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## RELIGIONS OF THE ANCIENT GREEKS

This is a book about the religious life of the Greeks from the eighth century BC to the fifth century AD, looked at in the context of a variety of different cities and periods. Simon Price does not describe some abstract and self-contained system of religion or myths but examines local practices and ideas in the light of general Greek ideas, relating them, for example, to gender roles and to cultural and political life, (including Attic tragedy and the trial of Socrates). He also lays emphasis on the reactions to Greek religions of ancient thinkers – Greek, Roman, Jewish and Christian. The evidence drawn on is of all kinds: literary texts, which are translated throughout; inscriptions, including an appendix of newly translated Greek inscriptions; and archaeology, which is highlighted in the numerous illustrations.

SIMON PRICE is Fellow and Tutor at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford. He is the author of *Rituals and Power: The Roman Imperial Cult in Asia Minor* (1984). With Mary Beard and John North he co-authored *Religions of Rome* Vol. 1: *A History* and Vol. 2: *A Sourcebook* (1998).

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## *Preface*

I have written the sort of book that I myself would have found useful when I started to work on this subject. Rather than treating religion as an abstract and self-contained system, I have examined the interplay between local and Panhellenic practices and ideas: the plural ‘religions’ of my title is designed to suggest the resulting variety, in both space and time. I have also tried to look outwards from religion to other contexts. I have tried to avoid the pigeon-holing which places Attic tragedies in ‘literature’, archaic statues from the Athenian Akropolis in ‘art’, and Socrates in ‘philosophy’, and I have therefore tried to draw connections between material that is too often treated separately. In writing about the archaic and classical periods I have focused on evidence from these periods. Because this book goes right down to the Roman period, I have cited Pausanias (for example) not as evidence for the classical period, but as evidence for his own day. I have also included explicit discussion in the last chapter of the reactions of Romans, Jews and Christians to Greek religions

I am most grateful to the editors of this series, Paul Cartledge and Peter Garnsey, for commissioning this book, and then helping me to bring it forth. I was lucky to be able to write the first draft in the Ward Chipman Library of the University of New Brunswick at Saint John, where the staff were indulgent of my demands on the system. Revised versions were made possible by the resources of the Ashmolean and Bodleian libraries. I have been most fortunate in my typists, Susan Waters (Tutors’ Secretary of my college) and Rachel Chapman (in the Classics Faculty office), who got my text into presentable form. I am also extremely grateful to Lucia Nixon who advised throughout and commented decisively on one chapter; to Robert Parker who read the

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penultimate version of the whole book; to Beate Dignas who improved the book throughout and also gave valuable assistance with the appendix of epigraphic texts; and to a variety of colleagues who facilitated the acquisition of photographs.

S. R. F. P.  
*Oxford*

## *Abbreviations*

<i>AION</i>	<i>Annali dell'Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli: Sezione di Archeologia e Storia Antica</i>
<i>AJA</i>	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
<i>AJPhil</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> , eds. H. Temporini and W. Haase (Berlin, 1972–)
<i>BCH</i>	<i>Bulletin de correspondance hellénique</i>
<i>BSA</i>	<i>British School at Athens, Annual of</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>EPRO</i>	<i>Etudes préliminaires sur les religions orientales dans l'empire romain</i> (Leiden, 1961–)
<i>FGH</i>	<i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> , ed. F. Jacoby (Berlin and Leiden, 1923–58)
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>HSCP</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>HThR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IG</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae</i>
<i>IGUR</i>	<i>Inscriptiones Graecae Urbis Romae</i> , ed. L. Moretti (Rome, 1968–90)
<i>JHS</i>	<i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
<i>JRA</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Archaeology</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>LIMC</i>	<i>Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae</i> , eds. J. Boardman et al. (Zurich and Munich, 1981–)
<i>LSAM</i>	<i>Lois sacrées d'Asie Mineure</i> , ed. F. Sokolowski (Paris, 1955)
<i>LSCG</i>	<i>Lois sacrées des cités grecques</i> , ed. F. Sokolowski (Paris, 1969)
<i>LSCG Supp.</i>	<i>Lois sacrées des cités grecques, Supplément</i> , ed. F. Sokolowski (Paris, 1962)
<i>ML</i>	R. Meiggs and D.M. Lewis, <i>Greek Historical Inscriptions</i> (Oxford, 1969, 2nd edn 1989)

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<i>PCPhS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Cambridge Philological Society</i>
<i>RE</i>	<i>Paulys Real-Encyclopädie der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft</i> , eds. G. Wissowa, E. Kroll et al. (Berlin and Stuttgart, 1893–1978)
<i>SBL</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i> (Leiden, 1928– )
<i>Syll.</i> <sup>3</sup>	W. Dittenberger, <i>Sylloge Inscriptionum Graecarum</i> , 3rd edn (Leipzig, 1915–24)
Tod	M.N. Tod, <i>Greek Historical Inscriptions</i> , 2 vols (Oxford, 1946–8)
<i>ZPE</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik</i>