

# Classical Literature

A Concise History

Richard Rutherford

# BLACKWELL INTRODUCTIONS TO THE CLASSICAL WORLD

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## Appendix 4

### Major Greek and Roman Gods

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Since these are the divinities most frequently referred to in Greek and Latin poetry, it may be convenient for the reader to be able to see at a glance the conventional equivalents. It should be remembered that this is not just a matter of translating: in many cases gods of the Roman tradition are brought into line with the Greek deities and have some of their acts ascribed to them, while retaining much of their Roman character or significance (thus Mars is important for Romans as the father of Romulus, a relationship irrelevant to the Greek Ares). There were of course other Roman gods for whom no Greek equivalent was found, e.g. Janus, Terminus; and some Roman deities can be seen to resemble Greek gods without being fully identified with them (as Faunus has similarities to Pan).

<b>Greek names</b>	<b>Roman names</b>
Zeus	Jupiter
Hera	Juno
Demeter	Ceres
Poseidon	Neptune
Apollo	Apollo (the name Phoebus is also used by both Greeks and Romans)
Artemis	Diana
Hephaestus	Vulcan
Ares	Mars
Aphrodite	Venus
Athena	Minerva (also often called 'Pallas' by both)
Hermes	Mercury
Dionysus	Bacchus (though this name is also used in Greek)
Hades	Pluto or Dis ('Pluto' is also found in Greek, though more rarely)
Persephone	Proserpina
Heracles	Hercules