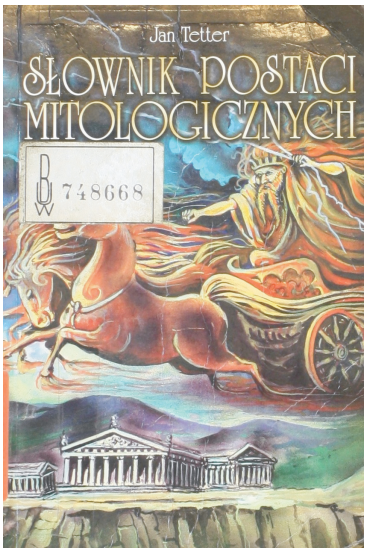
Summary: Katarzyna Sendecka, Analysis: Marta Pszczolińska, "Entry on: Dictionary of Mythological Characters and Most Important Concepts Related to Greek and Roman Mythology [Słownik postaci mitologicznych oraz najważniejszych pojęć związanych z mitologią Greków i Rzymian] by Jan Tetter", peer-reviewed by Katarzyna Marciniak and Elżbieta Olechowska. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1417. Entry version as of October 31, 2026.

Jan Tetter

Dictionary of Mythological Characters and Most Important Concepts Related to Greek and Roman Mythology [Słownik postaci mitologicznych oraz najważniejszych pojęć związanych z mitologią Greków i Rzymian]

Poland (1999)

TAGS: Greek Gods Hero(es) Roman Gods



Cover by Bogdan Chudzyński. Courtesy of Wojciech Jasiński, Agencja Wydawnicza Ostroróg.

General information	
Title of the work	Dictionary of Mythological Characters and Most Important Concepts Related to Greek and Roman Mythology [Słownik postaci mitologicznych oraz najważniejszych pojęć związanych z mitologią Greków i Rzymian]
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	1999
First Edition Details	Jan Tetter, *Słownik postaci mitologicznych oraz najważniejszych pojęć związanych z mitologią Greków i Rzymian*. Warszawa: Agencja Wydawnicza Nałęcz, 1999, 287 [1] pp.
ISBN	8386012102
Genre	Glossary, Myths
Target Audience	Crossover (children, teenagers, young adults)

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

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Creators



Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Jan Tetter , b. 1935
(Author)

A writer, journalist, translator and playwright, Jan Tetter, studied sciences and sociology in Gdańsk and Poznań. Author of over 20 titles: books, plays and radio broadcasts. Recognised for his children's books, including the beautifully illustrated (by Janusz Grabiański) *Ryży Placek i trzynastu zbójców* [Foxy Placek and the Thirteen Thieves], 1972; *Ryży Placek i portowa kompania* [Foxy Placek and the Harbour Companions], 1979, and more.

The bio is based on the material kindly provided by the Author, with addenda by Katarzyna Sendecka.

Bio prepared by Katarzyna Sendecka, University of Warsaw, katarzyna.sendecka@student.uw.edu.pl

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Additional information

Summary

Based on: Katarzyna Marciniak, Elżbieta Olechowska, Joanna Kłos, Michał Kucharski (eds.), *Polish Literature for Children & Young Adults Inspired by Classical Antiquity: A Catalogue*, Faculty of "Artes Liberales", Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2013, 444 pp.

With its small, pocket format and short, concise entries, this glossary provides young readers with an enjoyable and not overly complicated introduction to the world of Greek myths. Focused mainly on events, the book treats myths as a starting point and ventures to explain some genealogy and history of Greek gods and heroes. The events are described concisely and in a straightforward manner, while the book's simple language and small format allow for easier access. Complex stories and alternative versions are omitted, so a beginner can easily navigate the mythology. The author also pays great attention to words and phrases used in modern language, related to culture and literature but originating in Greek mythology. Their origin and meaning are explained, and children can decode such phrases as the Golden Fleece or the Augean Stables. Moreover, the author ventures a bit further, answering questions about what the myths were explaining and what purpose they served (for example, the symbolic meaning for the people in ancient times of Zeus' lightning bolt).

Analysis

The publication is not a scholarly one; no footnotes to provide ancient sources or bibliography. The only goal is to familiarise the reader with basic information. The glossary seems intended for school readers, crosswords amateurs, and other people who need additional information on a mythical character, ancient author, place, or concept. The author values simplicity; accordingly, the entries are short and contain only vital data. Different characters bearing the same name are included in a standard entry and differentiated by a number. Many minor characters of secondary importance are included, which confirms the author's intention to use the glossary for crosswords, quizzes, or charades. Many entries include a reference; for example, the entry on the *Golden Rain* links with the entries *Danae*, *Perseus* and *Acrisius*. In the case of alternative names, the entry refers to the main entry about the character allowing to identify the most popular usage of a proper name, simultaneously showing the presence of

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Greek names in today's modern language. The entries contribute to a rich web of mutual connections. The book ends with an index, a table of the Roman equivalents of seventeen Greek deities, explanations of five complex terms and an afterword. The author declares that knowledge of Greek mythology is an absolute must for an educated contemporary man. Due to the explicit references to extramarital or incestuous relationships, this glossary is not aimed exclusively at school children. See, for instance, the entry *Zeus' Wives and Lovers*, where the names of seduced characters are mentioned and most of the described acts, defined as incestuous. According to the entry, Greek mythology does not pass judgement on moral issues: "mythology does not judge those amorous conquests from a moral standpoint, primarily because they were symbolic explanations of phenomena in the natural world and should not be understood literally" (p. 258).

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Greek Gods Hero(es) Roman Gods
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Heritage Historical figures Learning Names Relationships

Further Reading

Jan Tetter at Wikipedia.pl (accessed: March 12, 2013).

Grimal, Pierre, *The Concise Dictionary of Classical Mythology*, ed. by Stephen Kershaw, trans. by A. R. Maxwell-Hyslop, Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1990.

Irmscher, Johannes et al., eds., *Lexicon der Antike*, Leipzig : VEB Bibliographisches Institut, 1971.

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Addenda

Cover, graphic design: Bogdan Chudzyński.

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