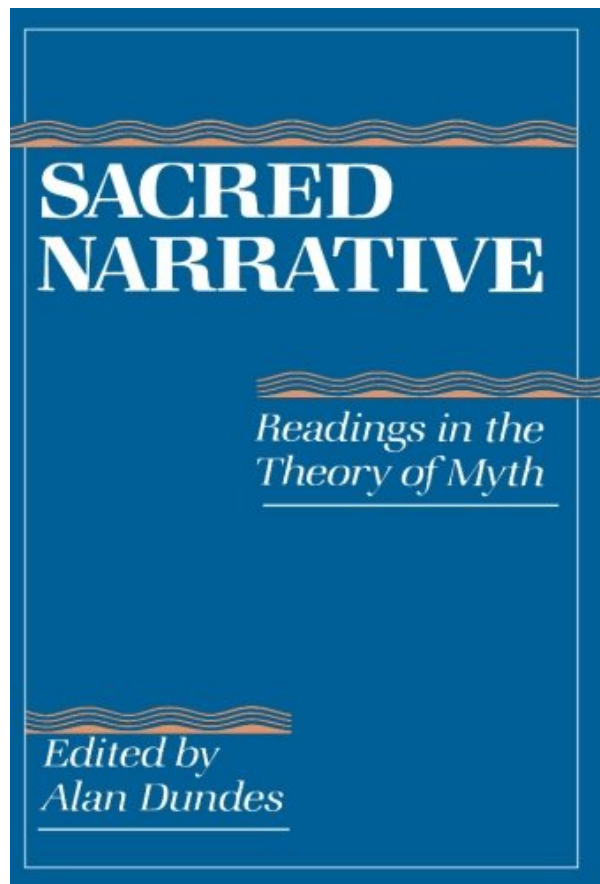
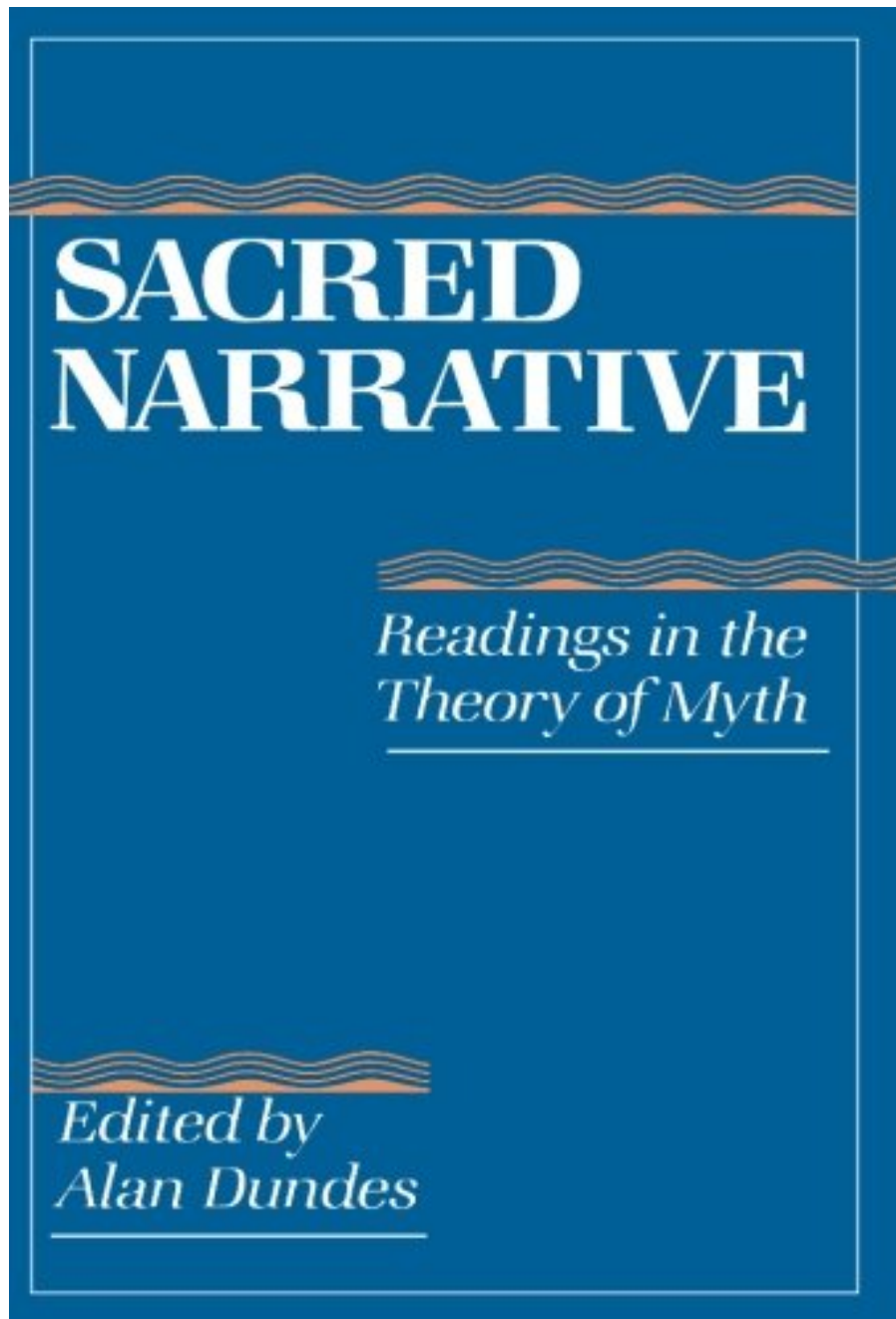


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About the Author

Alan Dundes is Professor of Anthropology and Folklore, University of California, Berkeley, and author of numerous books on folklore, including *La Terra in Piazza: An Interpretation of the Palio of Siena* (California, 1975, 1982).

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Rather than limiting this collection to classical Roman and Greek mythology, Dundes gives the book a worldwide scope. The twenty-two essays by leading experts on myth represent comparative functionalist, myth-ritual, Jungian, Freudian, and structuralist approaches to studying the genre.

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This book is a collection of essays on various theories and interpretive approaches to mythology. The editor, Alan Dundes, has compiled a broad range of studies that provide early approaches to theorizing myth-making and then moves into relatively recent approaches to myth. The essays are well-chosen, and they are linked together by Dundes' well-written introductions. Dundes is a fine folklorist, and his thorough grounding in the history of folklore study provides an excellent resource for placing the essays into a useful intellectual framework for learning about myth. Some of the essays are classics, and Dundes provides fair as well as critical appraisals of the various approaches used by the essayists. This compilation is essential for anyone interested in mythology as well as anyone interested in religious history and the social sciences.

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