthea Cornucopia Crete Cronus / Kronos Rhea Titanomachy Zeus

We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Amalthea the Goat [Koza Amalteja]
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	2015
First Edition Details	Franciszek Kobryńczuk, "Koza Amalteja", *Biuletyn Północno-Wschodniej Izby Lekarsko-Weterynaryjnej* [Bulletin of the North-Eastern Veterinary Chamber] 57.3 (2015): 94–96 (accessed September 13, 2022). Web. Ewa Białek, n.d. http://www.ewa.bicom.pl/wierszedzieci/kob47.htm (acessed: September 21, 2022).
ISBN	ISSN 2081-3708
Available Onllne	Koza Amalteja at ewa.bicom.pl (accessed: September 21, 2022). *Bulletin of the North-Eastern Veterinary Chamber* 57.3 (2015): 94–96.
Genre	Narrative poetry, Poetry
Target Audience	Children
Author of the Entry	Maciej Skowera, University of Warsaw, mgskowera@uw.edu.pl

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Creators

Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Franciszek Kobryńczuk , 1929 - 2016
(Author)

A veterinarian, professor of veterinary sciences specializing in animal anatomy (an authority on the anatomy of the Polish bison), writer, and poet. 1948–1950: a member of a secret youth organization active within the post-WW2 underground connected to Armia Krajowa [Home Army], banned by the Communist regime; in 1950 he was sentenced to a 10-year prison term for this activity; fully exonerated after the fall of Communism. Graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW); from 1994 to 2000 Head of the Department of Animal Anatomy at the same University. Debuted as an author for children in 1958 with a short poem *Sowa* [Owl], published in children's magazine "Miś"; contributor to several other magazines for children and young adults, such as "Świerszczyk," "Płomyk," "Płomyczek," and "Mały Apostoł"; author of about 30 books for children, young adults and adults; a former member of the Polish Writers' Union; now his poems can be found most of all online. The page ewa.bicom.pl/wierszedzieci run by a Kobryńczuk's admirer, Ewa Białek, functions as the official website for Kobryńczuk's poems for children.

Source:

Materials kindly provided by the Author.

Bio prepared by Maciej Skowera, University of Warsaw, mgskowera@gmail.com

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Additional information

Summary

Based on: Katarzyna Marciniak, Elżbieta Olechowska, Joanna Kłos, Michał Kucharski (eds.), *Polish Literature for Children & Young Adults Inspired by Classical Antiquity: A Catalogue* (accessed: June 11, 2021), Faculty of "Artes Liberales", Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2013, 444 pp.

When Cronus learns about a prophecy foretelling that one of his children will defeat him, he starts devouring them as soon as they are born. By giving Cronus a stone to eat, his wife Rhea saves the youngest child, Zeus. She secretly leaves her son on Crete to be brought up by a goat named Amalthea and by nymphs. When the goat dies, Zeus breaks off her horn and gives it to the nymphs, creating a cornucopia. Out of Amalthea's skin he makes a shield named *aegis*. Later, Zeus returns to Cronus and gives him an emetic. The god vomits his children: Demeter, Hera, Hestia, Hades, and Poseidon. Zeus defeats Cronus and becomes the king of the gods.

Analysis

This work tells the myth of Zeus' childhood, his upbringing by the titular Amalthea, and, finally, how he became the greatest of the gods. Notably, Franciszek Kobryńczuk devotes much space to the goat's death and its horn's use to create the cornucopia and her skin to make a shield. The Titanomachy, which becomes the subject of the final part of the poem, is presented synthetically, in a way adapted to a hypothetical children's audience. Also, the author repeatedly uses enjambment, one of his favourite artistic devices, to highlight words separated by a clause.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Amalthea Cornucopia Crete Cronus / Kronos Rhea Titanomachy Zeus

Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant

Animals Coming of age Emotions Relationships Violence

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for Children and Youth Culture

Further Reading

Entry: "Amalthea (Amaltheia)" on theoi.com (accessed September 13, 2022).

Nosek, Anna, *W przestrzeniach universum i regio. Wiersze dla dzieci współczesnych pisarzy regionu podlaskiego – interpretacje* [In the Spaces of universum and regio: Poems for Children by Contemporary Writers of the Podlasie Region – Interpretations], Białystok: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu w Białymstoku, 2015.

Addenda

Before the print publication, the poem has been available online, at Ewa Białek's website.

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