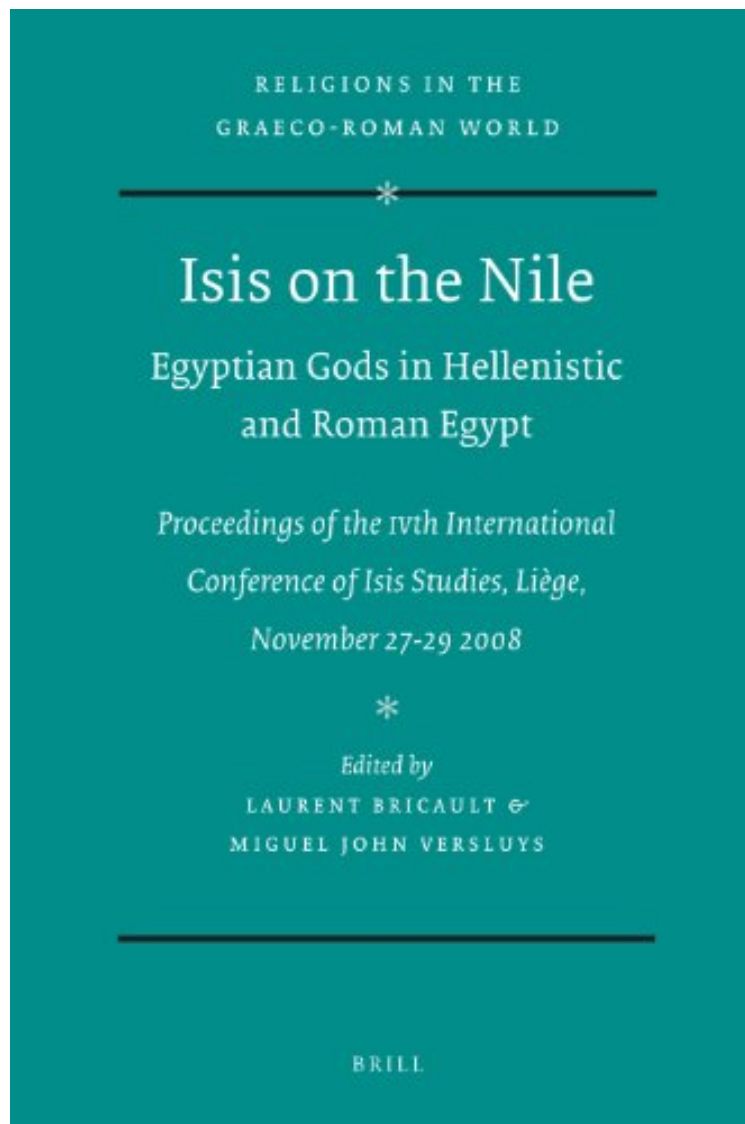


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Sampling some instances of Hellenization in EgyptBy DAJThe fourth conference of Isis studies moved the focus back to Egypt itself, which is rarely discussed when talking about Isis' cult in Rome. The essays tend to be more narrowly focused than those in the third volume, so fewer big insights are to be had. However, it gives a decent (though rather spotty) picture of the culture in Roman Egypt, in which Egyptian and Greco-Roman elements routinely appeared side by side and affected each other in complex ways. It also moderates David Frankfurter's somewhat exaggerated argument, in *Religion in Roman Egypt*, that Hellenization in Egyptian religion was mostly superficial. Nevertheless, the worship of Isis in Egypt does not seem to have been much affected by the Hellenistic mysteries that characterized the Isis-cult elsewhere in the Roman Empire.

The diffusion of the cults of Isis is recently again intensively studied. Research on this fascinating phenomenon has traditionally been characterised by its focus on L'Egypte hors d'Egypte, while developments in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt itself were often seen as belonging to a different domain. This volume tries to overcome that unhealthy dichotomy by studying the cults of Isis in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt itself in relation to developments in the Mediterranean at large. The book not only presents an overview of the most important deities, often based on new or unpublished material, but also pays ample attention to the cultural processes behind Isis on Nile, like relations between style and identity, religious choice, social- and cultural memory and Egypt's view of its own past.

About the AuthorLaurent Bricault holds a PhD in Egyptology from the Sorbonne and is Professor of Roman history at Universite de Toulouse Le Mirail. Miguel John Versluys holds a PhD from Leiden University and is associate Professor at its Faculty of Archaeology. They are both well known for their many publications in the domain of Isis studies and Egyptian influences on the Roman world. Their previous book, *Nile into Tiber. Egypt in the Roman world* (RGRW 159) from 2007, was characterised by *The Classical* (2009) as "(-) an admirably thorough examination of the complexities of religious acculturation, and an impressive survey of the different approaches that may be taken to the study of this problem." The present volume hopes to achieve the same with regard to Egyptian gods in Hellenistic and Roman Egypt.