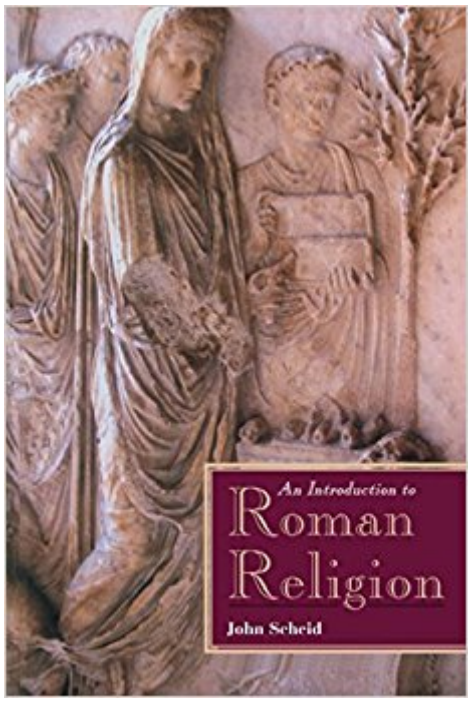
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An Introduction To Roman Religion



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Synopsis

Written by one of the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s leading scholars of the Roman world, An Introduction to Roman Religion offers students a complete portrait of religion in Rome during the late republic and early empire. It draws on the latest findings in archaeology and history to explain the meanings of rituals, rites, auspices, and oracles, to describe the uses of temples and sacred ground, and to evoke the daily patterns of religious life and observance within the city of Rome and its environs. The text is usefully organized around major themes, such as the origins of Roman religion, the importance of the religious calendar, the structure of religious space, the forms of religious services and rituals, and the gods, priests, and core theologies that shaped religious observance. In addition to its clear and accessible presentation, Roman Religion includes quotations from primary sources, a chronology of religious and historical events from 750 B.C. to A.D. 494, a full glossary, and an annotated guide to further reading.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Lacking (apparently) a native mythology or images of its gods, Roman religion has always seemed barren to scholars. Without anything much to interpret, interpretation has regularly fallen into minutely descriptive lists of gods and rituals. Among recent efforts, Beard, North, and Price's Religions of Rome (CH, Feb'99) offers both sources and interpretations, but is essentially a reference book. Robert Turcan's The Gods of Ancient Rome (2000) offers an innovative and historically grounded interpretation (without the lists), while Valerie Warrior's Roman Religion (2002) sticks to sources without the history. Scheid (ancient history, Ãƒâ cole (Ecole) Pratiques des

Hautes Ãƒâ tudes (Etudes), Paris), one of the most distinguished scholars of Roman religion, now offers a brilliant, historically grounded interpretation that will interest scholars as well as the students (French, originally) for whom it was written. The theme of each chapterÃ¢â ¬â ¢methodology, structure, rituals, actors, interpretations of Roman religionÃ¢â ¬â ¢is carefully developed. A chronology and bibliography support the whole. Lists of facts, questions (with concise, informative answers), and original sources are inset at appropriate places in the main text. Scheid is insightful, concise, and original. This is an indispensable text for the study of Roman religion and all fields that intersect with it. Summing Up: Essential. All libraries." Ã¢â ¬â ¢C. M. C. Green, University of Iowa, Choice, April 2004

John Scheid is Director of Studies in Ancient History at the Ãƒâ cole pratiques des hautes ÃƒÂ©tudes in Paris.

Scheid presents his own conclusions while contrasting (relatively) recent scholarship to more traditional views. I should note that this is not the place to learn about the characteristics of the traditional Roman gods, etc., but is rather an overview of what traditional Roman religion consisted it, how it was practiced, and how it was integrated in public and private life. Concise and clearly written. If you’re only going to read one book on the subject, this is it.

An excellent book for beginners. Focuses on the State cult a bit overmuch, but still very good. If you are interested in this topic you should by no means confine yourself to this book, but regard it as an excellent starter text.

I would recommend this book to anyone interested in the religion of the Romans from the Republic to the Empire. It is not a speculative work, but deals with rituals and civic duties. The relationship between the Gods and the citizen’s of Rome was a mutually beneficial one. This book does not contain any of the Roman’s theology.

A bit dry, reads like a textbook (which is frustrating, as it could so easily have been reworded to be more engaging). But the material is great! The last chapter is particularly interesting and in all it paints a very comprehensive picture of a very different kind of religion than we have today in the west. A good introduction!

With over a thousand books in my library on ancient religion, this one stands out from most of the others. if i had to save just 5 books from that collection, this would be one of them. I tend to write in the margins and take many notes through out my reading, but this one remains empty simply because i would have underlined it all and quickly ran out of space for notes. Scheid has the rare talent of cutting out the superfluous and keeping the true weight of the subject. there is no filler in this text, only valuable and hard to find content.

This s a good first entry into the intricacies of Roman religion, explaining who is who and how they fit into the big picture in terms of the gods and their priesthoods. It gives insights into some of the practices and rituals that accompanied worship of specific deities. It also gives some information about the introduction of foreign cults to Rome.

Fascinating, extremely well-written, from one of the world's top scholars of the field. A must.

Quality

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