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The Gods Of The Celts (Archaeology)



Synopsis

A new edition of this illustrated guide to Celtic religion in Britain and Europe.

Book Information

Series: Archaeology

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Sutton Pub Ltd; First Edition edition (September 1, 1986)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0862992923

ISBN-13: 978-0862992927

Product Dimensions: 1 x 7 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #818,416 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > New Age & Spirituality > Druidism #202 in Books > History > World > Religious > New Age, Mythology & Occult #1919 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources > Archaeology

Customer Reviews

"An excellent detailed survey by one of our leading authorities on Celtic religion . . . an important contribution." — "Antiquaries"™ Journal --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Miranda Green is the author of Celtic Myths, Dictionary of Celtic Myth and Legend, and Dying for the Gods. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchased this book after using my campus' 1986 hardback copy so many times that I might as well own it! I was disappointed with this 2001 reprint, however, when I realized the References section in the 1986 publication was lacking in the reprint. I'm not sure if there's a specific term to describe Green's type of citation of sources in the 1986 publication, as it was the first time I'd come across such a unique system (references are to page and line where the ref. is found most often at the end of the cited line), but it was difficult to use and be certain with even then... and I can't even use the photocopied 1986 Reference pages to help with the 2001 publication to be certain I've got the correct citation since the page numbers and lines do not match up between the two. So, just a

heads up. If you're interested in just the topic itself it shouldn't bother you. But if you need citations - find the 1986 version.

Most books on the Celts seemed to dedicate little more than a dozen pages or so to the known religious aspects and writings regarding the Celts. Ms. Green dedicates an entire book to it, discussing what (few) accounts/perceptions contemporary literates had (and their biases) as well as archaeological findings believed to be associated with Celtic beliefs/religion.

Had to buy for a Druid group I'm in, but I understand why my teachers required it. While not the deepest, most academic view of the Celts out there, Miranda Green brings the ancient lore into clearer focus. It is a great way to start studying about what is and isn't Celtic. It is a difficult subject because the history was never written and that bits that were "written" were done so by the "enemy!" The Romans documented the Celts they met and one must take what they said about this people with a bit of a grain of salt or two. Still, Green does not fail to remind her readers of that point and often states when something she has written is "possible" "Probable" "most likely" and such. She never claims to know the "facts" for certain because, well...no one can. A quick read and a worthy one.

The book is loaded with archeological data and illustrations. It also reveals the confusing plethora of local pantheons that seem to be a major feature of Celtic Religion. Unfortunately, Green rigidly applies the sky god/earth god dichotomy originally proposed and heavily debated for the Greek pantheon. Though she admits to puzzling inconsistencies this causes in her interpretations she does not apply other material already known about the Celtic faith to resolve the problems.

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