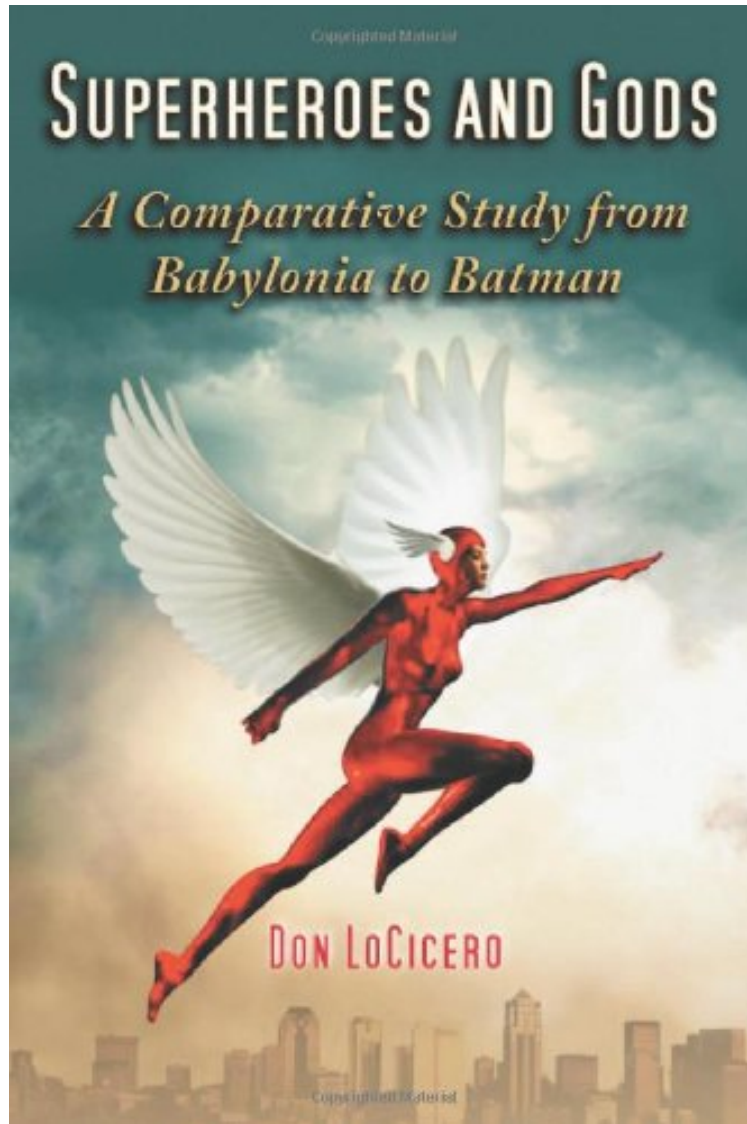


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Superheroes and Gods: A Comparative Study from Babylonia to Batman

Don LoCicero

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Don LoCicero : Superheroes and Gods: A Comparative Study from Babylonia to Batman before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Superheroes and Gods: A Comparative Study from Babylonia to Batman:

22 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Awful, simply awful By Absent-Minded Professor This is quite possibly the worst book I have ever read. As a historian and comic book fan I went into it with high hopes, that were

soon dashed as it became apparent that this book is filled with simple factual errors. It seems to be written by someone with a very shallow "pop culture" or Wikipedia knowledge of the subject matter - both comic book characters and mythology. The book seems to be an excuse to engage in flippant retellings of major myths and legends, along with the basics of some of the major modern superhero stories (peppered with childish and condescending jokes and double entendres), drawing what are ultimately very tenuous connections in most cases. Really, other than the bat imagery, how much is there in common between Dracula and Batman? (Thank God he apparently never heard of Batman: Red Rain - it's probably all he would have used for Batman if he had.) He consistently confuses Golden Age and Silver Age incarnations of comic book heroes and groups - throughout, where he writes Justice League read Justice Society and vice versa. To give credit where it is due, LoCicero's is actually not a bad summary/discussion of Philip Wylie's *Gladiator*. 8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Enhanced with an Epilogue, extensive notes, a substantial bibliography, and a comprehensive Index By Midwest Book Review A simply fascinating study by retired academician and scholar Don LoCicero, "Superheroes And Gods: A Comparative Study From Babylonia To Batman" is a tour-de-force survey of the nature and role of superheroes and gods as portrayed in the literature, popular culture, and ancient myths of diverse civilizations and cultures from around the world and down through recorded history. The mythological figures represented and discussed range from Babylonia's tales of Gilgamesh and Enkidu, to the Hellenic pantheon, to such 20th Century American creations as Captain Marvel, Batman, and Superman. Professor LoCicero identifies the similarities and the distinctions between these various characters while describing their repeating archetypal character patterns regardless of each hero's particular time period or culture. Organized by chapters focusing on the heroes and gods of particular cultures or regions (Babylonia; Persia; India; Egypt; Greece; Rome; Scandinavia and Germany; The United States; and Finland), "Superheroes And Gods" concludes with an erudite examination of 'The Super Antihero' phenomena such as Dracula, The Hulk, and Frankenstein. Enhanced with an Epilogue, extensive notes, a substantial bibliography, and a comprehensive Index, "Superheroes And Gods" is a work of seminal scholarship and strongly recommended for both academic and community library Mythology Folklore reference collections.

The work provides a unique study of superheroes and gods in literature, popular culture, and ancient myth. The author selects a number of mythological figures (e.g., Babylonia's Gilgamesh and Enkidu), ancient gods (e.g., Greece's Eros and Tartarus), and modern superheroes (e.g., the United States' Superman and Captain Marvel) and identifies the often striking similarities between each unique category of characters. The author contends that the vast majority of mythological superheroes follow the same archetypal character patterns, regardless of each hero's unique time period or culture. Each of the first nine chapters examines the heroes and gods of a particular region or country, while the final chapter examines modern descendants of the hero prototype like Batman and Spiderman and several infamous anti-heroes (for example, Dracula and The Hulk).

"Fascinating...strongly recommended." --Midwest Book "Admirable anthology." --SFRA "Admirable anthology." --SFRA About the Author Works by retired professor Don LoCicero include eight published novels, a study of the novella genre, a text on humor and numerous scholarly articles and book reviews. LoCicero lives in Allentown, Pennsylvania.