

1996

Astarte 5 (Front Matter)

Astarte Staff

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Staff: Astarte 5 (Front Matter)

Astarte

No. 5

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Greetings from the editors of *Astarte*,

The goddess Astarte was worshipped for at least a millenium before Christ. She was named and revered in different ways among the cultures of the ancient Middle and Near East; the early Hebrews called her Ashtoreth. At first she was worshipped primarily as a goddess of abundance and fertility, but as her cult spread, her aspects multiplied, and she became a goddess of maturity, of love, and of battle. It is clear that she was identified with Aphrodite, Venus, Ishtar, and Isis by their own followers.

In our own century, the search for the goddess is vital again. Women have asserted themselves in many ways, and have discovered the plurality of their own being. They struggle to recognize and assimilate Astarte's many aspects and energies, spiritual and sexual, nurturing and destroying, intuitive and rational; and they struggle to gain the means and confidence to balance these powers in their daily lives. In this spirit of adventure and crisis, *Astarte* was conceived and given the name of the goddess who was among the most ancient, many-faceted, and universal in history.

The magazine's goal is to hear and represent the voice of both men and women describing these struggles and discoveries. It seeks to represent the visual and verbal arts as well as the humanities, including such disciplines as history and philosophy. Its focus is local, reflecting the editors' desire to represent the voices to be heard in their own place and time.

The Editors:

Melissa Dameron
Joel Dixon
Sierra Hulsey
Maria Vargas
Adam Vines

Advisor:

Jim Mersmann

Special thanks to Carole Yates for technical help; to Sabrina Comer, Ashley Hulsey, Janice Thomas, and Tamera Wyman who also worked toward this issue; and to Angela Lazarus and Leisha Hultgren for their pioneering work on issues Nos. 1-4.



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

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Blanket-watched T.V. Lyla Norris

Since t.v. first came out, I've been sorta' addicted. My favorite programs are the News, Sit-Coms, Soaps and old Cowboy or Funny Movies, and Classics like Okelahoma, Miracle on 34th Street and Sound of Music and Wizard of Oz. But, how much do I really like t.v. you may get a better idea if I tell you a story. We kept Kids before and after school (we being my twin and I) among the kids were my two sons. They liked watching Cartoons on Sat. morns. and they liked General Hospital as much as we did. My t.v. conflicted and we were sad. But,

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Friends:

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Ted Haddin
Linda Shields

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Sabrina Comer
Jorge and Mariela Pino
Jim Mersmann
Laverne Ramsay
Tamera Wyman

Benefactor:

Dr. Katherine King Croley

To honor
the kind support and magnanimity of
Dr. Katherine King Croley,
the editors of *Astarte* are pleased to give recognition
and a small cash award to a contributing writer /artist
of special merit or interest. For this issue,
The Dr. Katherine King Croley Award
is granted to
Marla Camp

Cover art: Adam Vines

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