

R. SCOTT SMITH : **Between Narrative and Allusion: Mythography in Pomponius Mela's *Chorography***

This essay offers a study of the mythographical elements in Pomponius Mela's attempts to describe the *oikoumene* in his *Chorography*. After offering a schema to categorize mythological references in Mela and other geographical texts, the essay analyzes Mela's attitudes toward myth—with a particular eye to his rationalizing tendencies—and his narrative choices whether to fully narrate, explicitly mention, or allude to myths. The tendency to allude to rather than explicate myths is rare among prose authors and suggests that Mela intended his audience to “reenact” mythical episodes mentally. Mela's mythographical exposition, then, works in tandem with the structure of the *periplus* to reinforce the mental conceptualization of the *oikoumene*. A catalog of references to myth and cult sites in Mela is included in the appendix.

Mots-clés :

mythography – Mela – geography – rationalization – narration – allusion – *fabula* – memory – etymology – foundation myths