

Greek Mythology #32: THE THREE GRACES

by Joy Journeyay

The number of Graces varied in different myths, but usually there were three.

AGLAEA was Brightness and Splendor.

EUPHROSYNE was Joyfulness and Mirth.

And **THALIA** was Bloom and Good Cheer.

They are the daughters of Zeus and Eurynome, who was the daughter of Oceanus and Tethys. Eurynome was the third wife of Zeus.

Some versions of the myth recount the Graces as daughters of Dionysus and Aphrodite or of Helios and one of the naiads.

You will remember that when Hera had Hephaestus, who was deformed, she cast him from Mount Olympus. Eurynome and her mother caught him, and raised him. Charis, sister to the Three Graces, or Aglaea later became a wife to Hephaestus (after Aphrodite) and had four daughters with him.

The Graces were to fill the world with happiness and good times, and are often in the company of Aphrodite and Eros, or dancing with the Nymphs and Muses. Most art depicts them nude or nearly nude, and our buttons follow this tradition.



Cameo carved shell, set in silver.
Courtesy of Joy Journeyay.



18th century painting on ivory.
Courtesy of Barbara Barrans.