

A Selected Bibliography: Suggestions for Further Reading in Mythology

Bonnefoy, Yves, compiler. *Mythologies*. Restructured and translated under the direction of Wendy Doniger (O'Flaherty). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. 1267 pp. Original French edition, structured as a dictionary, published in 1981. Four paperbound volumes arranged by culture area (Greek and Egyptian; Roman and European; Asian; and American, African, and Old European), drawn from the two-volume clothbound English edition published in 1992, does not include 87 pages on the Ancient Near East. This idiosyncratic collection is a rich storehouse of sophisticated, in-depth scholarship on many (but by no means all) aspects of myth and religion in antiquity. Bonnefoy's "Preface," Mircea Eliade's "Toward a Definition of Myth," Marcel Detienne's "The Interpretation of Myths: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Theories" and "Myth and Writing: The Mythographers," André Leroi-Gourhan's "Prehistoric Religion," and "'Nomadic Thought' and Religious Action" by François-René Picon are reproduced in each volume of the paperbound set.

Burkert, Walter. *Homo Necans: The Anthropology of Ancient Greek Sacrificial Ritual and Myth*. Translated by Peter Bing. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983. 334 pp. Index. Original German publication in 1972; this book began a revolution in the study of myth and ritual. Although focusing on ancient Greek religion, its implications have been significant for several cultural areas. Examines blood sacrifice as a central connection between myth and ritual.

Detienne, Marcel. *The Creation of Mythology*. Translated by Margaret Cook. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986. 179 pp. Index. Currently out of print. Original French publication in 1981; a thoroughly interesting study of the emergence of mythology as a science both in ancient Greece and during the Enlightenment. This book reviews

several of the dominant theoretical approaches to myth, and suggests that modern mythology is largely the highly problematic invention of over-intellectualizing and the product of rigid claims about presumed irrationality and primitiveness in myth-making societies.

Doty, William G. *Mythography: The Study of Myths and Rituals*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1986. 248 pp. Introductory bibliographies arranged by major themes; index of names. A thoughtful, multilayered meditation on the value of maintaining many different theoretical perspectives on myth and ritual, viable in differing contexts; chronological, but largely focused on modern interpretive approaches as important contributions to the ongoing history of ideas. Includes sections on definitions, functions, cultural symbolism, psychology, iconography, literary criticism, and the emerging school of structuralist-semiotics.

duBois, Page. *Sowing the Body: Psychoanalysis and Ancient Representations of Women*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988. 188 pp. Selected bibliography; index. *Women in Culture and Society* series. Part I is a remarkably successful attempt to "defamiliarize" received (Freudian) interpretations of ancient Greek history and mythology that have served to make the female contribution invisible. Part II focuses on common metaphors for the female body (field, furrow, stone, oven, tablet), providing many insights generalizable to non-Greek contexts. Part III takes up issues of women in philosophy and ideological reproduction.

Dundes, Alan, editor. *Sacred Narrative: Readings in the Theory of Myth*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984. 342 pp. Suggestions for Further Reading; index. Guided by the definition of myth as "a sacred narrative explaining how the world and man came to be in their present form," the volume is comprised of 22 essays from widely recognized theorists working within a variety of culture areas. Authors include William Bascom, G.S. Kirk, James Frazer, Mircea Eliade, Raymond Firth, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Bronislaw Malinowski, Lauri Honko, Theodore Gaster, Anna Birgitta Rooth, and Sandor Erdész.

Edmunds, Lowell, editor. *Approaches to Greek Myth*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1990. 448 pp. Index. A collection of eight essays and an introduction from nine leading myth scholars, each with a different theoretical approach. Although this book

concentrates on ancient Greek mythology, the various perspectives presented are applicable to all mythologies. Contributions from Carlo Brillante, Claude Calame, Richard Caldwell, Lowell Edmunds, William F. Hansen, Robert Mondi, Joseph Falaky Nagy, Christiane Sourvinou-Inwood, and H.S. Versnel.

Feldman, Burton, and Robert D. Richardson, editors. *The Rise of Modern Mythology: 1680-1860*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1972. 564 pp. Index. Currently out of print. Selections and ruminations on myth from 82 scholars and writers from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, arranged chronologically and introduced by the editors. Spanning writings from Bernard Fontenelle (1657-1757) to Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), this book covers the important developments in the creation of mythology as a focus of study. Includes a foreword by Mircea Eliade and a comprehensive bibliography.

Larrington, Carolyne, editor. *The Feminist Companion to Mythology*. London: Pandora Press, 1992. 457 pp. Index. In keeping with an inclusive feminist philosophical position, the volume includes 19 essays by women trained in a variety of disciplines. Taken together, myth (understood as narrative) becomes a means for understanding women's roles within social structures across cultures and historical periods. Retellings from the Near East, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas provide the framework for sometimes idiosyncratic, but always interesting forays into a subject still gaining in popularity. The final section examines revisionist women's mythologies in Western twentieth-century religion, activism, and poetry.

O'Flaherty, Wendy (Doniger). *Other People's Myths: The Cave of Echoes*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, [1988] 1995. 166 pp. Bibliographies of primary and secondary sources; index. Now in its second edition, this book poses and responds to some fundamental questions about our own stories and those of others (especially those quintessentially other: strangers, animals, gods, and children) and is organized around two central metaphors: The Sage (who enters others' lives mentally) and the Hunter (who must experience for himself); and Plato's Cave ("lies" and "truths," myth and history). Although it focuses mainly on Hindu, Christian, and Jewish stories and their associated rituals, the book provides as good an introduction to the methods and pitfalls of contemporary interdisciplinary thinking about myth as can be found anywhere.

- Olson, Alan M., editor. *Myth, Symbols, and Reality*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1980. 189 pp. Indices. Currently out of print. A collection of ten essays and an introduction from philosophers, anthropologists, and scholars of religion. The articles emphasize the interpretation of myth and the relationship of myth with history, poetics, and theology. Contributions from J. N. Findlay, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Howard Clark Kee, Bernard J. F. Lonergan, Herbert Mason, Harold Oliver, Alan M. Olson, Dennis Tedlock, Jacques Waardenburg, and Elie Wiesel.
- Puhvel, Jaan. *Comparative Mythology*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1987. 302 pp. Index. An important investigation of Indo-European traditions, this book is also one of the best studies of contemporary comparative mythology available. Part I includes a brief history of other theoretical approaches to mythology and an explanation of the comparative method. Part II examines nine Indo-European traditions ranging from Vedic India to the Baltics. Part III looks closely at five recurrent themes in Indo-European myth. An extremely accessible and valuable introduction to the study of Indo-European myth.
- Samuel, Raphael, and Paul Thompson, editors. *The Myths We Live By*. London and New York: Routledge, 1990. 251 pp. Index. Selected from the Sixth International Oral History Conference on "Myth and History" held at Oxford in 1987; editors' introduction and 17 essays by scholars in a variety of fields on myth and metaphor as clues to social consciousness in contemporary contexts. Divided into four sections ("The Making of Myth"; "Nationhood and Minorities"; "Manhood and Images of Women"; and "Family Stories"), the collection focuses on how memory and tradition are continually reshaped in the present, and offers valuable models for thinking about mythmaking as an ongoing activity in modern societies, including British academic historians, Swedish lumberjacks, Italian schoolchildren, Athapaskan storytellers, Puerto Rican working-class women, and inmates of the German concentration camps.
- Sebeok, Thomas A., editor. *Myth: A Symposium*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1958. 180 pp. Currently out of print. Originally published in the *Journal of American Folklore Bibliographical and Special Series* in 1955, this important book presents nine approaches to myth from various perspectives, including philosophy, folklore,

literary criticism, psychology, ritual studies, structuralism, and semantics. Contributions from David Bidney, Reidar Th. Christiansen, Richard M. Dorson, Dorothy Eggan, Stanley Edgar Hyman, Claude Levi-Strauss, Lord Raglan, Stith Thompson, and Philip Wheelwright.

Segal, Robert A., editor. *Encountering Jung on Mythology*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998. 272 pp. Index. The fourth in Princeton's *Encountering Jung* series. Well-chosen selections from the *Collected Works of C.G. Jung*, *Jung Speaking*, and *The Collected Letters* with an introduction and prefatory section notes by the editor, that demonstrate how the Swiss psychiatrist's theory is one of very few to address all of the fundamental questions posed by myth: what is its subject matter? what is its function? and what is its origin? An excellent introduction to Jung's imposing oeuvre with additional selections from Erich Neumann, Marie-Louise von Franz, and post-Jungian James Hillman.

Sproul, Barbara C. *Primal Myths: Creation Myths Around the World*. New York: HarperCollins, 1991. 368 pp. Index. Originally published in 1979, Sproul's is still among the most reliable collections of creation myths available in English. Largely consisting of translations rather than retellings, selections include creation myths from 13 African cultures, 28 from the Near East, 8 from Europe, 12 from India, 9 from China and Japan, 6 from the Far North, 19 from Native North America, 6 from Central and South America, and 22 from Australia and Oceania, with a valuable Introduction and useful prefatory notes for each text.

Veyne, Paul. *Did the Greeks Believe Their Myths?: An Essay on the Constitutive Imagination*. Translated by Paula Wissing. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988. 129 pp. Index. Original French publication in 1983. Authored by an intellectual confrere of Michel Foucault, this little book is an extraordinary examination of "truths" and "beliefs," "myths" and "meanings" as necessary, natural, and frequently contradictory products of imagination, configured, as is history itself, by specific cultures according to their predilections rather than as indices of realities discoverable by reason.

Vickery, John B., editor. *Myth and Literature: Contemporary Theory and Practice*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1966. 391 pp. Index. Currently out of print. A collection of 34 essays and a brief introduction to several issues important to the study of myth and

literature. Topics include mythopoesis, the meaning of myth, mythic patterns, and modern literary uses of myth. Contributions from anthropologists, folklorists, literary scholars, and psychologists, among them Clyde Kluckhohn, Philip Wheelwright, Northrop Frye, and Geza Roheim.