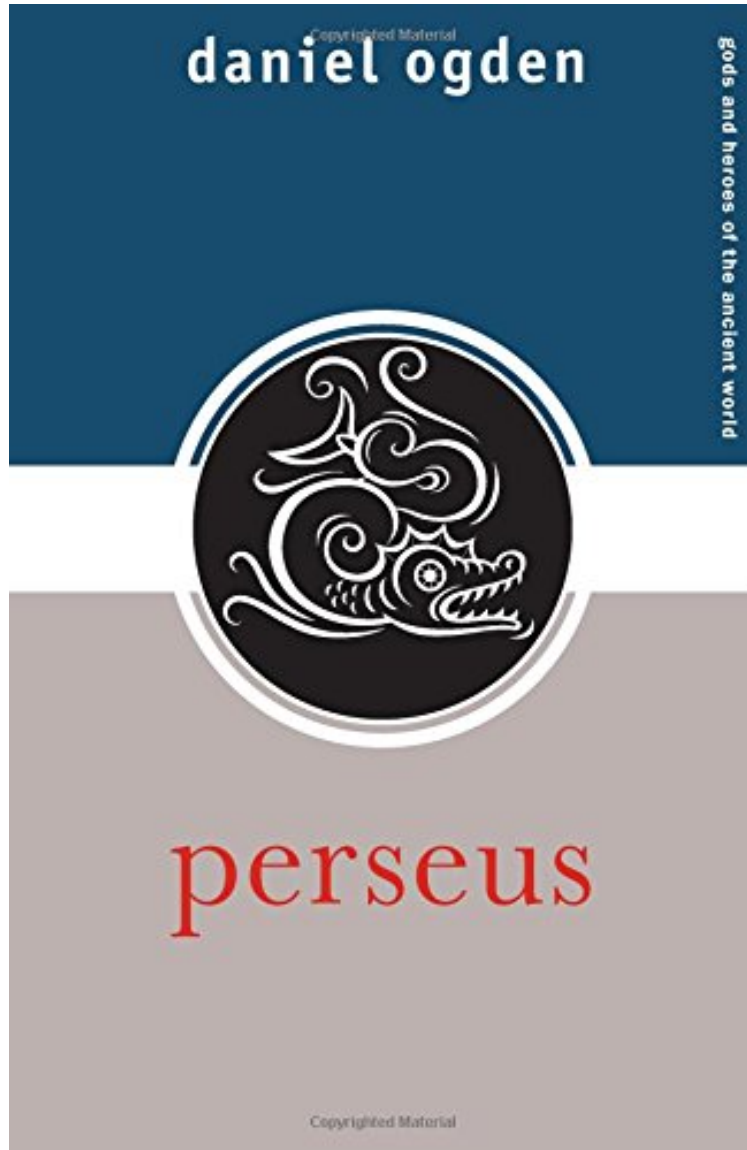


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Perseus (Gods and Heroes of the Ancient World)

Daniel Ogden

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Daniel Ogden : Perseus (Gods and Heroes of the Ancient World) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Perseus (Gods and Heroes of the Ancient World):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. PICTURES NEEDED Dense, information-packed review of the literature on PerseusBy Jack E. Holt, IIII think this small, tightly-written book was one of my favorite reading adventures in the past few years. For one thing, I haven't read many of the original texts cited ever before. Much of the Perseus myth is fragmented into passing references in works describing other, now lost works of the Ancient Greeks. I

also greatly enjoyed how the text approached the myth as a series of episodes and then historically analyzed how that portion of the Perseus myth had "evolved" (if that's the right word -- "Coalesced"?) over time. The author has an almost historiographic approach to laying out the development of the myth that I enjoyed. But one major lack was illustrations and maps. The lack of a good map was the most frustrating. I found myself running to my atlas or wikipedia more than a few times for maps. Also a stratigraphic map would have helped in many spots to let someone imagine the rocky terrain of the Peloponnese and the contrast between Argos, Arcadia, and "Aethiopia" (wherever that might have really been). Even more sad was that several excellent images of Perseus are included in dim black-and-white sketches or photos. Many, many more images of Perseus are referred to in the text and footnotes but never seen. To make matters worse, those images are available, apparently, only in specialist literature that a non-academic like myself can probably never access. There are several public domain images of Perseus on the Internet so perhaps the publisher thought it not worth the expense? And there at least, frustration didn't last long. Why? I have a guilty secret: I spent a good three hours on this site-- [...] -- right after reading Prof. Ogden's book. He made me so interested in the subject matter, I actually read MORE. So maybe there was a *method* to Prof. Ogden's understatement, eh? It too bad the publisher's budget wouldn't stretch to a brighter approach for this book. Maybe for a future edition (hint hint. . .)?

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Clearly Written, Good Introduction to "Gods and Heroes" By NYC Lap Swimmer I bought this for research purposes, to brush up, and it was perfect. It is not for the casual reader as it analyzes various sources of the Perseus legend and is a scholarly text. Well-written and well-organized.

The son of Zeus, Perseus belongs in the first rank of Greek heroes. Indeed to some he was a greater hero even than Heracles. With the help of Hermes and Athena he slew the Gorgon Medusa, conquered a mighty sea monster and won the hand of the beautiful princess Andromeda. This volume tells of his enduring myth, its rendering in art and literature, and its reception through the Roman period and up to the modern day. This is the first scholarly book in English devoted to Perseus' myth in its entirety for over a century. With information drawn from a diverse range of sources as well as varied illustrations, the volume illuminates the importance of the Perseus myth throughout the ages.

"Although this series is intended for the general reader, Ogden has collected so much detailed information in the original sources that his book will also be read by specialists. Particularly interesting is the comparative evidence he adduces in an attempt to understand the meaning and function of this hero." -Oxford Bibliographies Online