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Soviet Argonauts: Sailing to the Coasts of Colchis in the Soviet Culture

The Myth of the Argonauts was of great importance for the Soviet Union, because it allowed to make a straight connection with the Greek past. The myth was widely explored during the decades and it had its reflection in popular culture. There were two cartoons (*Colchis*, dir. Vladimir Mujiri, anim. Lado Gudiashvili, 1936, Goskinprom Gruzii studio; *The Argonauts*, dir. Aleksandra Snezhko-Blotskaia, 1971, Soyuzmultfilm studio) and one TV musical (*Argonavtebi*, dir. Evgeny Ginzburg, 1986, Ekran studio) made on the base of the myth. The myth was transformed respectively to current ideology and the movies (the cartoons and the musical) contain different messages according to time of their creation and presumable audience.

I would like to analyse these movies in cultural, political and educational context of the USSR. In my opinion cinema and TV had great influence on creating opinions and transferring common knowledge, what makes them especially worthy of study. I am especially interested in how this myth was accepted in the centre of the USSR, in Georgia (i.e. the ancient Colchis) and in peripheries of the country (including lands of different nations of the Soviet Union) and whether this myth had influence on identification of spectators. Another problem of analysis is acceptance of the myth in children’s and young adult’s culture of the USSR. The problem of connections between generations is central for the cartoon of Snezhko-Blotskaia, where white-bearded Jason tells his story to two young boys encouraging them to sail for adventures into the great world.



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