Lecture Outline 1.1a

Some Modern Approaches to Mythology

A Modern Definition: "A myth is a sacred narrative* explaining how** the world and man came to be in their present form.***"

Alan Dundes, Sacred Narrative: Readings in the Theory of Myth
[*form, **function, ***content]

I. Myth and Ritual (Form)
   A. Sir James George Frazer (1854-1941)
      1. "Armchair Anthropology"--"The Cambridge School"
      2. The Golden Bough, Apollodorus, The Fasti
      3. Magic → Religion → Science
   B. Jane Ellen Harrison (1850-1928)
      1. Prolegomena to the Study of Greek Religion (1903),
      2. Myth and Ritual
      3. "the things said over the things done" (ta legomena epi tois dromenois)

II. Myth and Society (Function)
   A. Bronislaw Malinowski (1884-1942)
      1. Argonauts of the Western Pacific (1922)
      2. Ethnographic Fieldwork
      3. Functionalism
      4. Charter Myths
   B. Mircea Eliade (1907-1986)
      1. The Myth of the Eternal Return (1954)
      2. Beginnings and Sacred History
      3. "In illo tempore," "ab origine"

III. Myth and Mind (Content)
   A. Sigmund Freud (1856-1939)
      1. Myth and Dream
      2. The Interpretation of Dreams
         a. Symbolization
         b. Displacement
         c. Condensation
         d. Secondary Revision
      3. Totem and Taboo—"mass psychology"
   B. Carl Jung (1885-1961)
      1. Dream Interpretation con't. (Jung's house dream)
      2. The Collective Unconscious
      3. The Archetypes
      4. The need for myth in modern society (Joseph Campbell et al.)