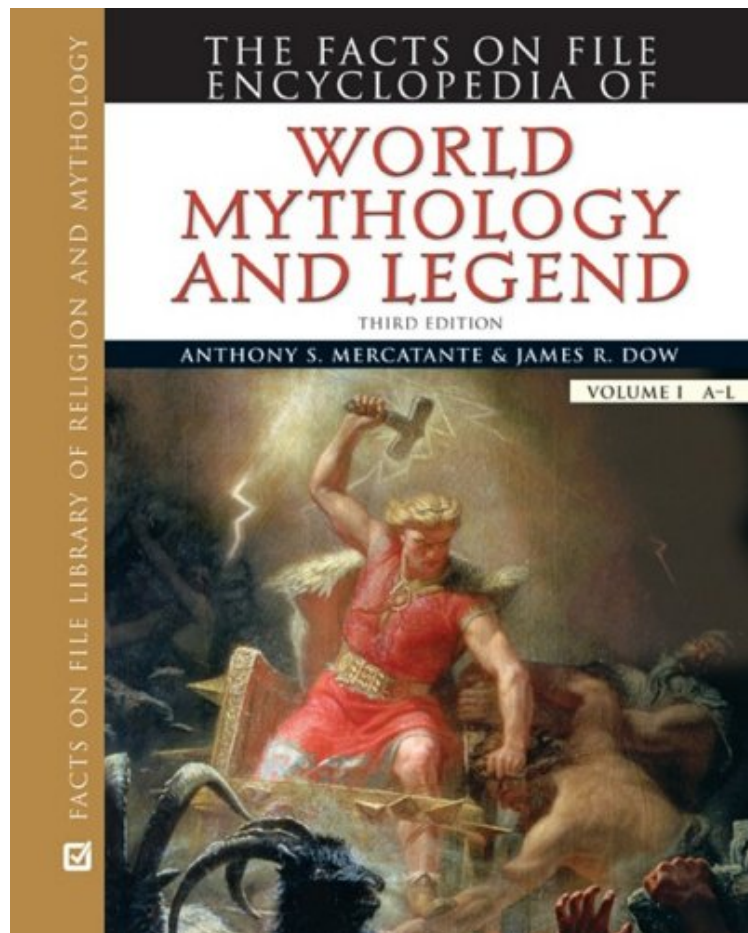


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## The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend (2 Volume Set) (Facts on File Library of Religion and Mythology)

*Anthony S Mercatante, Professor James R Dow*  
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**Anthony S Mercatante, Professor James R Dow : The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend (2 Volume Set) (Facts on File Library of Religion and Mythology)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Facts on File Encyclopedia of World Mythology and Legend (2 Volume Set) (Facts on File Library of Religion and Mythology):

9 of 11 people found the following review helpful. VERY disappointing. By Jase\_loves\_books Buyer beware. I've never left less than a three star review for even the worst of books -most books have some strengths...but this one doesn't even qualify for that. You'll do much better sourcing info re: myths and legend using Google and even Wikipedia. This collection reads like it was written by a high schooler for elementary school students. Far too many entries consist of only 1-3 brief sentences that tell us nothing. Many of the longer descriptions consist of only the most very basic information, but include what Hollywood director made a movie about the figure or event and who starred

in it. Overall, very much of the information is seriously dated and out of step with contemporary scholarship. And it's a serious lack, that in 2009 when this collection was revised, there is virtually no inclusion of archaeomythology and archaeoastronomy scholarly research and conclusions, aside from the occasional "sun god" reference. This collection reminds me of 1950s children's books. The only reason I'm giving it two stars is because it's formatted nicely and because the author appears to have spent a lot of time digging up many obscure mythological figures...too bad some of that effort wasn't invested in even a tiny bit of depth, fact checking, and a more sophisticated use of the English language. This collection has the flavor of a self-published project. Here's an example of an entry: "troll (to tread, giant, monsters). In Scandinavian folklore, a dwarf who lives in caves and hills. Originally, trolls were giants. In general they are skillful craftsmen but are not smart." That's it. If you're considering buying this two volume book, at the insane price it is offered at, do yourself the favor of checking the entry at Wikipedia for troll before you do. Wikipedia is the very lowest standard we can use to compare this collection to, and as you'll see, the author's entry doesn't even come close. This entry is typical of much of the collection in its obvious lack of depth, nearly illiterate use of language, and it isn't even accurate.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. excellent set of books  
By william t  
bramlett  
excellent set if you like or love mythology this is the book for you the only reason I didn't give 5 stars is I bought the paperback edition.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GREAT!  
By Rae  
Since I enjoy reading mythology and legends, this book was a great purchase for me. I would definitely recommend this book.

This edition boasts approximately 3000 entries, 150 of which are new; a substantially updated bibliography; an overhauled art programme, with hundreds of new images; and, a new guide to Internet sources on world mythology and legend.

From School Library Journal  
Dow (German folklore linguistics, emeritus, Iowa State Univ.) has thoroughly revised and updated the 2004 edition of the late Mercatante's celebrated encyclopedia. Readers will encounter 150 new articles (bringing the total to 3000), an expanded, annotated bibliography including web resources on world mythology, and new images. Impressive in scope, the set takes its title seriously featured here are not only myths and legends from the Western hemisphere but a large survey of folklore and fables from Africa, India, ancient cultures, and the world's aboriginal and native peoples. The A-to-Z articles run in length from a paragraph to several pages, each including cross-references to other entries and related subjects and crisp black-and-white illustrations that replace some of the earlier editions' murkier reproductions. Previous volumes used a numbered entry system, which has been discontinued; the indexes, including a list of entries by culture, now refer readers to page numbers. **BOTTOM LINE** Earlier versions have been enthusiastically recommended, and this new edition is even better. Jammed with information and filled with both impressive scholarship and entertaining tidbits (who knew the potato was considered unholy by the Scots?), it is highly recommended for all libraries. [Available in print only.]  
Amanda Sprochi, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia  
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From Booklist  
Dow, a German professor and linguistics chair at Iowa State, has done a substantial revision of the first, 1988 edition, compiled by Mercatante, now deceased. Entries have been added, as have cross-references at the ends of most entries. Entries are in alphabetical order and numbered, and the general index and cultural and ethnic indexes refer to the entry numbers. There is an annotated, updated bibliography. Most of the entries are related to Europe, but there is a substantial number of entries from Asia, Australasia, South and Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Each entry has a headword, variant spellings of the word, translation, definition, and cross-references. The writing is formal but clear. A pronunciation guide would have been useful. Illustrations are small black-and-white line drawings and reproductions of woodcuts. Some omissions are curious--there is no article on Mordred, one of the central characters of the Arthurian mythos, although many other Arthurian characters, even Lancelot's sword, have entries. The entry on the Great Stone Face mentions that it is part of American folklore but not where the face was located in the Americas. There are also some errors. The entry on Aaron mentions his "flowing wand," which should probably be "flowering wand." The Appomattox Apple Tree entry mentions the "tree under which General Lee surrounded to General Grant." Academic and larger public libraries with the first edition should consider replacing it with this edition. It is an optional purchase for most other folklore collections. **RBB**  
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved  
"Libraries...who can afford the new [edition] would do well to acquire it." "a valuable addition to almost all library collections...a fun book to browse... a scholarly resource."