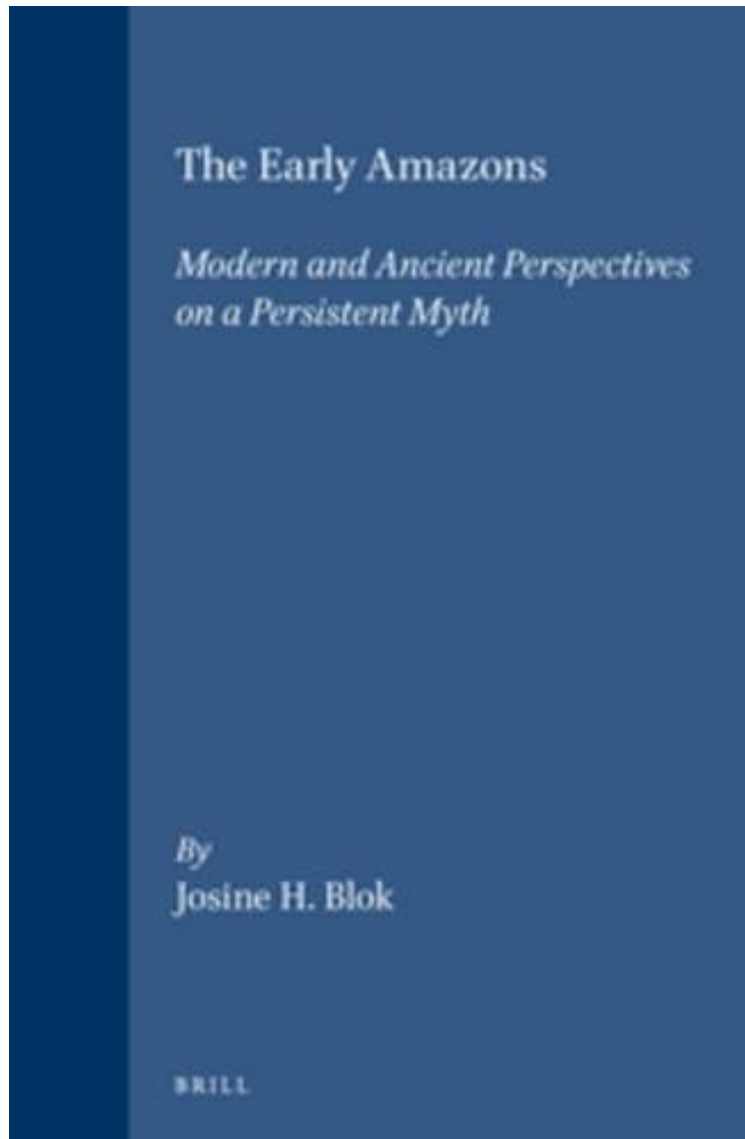


[E-BOOK] Religions in the Graeco-Roman World, the Early Amazons: Modern and Ancient Perspectives on a Persistent Myth (Handbuch Der Orientalistic. Indien,)

Religions in the Graeco-Roman World, the Early Amazons: Modern and Ancient Perspectives on a Persistent Myth (Handbuch Der Orientalistic. Indien,)

Josine Blok

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By TammyJo Eckhart
I won't repeat my published review of Blok's book, that can be found via the Women's Classical Caucus. Let me simply say a few things to the layperson and the scholar searching for this book on .com. The book is highly specialized; the more you know about archaic and Mycenaean Greek culture the better you will understand this book. Detailed in evidence and rich in interpretation, Blok does leave some of us scholars a bit perplexed at times at her logic, though 90% of the time that is solid. For the price the book is not worth even the specialists purchase; instead, borrow from the library and take careful and numerous notes. She suggests far more questions than she offers answers for but this just means the book is a good beginning to research into the s, early Greek Epic, or even the socio-political exchange of ideas in the ancient world.

The *Early Amazons* offers a new understanding of the ancient Amazon myth, situating mythical representations in the realm of cultural history. The first section examines how the Amazons have presented a challenge to views on history, myth and gender in classical mythology from the late eighteenth century up to the impact of structuralism. Topics included are nineteenth-century historiography and the interest in linguistics. The second section sheds new light on the culture of archaic Greece, offering a coherent assessment of literary and visual representations. Taking mythical narrative as a form of oral storytelling, it shows the emergence of the Amazon motif and its meaning in the world of epic. Iconographical analysis reveals how the visual arts have made a contribution of their own to the imaginary presence of the Amazons.

About the Author
Josine H. Blok, Ph.D. (1991) at the University of Leiden, is associate professor of history at the University of Groningen. She has published on modern and ancient cultural history, with specific interest in historiography, myth and women's history.