

Luc Brisson (CNRS Villejuif)

Orpheus, Aglaophamus, Pythagoras, Plato

In his *Life of Pythagoras*, Iamblichus tells how Pythagoras was initiated into the mysteries of Orpheus by a certain Aglaophamus (a name that provided the title for a book by Lobeck) and how Plato was able to benefit from these revelations in the course of his journeys in southern Italy. This “philosophical myth” experienced an immense success in the Neoplatonic School of Athens and Alexandria, and in the Renaissance. We shall analyse, in English, the ideological contents of this encounter between Orpheus, Pythagoras, and Plato, as we had already begun to do in “Orphée, Pythagore et Platon. le mythe qui établit cette lignée”, in Th. Kobusch und M. Erler, eds., *Metaphysik und Religion. Zur Signatur des spätantiken Denkens* [Akten des Internationalen Kongresses vom 13.-17. März 2001 Würzburg], unter Mitwirkung von Irmgard Männlein-Robert, Register von Dirk Cürsgen, München-Leipzig (Saur) 2002, p. 415-427.

Biography:

Luc Brisson, Researcher at the National Center for Scientific Research (Paris, France), has published widely on both Plato and Plotinus, including bibliographies, translations (namely of Iamblichus, *La Vie de Pythagore* with Alain-Philippe Segonds 1996, ²2011), and commentaries. He has also published numerous works on the history of philosophy and religions in Antiquity.