

BRIEF BOOK NOTICES

The Living Goddesses by Marija Gimbutas. Edited and Supplemented by Miriam Robbins Dexter. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999. Pp. 306; US \$35.00 (cloth).

Gimbutas, the controversial feminist archaeologist who described a peaceful, prepatriarchal, Goddess-centred Old European culture over-run three to four thousand years ago by warlike Proto-Indo-Europeans, was working on this book when she died in 1994. Part One describes religion in prepatriarchal Europe. The sketchier Part Two looks at survivals of Goddess religion in archaeology and contemporary folklore, surveying Minoan Crete, Greek, Etruscan, Basque, Celtic, Germanic and Baltic religion. Dexter's completion was clearly a labour of love, and the book reads well, but beginners to Gimbutas might be better off starting elsewhere: with Gimbutas's earlier works, with Joan Marler's memorial volume (*From the Realm of the Ancestors*, Manchester: Knowledge, Ideas and Trends, 1997) or with Lucy Goodison and Christine Morris's collection of mostly sympathetic critiques (*Ancient Goddesses*, London: British Museum Press, 1998).

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