

A PELICAN BOOK

# The Gods of the Greeks



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CARL KERÉNYI

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THE GODS OF THE GREEKS

C. KERÉNYI



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Carl Kerényi was born in Temesvár in Hungary in 1897. In 1927 he became lecturer in the History of Ancient Religions at the University of Budapest, and from 1936 to 1943 he was professor of Classical Philology there. When in 1944 Hungary became involved in the fighting, Professor Kerényi went to Switzerland where he taught at the University of Basel till 1946.

His first book was published in Tübingen in 1927, but until he went to Greece in 1929 his interest was divided between classical philology, the history of religion, and literature. In Greece, however, these interests were united and in his subsequent work on classical mythology they have all been served. He is a noted humanist and had a correspondence with Thomas Mann on the subject of the creation of myths, on which they held similar views. His work also aroused the interest of C. G. Jung and in 1948 Professor Kerényi went to teach at the Jung Institute in Zurich.

His most important works are *Apollo* (1940), *The religious oracle* (1931), and with C. G. Jung *Introduction to a Science of Mythology*.

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