

The main theme of this thesis is the figure of the Greek god Hermes and the changes in its understanding, spanning from the archaic images to the character of Mercury in the Hermetic tradition and alchemy. Attention is paid to Hermes' transformation into an Olympian god which he underwent in the works of Homer. At the same time his godly child characteristics are being discussed as well as his relations to some other gods of Olympic pantheon. Another important change in the understanding of Hermes' figure can be observed during the period of the Hellenistic religious syncretism, the time in which the Greek culture and its gods were exposed to the oriental and Egyptian cults. The concluding part of the thesis discusses the transformation of Hermes into the character of Mercury of the alchemists, which enabled him to be the only one of the Greek gods to survive until the 17th century.