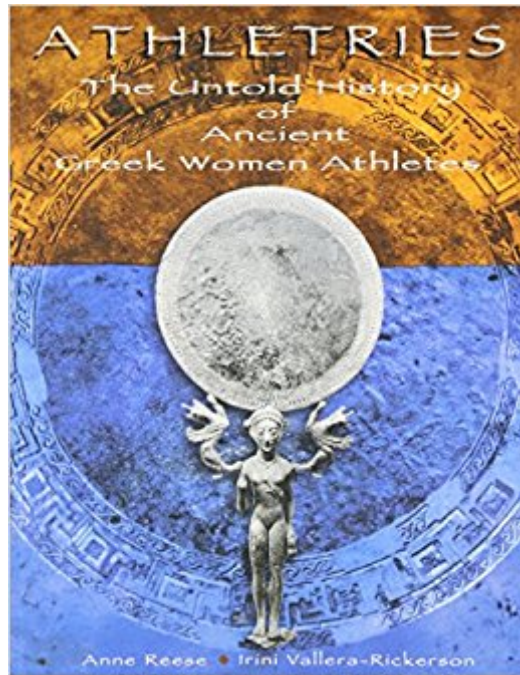




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Athletries: The Untold History Of Ancient Greek Women Athletes



Synopsis

From women bull-jumping in Minoan Crete and ancient Sparta-where girls wrestled in the nude alongside boys-to women competing in full armor in chariot races, this book presents ancient women as much more than sisters, wives, and mothers. Focusing on an area that has long been dominated by men, this book documents women's participation in the ancient Greek world of sports in an effort to reconstruct and present a full and equitable picture of women in history as capable, independent thinkers and valuable contributors to ancient Greek society. Included is a complete list gathered from ancient texts, inscriptions, art, and artifacts of women winners and the festivals and events in which they were victorious.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anne Reese studied anthropology at the University of Washington in Seattle. Irini Vallera-Rickerson is a tenured professor of art history and the former art gallery director at Orange Coast College. They both live in Orange County, California.

Dr. E. Gary Stickel, the Archaeologist whom the London Times called "The real-life Indiana Jones" because he helped LucasFilm with their production of "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and the Indiana Jones film series, says the following of the book entitled, *Athletries: The Unknown History of Ancient Greek Women* by Anne Reese and Irini Vallera-Rickerson: The book is extraordinary and it is a revelation. I have been studying ancient Greek archaeology for many years and have even conducted an excavation at the legendary birthplace of Achilles at the site of Achilleion, and I am

somewhat embarrassed to say that I was unaware of these ancient Greek women athletes and their accomplishments at the ancient Olympic Games and at the other Games in Greece. It is amazing to me that the achievements of these exceptional women had been forgotten and ignored until now. The book is well researched and documented, and it is a good testament to the authors that they have righted this wrong so that the ancient women will now receive the credit that is due to them. People everywhere (both men and women) can now appreciate their historic accomplishments. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in sports, the history of sports, the Olympic Games, and to giving women the place they deserve in world history - a history which has been dominated, in this case in a detrimental way, by men for far too long. Kudos to the authors for enlightening us and straightening our history out!

I enjoyed this book very much, and learned much about the unique athletics that Greek women were once involved in. When I say unique, I really mean UNIQUE! From chariot races to jumping onto the back of a charging bull and performing acrobatics on this animal backward! It was apparent that the authors underwent much research, primarily based upon historical text and archaeological treasures that survived 2-3,000 years. It was particularly interesting to understand that women had such opportunities during this time period to participate in athletics as did men, and it was just as interesting to know that there were a variety of different games that they involved themselves with over the course of hundreds-if not thousands of years, including the Olympic games in ancient Greece. Very enjoyable. Thank you to the authors! - Nora Garibotti

I loved this book!! It is not only a well thought out, researched, intellectual, scholarly book, but is so thoroughly accessible and understandable to anyone interested in history, women's history, Greek history, or sports history. It should be read by ALL mothers and their daughtersand a few fathers and sons, too! The amazing Stamata Revithi, was a woman that would be a hero if she had lived today. She was forgotten until this book. Kallipatira is a mother who lived a life that would resonate with any mother, then and now, and is so touching and heartbreaking and remarkable. I am so grateful to Anne Reese and Irini Vallera-Rickerson for all the work that went into this remarkable project. For enlightening all of us who are fortunate enough to make the choice to buy this book and read ityou will not be disappointed!!!

Athletries is a well-illustrated, well-versed panorama of the ancient Olympic games with copious historical documentation. Moreover, besides its excellent review of the games generally, this book

specifically details the role that women played in those ancient tournaments, placing them back on their earned pedestals, trumping the too-long-held assumption that women were non-existent beyond the hearth of the ancient world. The inclusion of copies of the actual Ancient Greek inscriptions (translated into Modern Greek and English), evincing the triumphs of women athletes, establishes this book's credibility in stone. The authors even include a pronunciation guide for the "it's-all-Greek-to-me" crowd, making an already accessible book more so. With the coming Olympic games, to be held once again in Athens, Greece, the timing of a book that reviews that competition's history is ideal--to enlighten readers that the spirit of that ancient contest was one shared by both men and women is essential.

I read this book in our college library. Though it was obvious that the authors had done a lot of research, the book was easy to read and included great graphics. I came away with a deep appreciation for the role of women in this ancient society and in the history of the world. This is a book that would appeal to both men and women and to all ages, including young adults. It should be in public and academic libraries.

With the Summer Olympics looming, this is a wonderful and timely book on the history of women athletes. Well-written and well-organized, it a valuable addition to anyone's library.

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