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Looking for the Lost Gods of England

Kathleen Herbert

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#3898916 in Books Anglo-Saxon Books 1994-12-31 Original language: English PDF # 1 .30 x 5.70 x 8.00l, .25 #File Name: 189828104152 pages | File size: 62.Mb

Kathleen Herbert : Looking for the Lost Gods of England before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Looking for the Lost Gods of England:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Nice, short book on Anglo-Saxon pagan religion By Christopher R. Travers This is an interesting book but one gets the impression that the author could have written a much longer one with more information. This needs to be read as lecture memoranda rather than as a treatise on the subject. To date, there have been few good books tracing the origins of English pagan beliefs, laying out traditional remnants, etc. While there are substantial difficulties to writing such a work (few sources, difficulties in those sources, questions of interactions with the Norse, etc) such a work, if done well, would be guaranteed a place with the works of Gwyn Jones, EOG Turville-Petre, Jan de Vries, and Dag Srombeck on the shelf regarding Germanic studies. This book, alas,

is not such a book. However, what it does do is outline a variety of sources for such work and a general survey of possible directions for future research and some preliminary conclusions. For those of us who are interested in this topic, it is one more important work which will build towards such a project. So while it is not the book we should be looking for on this topic, it is a welcome step in the right direction. I would highly recommend this work to anyone who is interested in Germanic studies. 16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Small but Meaty Book on Early English Beliefs By Karen M. Carlson This short (36 pages plus notes and supplementary material) book is actually a transcript of a talk by Kathleen Herbert. A lot is packed into these pages. There are snippets from source material (with translations as needed, e.g, from Old English) as well as Herbert's observations and conclusions about the religious beliefs and practices of our Anglo-Saxon ancestors. Herbert touches on the gods, the runes, the calendar (seasons and festivals of the year), and more. Statements about what people thought during a period in which written evidence is relatively sparse are of course always somewhat tentative, but Herbert makes good cases for her conclusions. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting small book By Jane T. Sibley Small book with interesting info; she needs to expand more and document more. Nice addition to my Anglo-Saxon library, though.

The earliest account of English heathen practices reveals that they worshipped the Earth Mother and called her Nerthus. The names Tiw, Woden, Thunor and Frig/Freo have been preserved in place names and in the days of the week. The old Gods and the festivals and rituals associated with them lived on after the 'official' conversion to Christianity. Eostre, the Goddess associated with Spring, is still with us as Easter. The Yuletide celebrations which marked the turning of the year were deep-rooted so they were Christianised to give us Christmas. Ing the god associated with regrowth and renewal was replaced with Christ. Much the same happened with rituals for bringing fertility to the earth, and with healing charms. The author sifts through royal genealogy, charms, verse and other sources to find clues to the names and attributes of the Gods and Goddesses of the early English.