As we speak of ‘dead’ languages, we say that religions ‘die out’. Yet, sometimes, people try to revive them, today more than ever. New Antiquities addresses this phenomenon through critical examination of how individuals and groups appeal to, reconceptualize, and reinvent the religious world of the ancient Mediterranean as they attempt to legitimate developments in contemporary religious culture and associated activity.

Drawing on the disciplines of religious studies, archaeology, history, philology, and anthropology, New Antiquities explores a diversity of cultic and geographic milieus, ranging from Goddess Spirituality to Neo-Gnosticism, from rural Oregon to the former Yugoslavia. As a survey of the reception of ancient religious works, figures, and ideas in later twentieth-century and contemporary alternative religious practice, New Antiquities will interest classicists, Coptologists, comparatists, and historians of religion of many stripes, particularly those focused on modern Theosophy, Gnosticism, Neopaganism, New Religious Movements, Magick, and Occulture. The book is written in a lively and engaging style that will appeal to professional scholars and advanced undergraduates as well as lay scholars.

Dylan M. Burns is a Research Associate at the Egyptological Seminar of the Freie Universität Berlin, and author of Apocalypse of the Alien God: Platonism and the Exile of Sethian Gnosticism (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014).

Almut-Barbara Renger is Professor of Ancient Religion and Culture and Their Reception History at the Institute for Religious Studies of Freie Universität Berlin, and author of Oedipus and the Sphinx: The Threshold Myth from Sophocles through Freud to Cocteau (Chicago University Press, 2013).