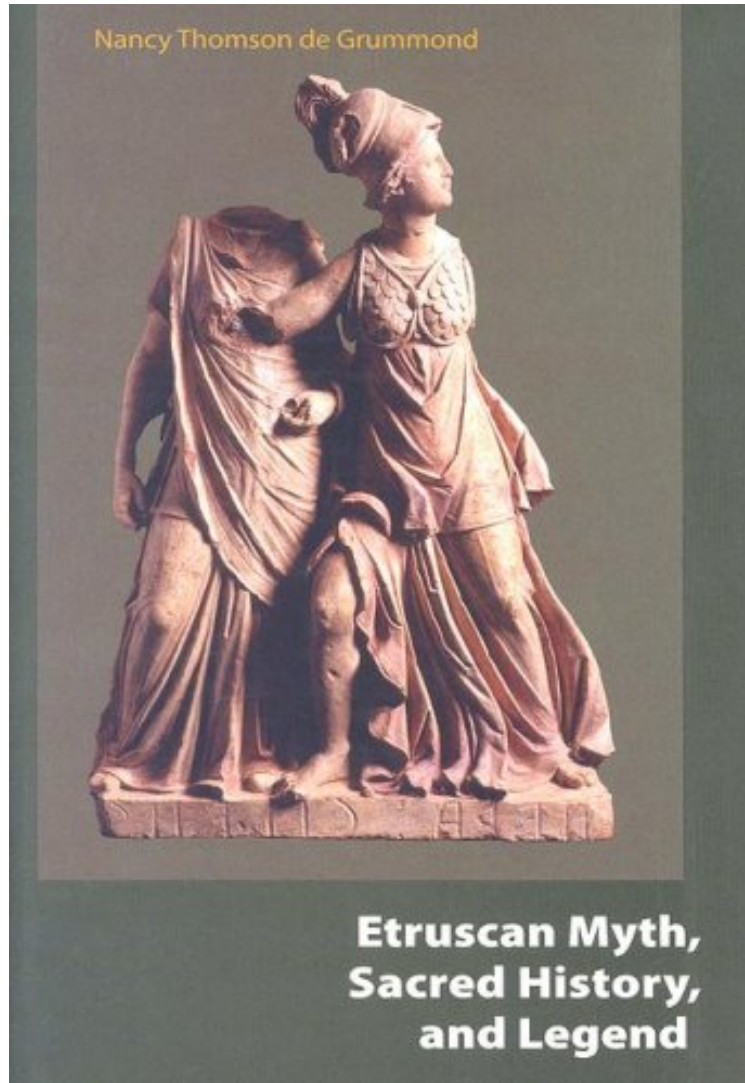


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## Etruscan Myth, Sacred History, and Legend

*Nancy Thomson de Grummond*  
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**Nancy Thomson de Grummond : Etruscan Myth, Sacred History, and Legend** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Etruscan Myth, Sacred History, and Legend:

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read. At the same time, it leaves space for the mystery of the yet-to-be-known. I will be reading it again and using it as a handy reference book--it even comes with a computer disk of images, some of which are supplemental to the images printed in the book--the CD is helpfully-organized, allowing a computer search, e.g., for the name of a particular personage that appears in Etruscan art.<sup>21</sup> of 22 people found the following review helpful. Etruscan Myth, Sacred History, and Legend By Geoffrey P. Graham This is a truly excellent study of Etruscan religion. I have read several other books on the subject and have always been rather disappointed by them. This is the first one which adopts a sensible methodology for recovering what we can and cannot surmise about Etruscan mythology given the preservation of art and the paucity of texts. I read each page with great interest and came out feeling that I had actually learned something about the subject, whereas previous books had seemed to get lost in a maze of Greek sources, and missed or even avoided material which seemed to contradict these Greek sources. This author, on the other hand, is interested precisely in what is different from the Greek versions of the iconography, and is able to deduce many salient features of Etruscan religion in doing so. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wishes to gain a deeper knowledge of Etruscan culture.

This volume is the first comprehensive account of Etruscan mythology, an elusive and difficult subject because no Etruscan textual narratives have survived from antiquity. In order to interpret the myths and make the Etruscans come alive for us today, Nancy Thomson de Grummond acts as an archaeological detective piecing together evidence from representations in art, from archaeological sites, and from indirect accounts of Etruscan lore in Greek and Roman texts. She starts with the purely Etruscan material, beginning with their stories of the prophets and ending with their very particular view of the underworld. She probes the relationship between myth and ritual, as well as what myth reveals of Etruscan attitudes about politics and in particular about their society, as well as statements about gender and the human body made through myth and art. Specific topics include an overview of the Etruscan geographical setting; a review of questions of origins and of general Etruscan chronology, especially as it relates to the development of myth; our written sources, with a short discussion about what is known of the Etruscan language (largely through inscriptions), and the media in art that are most useful for the study of Etruscan myth, especially engraved bronze mirrors. Annotated representations in art and of other evidence from archaeology illuminate Etruscan mythology, and an appendix essay on studying Etruscan mythology lays out the history of the study of Etruscan myth and the principal publications on the subject. Authorities and students involved with front-line research on the Etruscans, classicists who study and teach the mythology of ancient Greece and Italy, and scholars of world myth interested not only in the comparanda but also in the methodology for studying myth without the illumination of local written narrative will benefit from this book. Content of this book's CD-ROM may be found online at this location: <http://core.tdar.org/project/376539>.

About the Author Nancy Thomson de Grummond is M. Lynette Thompson Professor of Classics at Florida State University.