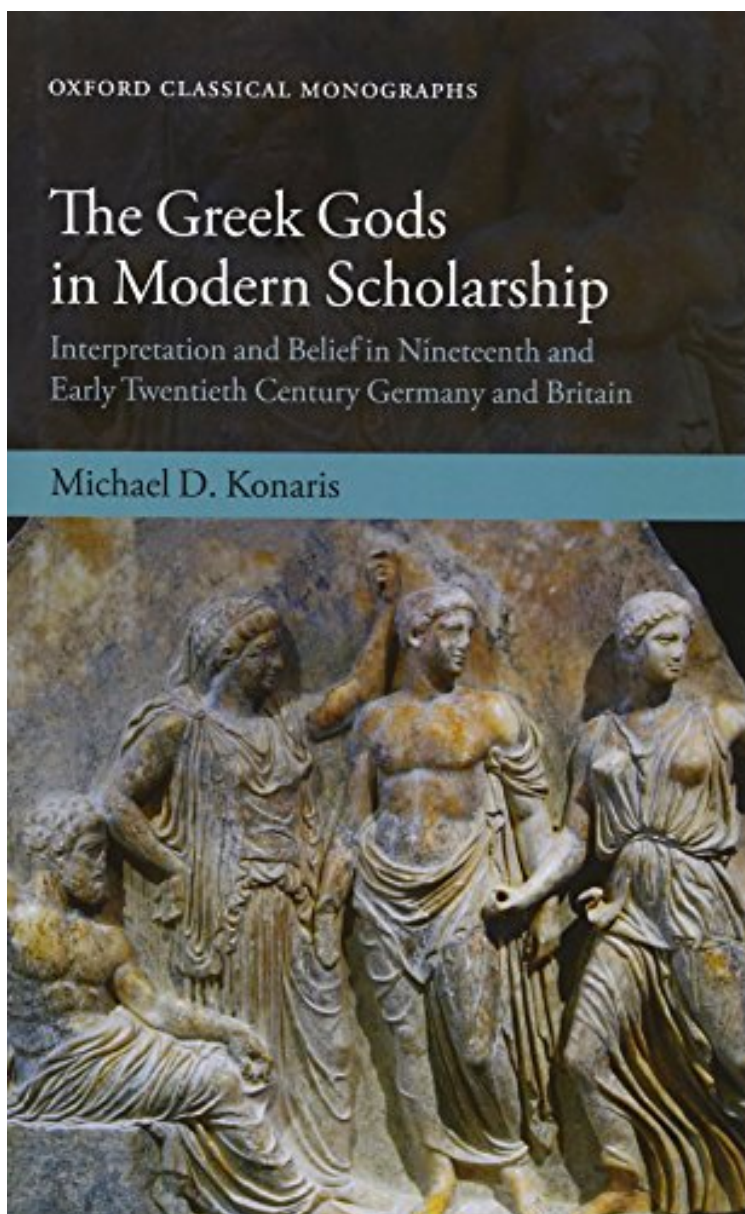


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## The Greek Gods in Modern Scholarship: Interpretation and Belief in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Germany and Britain (Oxford Classical Monographs)

*Michael D. Konaris*

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Greek Gods in Modern Scholarship: Interpretation and Belief in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Germany and Britain* (Oxford Classical Monographs):

The nineteenth century is a key period in the history of the interpretation of the Greek gods. *The Greek Gods in Modern Scholarship* examines how German and British scholars of the time drew on philology, archaeology, comparative mythology, anthropology, or sociology to advance radically different theories on the Greek gods and their origins. For some, they had been personifications of natural elements, for others, they had begun as universal gods like the Christian god, yet for others, they went back to totems or were projections of group unity. The volume discusses the views of both well-known figures like K. O. Müller (1797-1840), or Jane Harrison (1850-1928), and of forgotten, but important, scholars like F. G. Welcker (1784-1868). It explores the underlying assumptions and agendas of the rival theories in the light of their intellectual and cultural context, laying stress on how they were connected to broader contemporary debates over fundamental questions such as the origins and nature of religion, or the relation between Western culture and the 'Orient'. It also considers the impact of theories from this period on twentieth- and twenty-first-century scholarship on Greek religion and draws implications for the study of the Greek gods today.

"This entertaining book charts how leading scholars explained the Greek gods during a period when classical scholarship was burgeoning, the differences and conflicts between them (often arising from unacknowledged emotional conditioning), and how the arguments developed under the impact of new discoveries and disciplines ... it is a real achievement to have drawn all the threads together and yet made the result so readable." --Colin McDonald, *Classics for All*"Thanks to Konaris, students of ancient Greek religion now have a first map of the modern development of their discipline, while intellectual historians of the period will have a better handle of the uses to which ancient Greece and the Greek gods were put ... [this book] will sharpen and deepen your understanding of the Greek gods and Greek religion. It can be warmly recommended." --Simon Trpanier, *Bryn Mawr Classical*"This is a meaty, erudite ... account of several pioneering figures in the modern study of Greek mythology and religion. Konaris' monograph, which does heavy lifting in restoring to visibility some of the "less known scholars who played an important, if unacknowledged, role in the history of the discipline", will certainly be consulted in years to come; there is a wealth of knowledge here." --Dan-El Padilla Peralta, *Classical Journal Online*About the AuthorMichael D. Konaris is currently an Academic Visitor at the Faculty of Classics, University of Oxford.