

Overview

ORMA is a semester journal, opened to collaboration to all those who are interested in the ethnological research and in the study of religions. It is edited by the Orma Center for Ethnological Studies (CSEO), in collaboration with the Department of Classical Philology of the “Babeş-Bolyai” University and the Romanian Association of Religious Studies (ARSR).

The journal’s first issue (*Ancient Religious Perspectives*), in May 2004, was centered on the field of history of religions. Starting with its second issue (*Paganalia, Aspects of the popular Festive calendar*), *Orma* begins to tackle with ethnology, on account of the epistemic porosity between the two disciplines, and due to the inter-disciplinary feature of the suggested themes, both of ethnological and historical and religious extraction.

By means of this structural vantage point, the journal intends to deal through multifarious methods the multiple sources of contemporary Europe’s identity (the Archaic and Classical Antiquity, the Late Pagan and Judeo-Christian Antiquity, the popular cultures of Medieval and Modern Europe with their regional or local contemporary extensions, the extra-European cultural imports etc.). The journal’s name itself, *Orma*, a term with popular etymological roots (the *vulgar* Latin) and two linguistic ramifications (the Italian *orma* and the Romanian *urmă*), tries to describe by means of its complex significance this multiple cultural stratification.

The journal’s ethnological feature emphasizes both its methodological perspectives of analysis in terms of folklore, ethnology and anthropology, and a certain preference for popular cultures and, consequently, for their representations and magical/religious rites. This having been said, the choice of the terms *historical* and *religious* for the journal’s identity mark, far from being fortuitous, stands for a cognitive choice: the assuming of the historical nature of the studied facts by means of a statutory dynamical morphology whose purpose is the conjoining of synchronicity and of the diachronically based information, in virtue of the diachronically based inter-textual structure of any cultural tradition in general and religious in particular.

Themes of the Review

Orma. Review of Historical-Religious Studies

- ◆ nr. 1/2004. Ancient Religious Perspectives

Orma. Review of Ethnological and Historical-Religious Studies

- ◆ nr. 2/2005. Paganalia. Aspects of the Popular Festive Calendar
- ◆ nr. 3/2005. Magia rustica. Imagery and Magical Practices in Popular Cultures
- ◆ nr. 4/2006. Political Theologies in Classical and Late Antiquity
- ◆ nr. 5/2006. Daimonion. Demonological Representations in Comparative Perspective
- ◆ nr. 6/2007. Religion in Contemporary Society. Sociological Approaches
- ◆ nr. 7/2007. Historicism and Antihistoricism in the study of Religions
- ◆ nr. 8/2008. The Popular Christianity. Ethnological and Historical-Religious Aspects
- ◆ nr. 9/2008. Plotinus and his Legacy