# Article information:

Parthenon and Parthenoi: A Mythological Interpretation of the Parthenon Frieze on JSTOR  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/506297>

# Article summary:

1. The Parthenon frieze is traditionally viewed as a representation of the Athenian citizenry participating in their annual Panathenaic procession.

2. However, the author proposes that the frieze actually depicts the story of King Erechtheus, his wife Praxithea, and their three maiden daughters who gave their lives to save Athens.

3. The east frieze shows the royal family preparing for sacrifice and commemorates the first victory over outside aggressors in what may be viewed as a central aition of the Panathenaia itself.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article "Parthenon and Parthenoi: A Mythological Interpretation of the Parthenon Frieze" proposes a new interpretation of the Parthenon frieze, suggesting that it depicts the mythical story of King Erechtheus, his wife Praxithea, and their three maiden daughters who sacrificed themselves to save Athens. The author argues that this mythological reference is necessary to understand the frieze's subject matter, which stands outside the conventions of Greek temple decoration.

The article presents a well-researched argument, drawing on both archaeological evidence and literary sources to support its claims. However, it is important to note that this interpretation is not universally accepted among scholars. The traditional view of the frieze as a representation of the Panathenaic procession remains prevalent in academic circles.

One potential bias in the article is its focus on mythological interpretation at the expense of historical context. While the author acknowledges that the Panathenaic procession was an important civic event in fifth-century Athens, they do not explore how this event may have influenced or been influenced by the mythological stories depicted on the frieze.

Additionally, while the article provides a detailed analysis of the east frieze, which depicts Erechtheus's sacrifice and subsequent victory over Eumolpos, it does not address other sections of the frieze or consider alternative interpretations for these scenes.

Overall, while "Parthenon and Parthenoi" offers an intriguing new perspective on one of ancient Greece's most iconic works of art, readers should approach its claims with caution and consider alternative viewpoints before accepting them as fact.

# Topics for further research:

* Historical context of the Panathenaic procession in ancient Athens
* Traditional interpretation of the Parthenon frieze as a representation of the Panathenaic procession
* Alternative interpretations of the Parthenon frieze
* Other sections of the Parthenon frieze beyond the east frieze
* Influence of mythological stories on ancient Greek art and culture
* Role of mythological stories in ancient Greek religion and society

# Report location:

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