

The thesis presents the mythological studies of the German Romantics. The research focuses on the four important mythologists – Johann Gottfried Herder, Friedrich Creuzer, Karl Otfried Müller and Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling. The analysis of their work leads to their specific concept of the myth. The early enlightenment tendencies, which rejected the myths as stories about gods of the undeveloped men were replaced with the conception of the romantics. They disclosed the symbolic character of the myths and explained the origin and nationalization of the myth on the basis of the symbol theory. At the same time they award truth to the mythological process which the man necessarily goes through. The creation of God in the mind of man is clarified with the philosophy of mythology. This way the romantics contribute to the development of the mythology towards a critical historical science.