

DISCUSSION 2

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Connely, Joan. "Parthenon and Parthenoi: A Mythological Interpretation of the Parthenon Frieze" *American Journal of Archeology* Vol. 100, No. 1 (1996): 53-80

This article began with a short introduction to the frieze of the Parthenon, and how as it stands we do not possess a full understanding of what the frieze is intended to represent. Scholars are distributed over many interpretations, and it fails to fall into the expected pattern of some mythological interpretation that all other Greek friezes have.

This article proposes a possible mythological interpretation, that relates the frieze to the story of Erechtheus's victory over Eumolpos. A short introduction to this myth, informs us that Erechtheus was forced to sacrifice one of his daughters in order to save Athens as a whole. The article goes through many segments of the frieze and demonstrates how the scenes represented could be placed into this proposed story.

The article also comments on the story of Pandora found within the Parthenon, and how that could also be placed within the proposed mythological story.

If this proposal were to be correct, then this would require scholars to rethink their current understanding of this era of Greek culture, and this would be a large break from what is currently understood.

This argument seems to be very plausible, as all of the arguments make clear sense. However, I found that I lacked the ability to critically read the article, as without significant amount of background information, I was unable to form my own options, and thus the views of the article are imposed upon myself. This is done with little to no consideration for counter arguments. I would like to know what alternative proposals would be, so that it would be possible to compare.

What are alternative competing interpretations of the frieze, and what are the counter-arguments to this proposal?

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