

Advance Information

The Nine Maidens

Priestesses of the Ancient World

STUART McHARDY

This extensively revised and retitled book explores different stories of nine women that exist across much of our world.

Triggered by a local story still told in his native Dundee, Stuart McHardy has traced what seems to be memories of groups of nine women across much of Europe and as far as Siberia, Korea, India and Africa. Whether as Pictish saints, Muses, Valkyries, Druidesses or witches, the tales of these groups of nine women transcend a vast range of cultural and linguistic boundaries.

From the mothers of the Norse God Heimdall, Morgan and her sisters on Avalon, to the nine sisters at the heart of the myth of the Gikuyu of Kenya, these women stand out in history and mythology. The painting of nine women dancing around a priapic male in a Catalonian cave painting over fifteen thousand years old suggests these groups may have been one of the oldest cultural institutions humanity has known.

This book will be of international interest with its global settings. It will also be the ideal book for those intrigued by mythology, legend, history and studies within these subjects.

Praise for Stuart McHardy

(Stuart McHardy's) findings are set to shake established Arthurian thinking, which points to the West Country or possibly Wales as his likely resting place. – The Scotsman, on The Quest for Arthur

This is a journey into the cultural heritage of a nation. – Scottish Review of Books on Scotland the Brave Land

By the Same Author

The Stones of the Ancestors, Luath Press, 9781912147809

Tales of the Picts, Luath Press, 9781910021958

Complementary & Competing Titles

Women of Myth, Jenny Williamson, Adams Media, 9781507219416

Warriors, Witches, Women, Kate Hodges, White Lion Publishing, 9781781319260

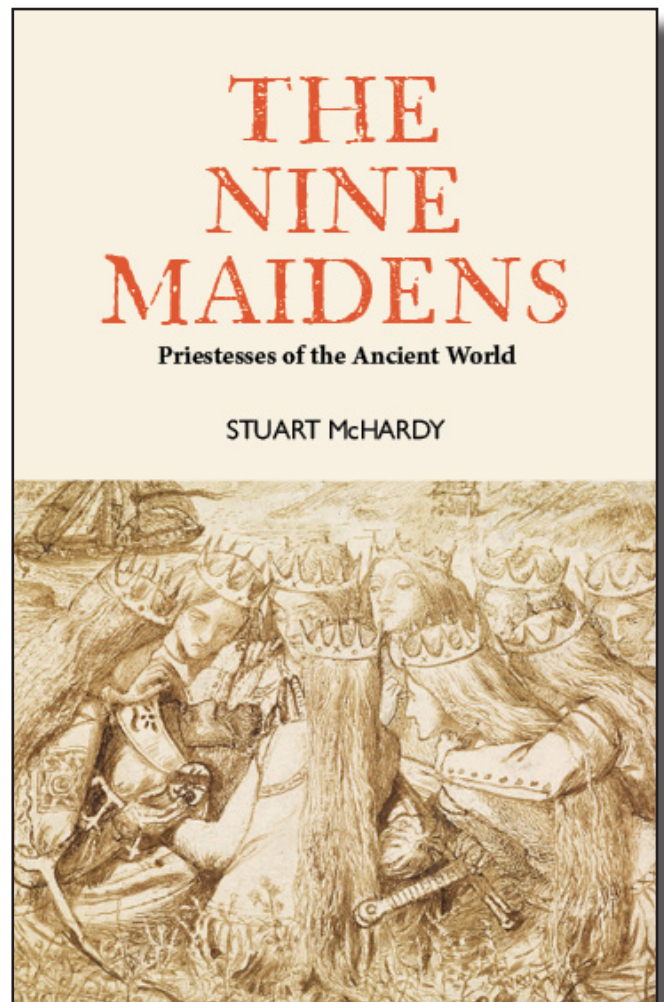
Women and Other Monsters, Jess Zimmerman, Beacon Press, 9780807054932

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Sales Representation | Scotland: Don Morrison | donmoleith@gmail.com | London & South East: Andrea Grant-Webb | andrea@broomfieldbooks.co.uk **UK Distribution and Orders** | Central Books Ltd. | 50 Freshwater Rd, Chadwell Heath RM8 1RX | 020 8525 8800 | orders@centralbooks.com



ISBN	9781804250914
Publication Date	August 2023
Format	Paperback
Size	198x129mm
Extent	256pp
Price	£8.99
Edition	2nd
Thema Code	QRS Ancient religions and mythologies
Illustrations	No
Author Location	Scotland



ISBN 978-1-80425-091-4

5 1595

9 781804 250914

Author Biography



STUART McHARDY is a writer, historical scholar, poet, musician, folklorist and renowned lecturer about Scottish history and culture, at home as well as abroad. His unique understanding of tradition comes from a thorough immersion in the storytelling arts and history alike. Former President of the Pictish Arts Society and the Director of the Scots Language Resource Centre, McHardy has occupied lead positions with organisations working towards the aim of rediscovering Scottish national identity.