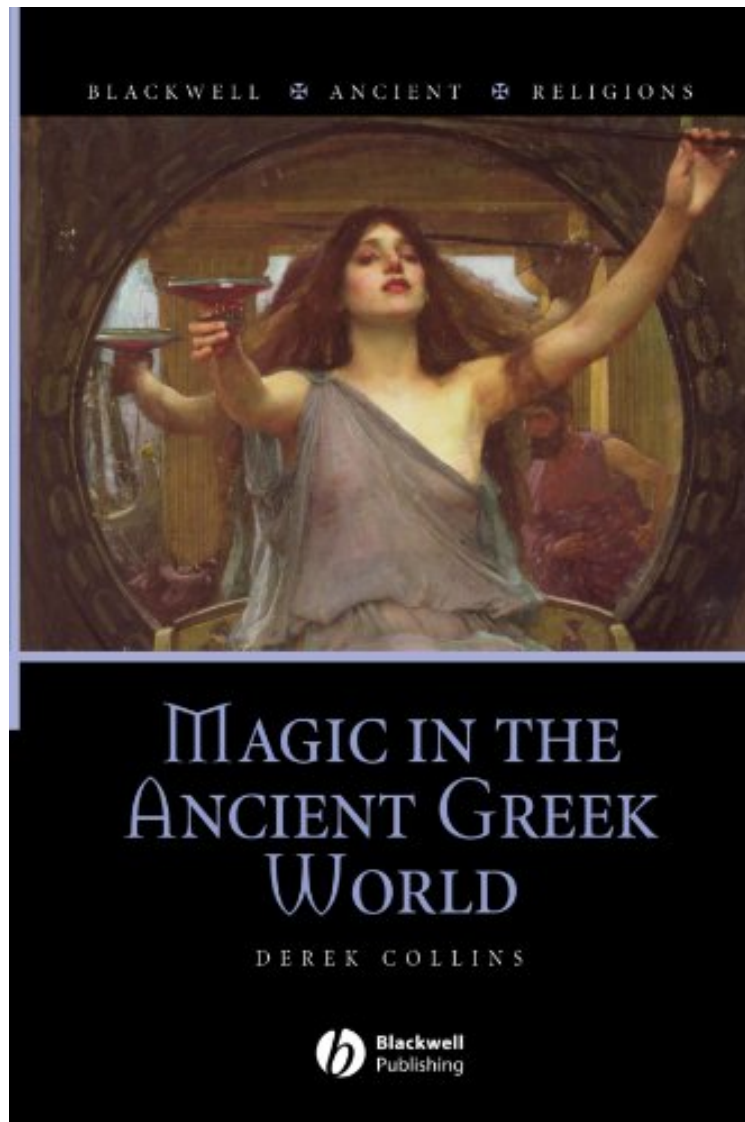


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## Magic in the Ancient Greek World

*Derek Collins*

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**Derek Collins : Magic in the Ancient Greek World** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Magic in the Ancient Greek World:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Useful Analysis of Magic in the Ancient Greek World By Katherine Collins When it comes to Greek magic, Collins is an authority in the field. But with his work, you're less likely to get an anthology or a good source book; rather, his work analyzes aspects of magic thematically. This offers a unique view, but Collins assumes his reader will have background knowledge of the theorists he names. Perhaps the most valuable part of this book is his works cited, which is a superb and reliable starting point for future research. 0 of

0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars  
By Melitta Theodora Stafford  
I love this book. It is a very interesting discussion of magic in the Mediterranean world.

Original and comprehensive, *Magic in the Ancient Greek World* takes the reader inside both the social imagination and the ritual reality that made magic possible in ancient Greece. Explores the widespread use of spells, drugs, curse tablets, and figurines, and the practitioners of magic in the ancient world. Uncovers how magic worked. Was it down to mere superstition? Did the subject need to believe in order for it to have an effect? Focuses on detailed case studies of individual types of magic. Examines the central role of magic in Greek life.

Shortlisted for the Katharine Briggs Award 2008  
Collins, associate professor of Greek and Latin at the University of Michigan, and author of *Master of the Game: Competition and Performance in Greek Poetry* (2005), seeks to introduce nonspecialists to areas of Greek magic, cover the highpoints of scholarly consensus, and offer new interpretative frameworks for understanding select Greek magical practices. (New Testament Abstracts, January 2009)  
"If you want to understand how the Ancient Greeks practised and viewed the magical arts then this book is highly recommended." (The Cauldron)  
Lots of interesting details, brilliant, clear chapters, great insights, and connections. There is a wealth of information and fascinating little bits of trivia. (About.com)  
This is not simply a rehash of previously covered material. Collins covers a range of magical practices. This book is an important new addition to studies of ancient magic. Present[s] the reader with a full context for any discussion of magical practices. Collins achieves this without becoming bogged down in a discussion of terminology which can sometimes derail other studies. The focus on Greek magic centres the book with a clear methodology of always bringing the discussion back to the Greek origins of the magic in question. (Rosetta Papers)  
"If you want to understand how the Ancient Greeks practised and viewed the magical arts then this book is highly recommended." The Cauldron  
Lots of interesting details, brilliant, clear chapters, great insights, and connections. There is a wealth of information and fascinating little bits of trivia. About.com  
From the Back Cover  
*Magic in the Ancient Greek World* is an innovative introduction to the practice of magic during the classical period. This book develops a framework for understanding the role of magic in Greek life. Thematically organized around detailed case studies of individual types of magic, this volume examines the use of spells, drugs, binding curses, figurines, and the specialists who offered them. Collins reveals how each of these magical practices worked and the cultural structures that allowed them to occur. Original and insightful, *Magic in the Ancient Greek World* takes the reader inside both the social imagination and the ritual reality that made magic possible in ancient Greece.