In this volume, Sandra Blakely considers technological myths and rituals associated with ancient Greek daimones who made metal and African rituals in which iron plays a central role. Noting the rich semantic web of associations that has connected metallurgy to magic, birth, kingship, autochthony, and territorial possession in both Greek and African cultures, Blakely examines them together in order to cast light on the Greek daimones, which are only fragmentarily preserved and which have often been equated to general types of smithing gods. Her comparison demonstrates that these creatures are more sophisticated and ritually useful, and technology a more nuanced image in Greek myth, than has been previously acknowledged. Using comparative cultural material in a thoughtful and careful way, it helps create a common ground between classical studies and the social sciences for the study of religion and technology.

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MYTH, RITUAL, AND METALLURGY in ANCIENT GREECE AND RECENT AFRICA

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This book began as a doctoral dissertation in the departments of Classics and Anthropology at the University of Southern California. Richard Caldwell of the Classics department first suggested an investigation of the daimones and directed the dissertation; J. Stephen Lansing, of the Anthropology department, proposed the combined doctoral degree and has throughout provided invaluable guidance. Sarah Morris, of the Department of Classics at UCLA, has been singularly helpful in directing my introduction to archaeological studies, and Thomas Habinek, as a careful and thoughtful reader, has provided great support. Thanks are due as well to the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, the Albright Institute in Jerusalem, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington D.C., and the American Academy in Rome. Through their financial and institutional support, these have given me access to the many disciplines and regions relevant to this topic, as well as that most irreplaceable of elements in scholarly investigation, the communities of scholars who have generously shared their time, ideas, and questions with me. To the tireless librarians and staff of these institutions I offer grateful thanks as well: the project would have been impossible without them. A practical experiment in bringing classicists and anthropologists together, in the form of a conference on mysteries and secrecy, profoundly shaped the exploration of material I offer here: the financial support of Emory University, and the intellectual contributions of the conference participants, were invaluable. I offer particular thanks to James Redfield, whose participation in the conference was of fundamental importance, and from whose advice on this project I have benefited immensely. Some extraordinary friends and scholars in the Atlanta area – Yvan Bamps, Cynthia Schwenk, and Kent Hackmann – read the manuscript in its early stages and made valuable suggestions. Beatrice Rehl of Cambridge University Press has provided wise
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I offer this book to my parents: to my mother, for her enduring spirit, and to the memory of my father, who never ceased to pursue understanding.
ABBREVIATIONS

AA Archäologischer Anzeiger
AJA American Journal of Archaeology
AJP American Journal of Philology
AM Athenische Mitteilungen
AOF Archiv für Orientalische Forschungen
AR Archaeological Reports
BCH Bulletin de Correspondence Hellénique
BM British Museum
BSA Annual of the British School at Athens
CAD Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, I. Gelb et al. (eds.) (Chicago) 1984
CAH Cambridge Ancient History, 3rd edition (London)
CR Classical Review
Daremberg-Saglio Dictionnaire des antiquités grecques et romaines, C. Daremberg and E. Saglio (eds.) (Paris) 1873–1919
EGF Epicorum Graecorum Fragmenta, M. Davies (Göttingen) 1988
GGM Geographi Graeci Minores, K Müller (ed.) (Hildesheim) 1965
JFA Journal of Field Archaeology
JNES Journal of Near Eastern Studies
KH Das Kabirenheiligtum bei Theben (Berlin)
LIMC Lexicon iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae (Zürich)
ABBREVIATIONS

MASCA  Museum Applied Science Center for Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
MH    Museum Helveticum
NADA  Native Affairs Department Annual (Salisbury)
NC    Numismatic Chronicle
NGG   Nachrichten der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen, Philologisch-Historische Klasse
Op Ath Opuscula Atheniensia
Or An  Oriens Antiquus
PCG   Poetae Comici Graeci, R. Kassel and C. Austin (eds.) (Berlin) 1984
PG    Patrologiae Graecae, ed. J.-P. Migne
PLF   Poetarum Lesbiorum Fragmenta, E. Lobel and D.L. Page (eds.) (Oxford) 1955
RA    Revue Archéologique
RAC   Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum, T. Klauser et al. (eds.) (Stuttgart) 1998
RE    Paulys Real-encyclopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft, A. F. Pauly (ed.) (Stuttgart) 1796–1845
REG   Revue des Études Grecques
RM    Rheinisches Museum
Roscher Ausführliches Lexikon der Griechischen und Römischen Mythologie, W. H. Roscher (ed.) (Leipzig) 1845–1923
SBAW  Sitzungsbericht der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Philos.-Hist. Klasse
SMEA  Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici
TGF   Tragicorum Graecorum Fragmenta, A. Nauck and B Snell (eds.) (Hildesheim) 1964
WA    World Archaeology
1. Mediterranean sites referred to in text.
2. African sites referred to in text.