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# Girls and Women in Classical Greek Religion

*By Matthew Dillon*



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It has often been thought that participation in fertility rituals was women's most important religious activity in classical Greece. Matthew Dillon's wide-ranging study makes it clear that women engaged in numerous other rites and cults, and that their role in Greek religion was actually more important than that of men. Women invoked the gods' help in becoming pregnant, venerated the god of wine, worshipped new and exotic deities, used magic for both erotic and pain-relieving purposes, and far more besides.

Clear and comprehensive, this volume challenges many stereotypes of Greek women and offers unexpected insights into their experience of religion. With more than fifty illustrations, and translated extracts from contemporary texts, this is an essential resource for the study of women and religion in classical Greece.



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**'A work of considerable scholarship, and one on which the author is to be congratulated.'** - *Minerva*

**'It makes accessible a substantial body of disparate material.'** - *JACT Review*

**;'Wisely, this important contribution to understanding the female dimesion of ancient religion does not make the worship of goddesses a central concern.'** - *International Review of Biblical Studies*

About the Author

Matthew Dillon is a Senior Lecturer at the University of New England, Armidale, Australia. His interest areas include Greek history and society, especially religion. He is the author of *Pilgrims and Pilgrimage in Ancient Greece* (Routledge, 1997), co-author with Lynda Garland of *Ancient Greece, Social and Historical Times from Archaic Times to the Death of Socrates* (Routledge 1994, second edition, 2000), and editor of *Religion in the Ancient World, New Themes and Approaches* (Hakkert, 1996).

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