Celtic Myths and Legends (Myths of the World)

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A comprehensive study of Celtic mythology, legend, and poetry provides background information on the Celts, Ancient Britons, and Druids, and includes the tales of such noted figures as Cuchulain, Blodeuweek, Branwen, and Fenn.

Celtic Myths and Legends (Myths of the World) Details

Date   : Published June 14th 1994 by Gramercy (first published January 1st 1905)
ISBN   : 9780517101575
Author : Charles Squire , Ernest Wallcousins (Illustrator)
Format : Hardcover 450 pages
Genre   : Fantasy, Mythology, History, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Celtic Myths and Legends (Myths of the World) for online ebook

Lydia says

Been awhile so I had to refresh my memory but then it was off and running..this is a fairly new series for Ward but as always she does a fine writing job..I am not as in love with the angels as the dark hunters but they r sure growing on me..Devina is the devil in deguise and Jim the savior..we know who we want to win..I know for sure who I want to win the "game"..

Scott says

Probably the best-written and compiled collection of Celtic legends I've read so far. There are some stories missing from this collection that I've read elsewhere, but overall it's a great primer for those just getting into Celtic lore. It spans the entirety of the British Isles, from Scotland to Wales, and the stories are for the most part unabridged.

Faith says

When I pick up a book of mythology, I really want it to just be a retelling of the myths. This one has a lot of commentary, and describes the myths more than actually tell them. It's not a bad overview/ reference point if you're interested in it as that. It really did explain a lot about Celtic myth that I had picked up from reading other stories (mostly Arthurian literature) without fully understanding it. Also, the author has some problematic phrasing about "primitive" and "lower races" throughout, though the first edition was published in 1905, so he may be using the standard language of the time.

Joy Gilbert says

My new favorite collecting of celtic myths!

Pedro says

This book is ok if you're just begining to learn or to study about Celtic myths and if you don't know them yet. But I would recommend other books which are much better books such as the ones written by scholars like Miranda Green's "Celtic Myth" for example, which are also easy reading and far more interesting and accurate.

Peter says

While this book is a little dry and probably dated in places it is very detailed in the names and places of celtic mythology. Yes, what we have is a book that explains everything and tells everything, unlike modern equivelants. Not a book to read too avidly, but certainly a useful reference.

Would recommend a copy of this for the shelves.

Rosemary says

Not an easy read but I like the way he relates the different Celtic peoples and the previous Neolithic inhabitants of Britain, and links the myths of the different groups. The Welsh myths including the earliest stories of Arthur are broadly the same as the Irish, often with only slight changes of name. He suggests that the leprechauns and pixies of Ireland and western Britain are a survival of the gods of the earlier population. And the explanation of Arthur and the knights is very timely after reading Mary Stewart's Merlin trilogy.

Batsap says

Found this really interesting especially since, and I didn't realize this when I bought it, it was written just over 100 years ago. It's an easy enough read, retells some Celtic mythology and explores the decline of the gods and how they have been reinterpreted today as fairies, saints and even King Arthur.

Natalie says

A scholarly view into the history and evolution of the Celtic myths and legends. It is fascinating to learn how a pagan religion can be molded into a whole new religion and/or into history. At times, this book can get a little tiresome, and Squire can't help but show the signs of his times with his politically incorrect ideas on social Darwinism. But overall, a solid overview of Celtic myth.

Maurean says

This is one from my PC shelf; not one to read cover-to-cover, I refer back to this from time to time, and read it sporatically. Lots of interesting bits about the Celts..

2/15/08: I am currently in the midst of reading "The Mists of Avalon" (heehee), and so I am reading bits of this as a sort of "background"; specifically, chptr. 21, "The Mythological Coming of Arthur", which relates the similarities of the tale with that of Finn Fenian, and the Red Branch Heroes of Ulster.
Also of interest here is chptr. 23, "The Gods as King Arthur's Knights" (pp. 354-370).

Miriam says

This book is a weird mix of historiography and myth-telling (or are those the same thing, as my ppostmodernist revisionist history brain suggests?). On the one hand, he wants to highlight what scholars know and and how their opinions have changed over time and with new evidence. And that part is not so good because it's dry and now 20 years out of date. The myth-telling is interesting--the myths are interesting; the writing itself is fine. It makes me want to go back for all the unfinished books from my Arthurian Legends class in college.

Cameron says

I really enjoyed this book. I thought that it was interesting learning about all the pagan deity's and legends. Although I thought that the beginning of the book was less interesting than the rest of the book since it just explained why these myths and legends helped develop english literature, and who the celtics were. After this portion of the book though I found the legends really interesting, especially hearing the full story of king Arthur since I only knew part of it before hand. overall I really enjoyed the reading the book.

Lauren says

I bought this book on our trip to Ireland several years ago, and just recently picked it up. I had a hard time staying with this book and I'm not sure if I'll finish it. I'm about half way done, but the first few introductory chapters are hard to follow. The author talks to you as if you already know a lot of what he is talking about. It is interesting to find out some of the myths and legends in the Celtic areas (Ireland/England), but it gets confusing. It would be nice to eventually know where the ancient people in many lands came up with all their gods and heroes.

Silvio Curtis says

Retells the myths. One section of the book is about Irish and Scottish myths, and the other is about Welsh ones. The two mythologies are independent of each other, though they must have developed from a common ancestor and many similarities remain and are pointed out by the author. The Irish stories are better documented, so they form a complete cycle, but the British record has more gaps in it. I came to this book knowing very few of the stories, and I found it a very helpful introduction that will provide a context for any information I run into later. It was originally published at the beginning of last century, and nationalism and ethnocentrism are jarringly explicit in it. Also, the historical linguistic background is badly out of date and I assume the archaeological background is too. On the other hand, it occurs to me that Tolkien and others of his time could have read this book or one like it when they were first encountering Celtic mythology. This author's other book which I read recently was essentially a summary of this one in about a fifth the space, and was not nearly as good.

Georgene says

Although, written/published in 1912, this book is still apparently an excellent source for Celtic mythology. The author traces pre-Celtic and Celtic beliefs down through the ages through the beginnings of the Christian era down to the modern times of 1912.

While I am sure that some of the suppositions regarding pre-Celtic and early Celtic civilizations are now somewhat out of date due to archaeological investigations during the last century, this book still has much to offer those who are interested in the beliefs of the Celts.

This book reads well once you get past the (to me) odd transliterations of old Celtic names and places.