Contents

Introduction page 11 The rise of the Celts page 11 The decline of the Celts page 12 The conservators of tradition page 14 The sources page 16 The diversity of Celtic mythology page 18

Gaulish gods and insular equivalents

page 23 The gods as noted by Caesar page 23 Gaulish 'Mercury': Irish Lugh page 27 Teutates, Esus, Taranis: 'Mars', 'Jupiter' page 29 Gaulish 'Apollo': various Irish deities page 32 Gaulish 'Minerva': Irish Brighid Gaulish 'Vulcan': Irish Goibhniu, Welsh Gofannon page 35 Gaulish Ogmios-Hercules: Irish Oghma page 37 Gaulish 'Dis Pater': Irish Donn page 41

Sucellus and Nantosvelta page 44 Cernunnos page 44 Triadic groups page 48

Goddesses: divine consorts, Matres page 49

Cult associations of inanimate nature page 50

Cult associations of animate nature page 50

The Tuatha Dé Danann page 57 The Book of Invasions page 57 The Second Battle of Magh Tuiredh The coming of the Gaels page 64 The retreat of the Tuatha Dé page 64 The Daghda page 66 Irish Nuadha: Welsh Nudd page 67 Manannán mac Lir page 69

The gods of Britain page 75 The family of Dôn page 75 The family of Llŷr page 76 Pwyll, Rhiannon and Pryderi page 80

The goddesses of the insular Celts page 85 Medhbh of Connacht page 85 Goddesses of war page 86 Macha page 90 Goddesses of the happy otherworld page 91 Édain page 91 The goddess of sovereignty page 94

The heroic tradition page 97 The Ulster Cycle page 97 The foretales: Deirdre and the sons of Uisnech page 97 The Feast of Bricriu page 99 Cú Chulainn page 101 The Fionn Cycle page 106
The elopement of Diarmaid and Gráinne page 110 Fionn and Arthur page 115

Sacral kingship page 117

The otherworld page 123 The Feast of Samhain page 126 The land of the dead page 128

The integral tradition page 131

Further Reading List page 138

Acknowledgments page 138

Index page 139

Index

Figures in italics indicate illustrations

Adonis 115 Aeron (river) 86 Aesculapius 32 Aesir 61 Agallamh na Seanórach (The Colloquy of the Old Men) episode from 108 frame-story 106
frame-story 106
Agricola (Roman general) 12
Agriculture myth of 61
Agrona, Celtic goddess of slaughter 86 slaughter 86
Aife, Amazonian 105
Ailill of Connacht 90, 91, 92, 97, 98, 100, 126, 127
Aillén mac Midhna 110 Aine (Irish fairy queen) 86, 131 Ainnle 98 Aislinge Oenguso, 'The Dream of Oenghus' 33 Albius 49 Alisanos, god of rocks 50 Amaethon son of Dôn 76 Amazonian teachers of the martial arts goddesses as 86 Amhairghin (poet) 64 Andraste, goddess 86 Anglo-Normans, in Ireland (12th cent.) 12 Anglo-Saxons, in Britain 12 Animal mythology 44, 50-54, 101 Celtic 71 Irish 71 Annals of Innisfallen 121 Annwn (traditional name for the otherworld) 80 Welsh concept Anu, goddess 85, 88, 94, 131 Aodh (Fire) see Goll (One-eyed) mac Morna Aoibheall of Craig Liath, Irish Aphrodite 115
Apollo 23, 32, 43
Apollo Citharoedus, 'The Harper' 33
'Apollo Gaulish cult of 32
epithets applied to 32 Apollo Grannus 49 Arawn, King of Annwn 80 Ardan 98 Ard Macha 131 Arianhod 75 Arthur, King 18, 73, 110, 111, 113, 126 expedition to the otherworld of expedition to the otherworld of 128-129 legend of 18, 101, 114, 115, 121 similarity to Fionn of 115 Artio, goddess 51 Ash of Uisnech 50 Atepomaros, god 32 Attalos I of Pergamon statue

Badhbh Catha 86
Badhbh 'Raven, Hooded-crow'
(war-goddess) 54, 86
Baird (defined) 15
Balar 'of the baleful eye' 28, 59
myth of Lugh slaying 60, 110
Banais right, 'wedding-feast of
kingship' 120
Banbha, goddess 57, 64 as one of
the trio of divine eponyms 85
Bards, the 14, 15 Bards, the 14, 15 Battle of Magh Tuiredh see Magh Tuiredh, Battle of Bed of Diarmaid and Gráinne 103 106 Belenus, god 32 Belgae (Celtic tribe) in Britain 12 Beli 67 Beli Mawr, 'Beli the Great' (ancestor deity) 79 (ancestor derty) 79
Belisama, epithet of Minerva 35
Beltene, god 32 feast of 64
Beltene first of May 126
Bendigeidfran (Brân the Blessed) 76 Bhagavad-Gita 64
Bile (special term for sacred tree) 50
Binding gods see Ogmios-Oghma Birds magic or divine 54 triad of otherworld 33 Black of Saingliu, famous horse 101 Bláthnad, 'Little Flower' 101 Blodenwedd 76, 101 Bó-airigh, Irish freemen 60 Boann, Celtic goddess 33, 35 Boar magic 33, 53, 103, 109

erected by 101

Avenches, inscriptions from 28

Axis mundi (World Tree) 29, 50

hunting of 113 Boar of Beann Ghulban, magic 111 Book of Invasions, The (Leabhar Gabhála) 17, 57-58, 90
Book of Kells 71 Bormanna 49 Bormanus 49 Borvo (Bormo, Bormanus) Borvo (Bormo, Bormanus)
Gaulish deity 32, 49
Boudica, British queen 86, 121
Bough of Datlo 50
Boyhood Deeds' (Macghnimhartha)
of Cú Chulainn 101-105
Brahmans compared with druids 16 influence on Celtic mythology 60 sacred texts of the 16 Bran 72 as god 79 Bran mac Febhail 91, 124, 129
Branwen Daughter of Llyr 76, 79, Bregha, Kings of 64
Bres, king 59, 61, 119
Breton literary tradition 18
Bricriu (Nemhthenga 'Poisontongue') 97 as counterpart of Scandinavian Loki 99 Feast of 99-101 Brigantes, goddesses of the 23 Brigantia, British goddess (tutelary goddess of the Brigantes) 35, 121 equated with Minerva 35 Brighid, Irish goddess 34-35, 95 equated with Minerva 35 two sisters of 34 see also St Brighid Bri Leith, sidh of 81, 92 Britain Anglo-Saxons in 12 earliest settlements of Celts in (5th cent. B.C.) 12. gods of 75-83 Romans in 12 Brixia 49 Bron the Fisher King 76 Brown Bull of Cuailnge 50-52, 97 Brugh na Bonne, monuments of the 64 Bruidhnea (five great banqueting Bruigh na Bóinne (tomb at Newgrange) 33, 132 Buanann ('the Lasting One', 'mother of heroes') 86 **Buí** (or Boí) goddess 94 **Bull**, divine 33, 47, 123 widespread in Celtic mythology 52-53 head of 34 Burial rituals 64, 123

Caer Feddwid see Otherworld Caer Siddi see Otherworld Caesar 14, 15, 24, 27, 31, 32, 34, account of Dis Pater 43-44 conquest of Celts by 12 Gaulish gods noted by 23 Roman interpretation of Gaulish mythology by 23 writing about the Celts 123 Caillech Bhérri (The Hag of Bérre), legend of 94, 95 Cairbre Caitchenn 120 Calendar found at Coligny 93 Cambrensis Giraldus 34, 129 Caoilite mac Rónáin 106, 108, 109 Caracalla, Emperor 32
Carmán, mythical woman 90
Cartimandua 121
Cathbhadh, druid 97, 105, prophecy of 93, 98 Cathleen Ni Houlihan (Yeats) 121 Cathubodua, 'crow, raven of battle' Cattle-Raid of Cuailnge see Táin Bó Cuailnge Cauldron (sacred), of the Daghdha Celtic gods depreciation of through the influence of Christianity 66 nomenclature as guide to number Celtic language, in Britain 12 Celtic mythology 134 Caesar's interpretation of 23 diversity of 18-20 triplication of the deity in 28 Celtic sculptures 13

Celtic society decentralised structure of 19

Near Eastern influence on 47 Celtic tribes invading northern Italy 11 political and religious independence among 19-20 Celtic year 126 Celts conquests of 12 continental 11, 18 cultural traditions of 14-16, 19 customs of 16 decline of 12-14 entering Greece in 279 B.C. 11 in Britain 11 in Spain 11 insular 11, 85-95 literary tradition of 23 rapid advance across Europe of (5th cent.) 11 religious thought among 44, 134 rise of 11 social classes of 14-16 traditions of 11, 49 Cernunnos, The Horned (or Peaked) one, deity 25, 44-48, 54, 119 as 'lord of the animals' 38, 47 bull and stag connected with 43, 53 characteristic 'Buddhic' posture of cult of 43 48 equated with Dis Pater 44 relief of 43 statues of 47, 127 Cesair 134 leading the first invasion 57 Cétshamhain, first of May 126 Champion's portion (Curadhmhir) ritual of 99-100 Chariot grave, Waldalgesheim 25 Charon 37 Christ birth of 07 Cesair 134 Christ, birth of 97 Christianity 14, 134 incompatability with pagan world in Ireland 66 Cimbaeth 90 Cliodna, goddess 91 Cliodna of Carraig Cliodna, Irish fairy queen 86 Cocidius, north British deity 77 Cocidius, north British deity 77
Cock (sacred animal) 22, 27
Côir Anmann (Fitness of Names) 85
Coirbre (poet) 59
Conaire Môr, King 92, 127
Conall Cernach 47, 97, 100
Conchobhar mac Nessa, ruler of the Vlaidh 17, 31, 97, 98, 101, 105, 111
Condatis, god of confluence 50
Cantescian (St Patrick) 32 Confession (St Patrick) 32 Conla, son of Conn of the Hundred Battles 91 Conlai, son of Cú Chulainn 105 Conn of the Hundred Battles, King of Tara 28-29, 73, 91, 120 Connacht, Medhbh of 85-86 Connachtmen 41, 91 in conflict with the Ulstermen 97, Coraniaid (magic people) invasion of Britain by 69 Cormac, son of the king of Ulster Cormac mac Airt, King 73 Cormac mac Cuilennáin, glossary Cormac's Glossary 34, 35, 73, 85 Cosmic order 60 enemies of 61 Cosmic Tree 134 Cosmogony 134
Cosmology 134
Court of Intoxication, or Carousal see Otherworld
Coventina's well 79
Cow, red-eared (supernatural cow) in Irish mythology 34
Craftsman-god, myths of 35-36
Crann bethadh (tree of life) 50
Crauchu, cave of 126
Creation, myth of 57, 64
Creiddylad 115
Creidhne, craftsman-god 35
Crétien de Troyes 18, 110
Crimhthann Cass, King of
Connacht 126
Crimthann mac Fidhaigh 127 see Otherworld Crimthann mac Fidhaigh 127 Crows, hooded as disguise for war-goddesses 90 Cruachain, Cave of (gateway to the otherworld) 127 Crunnchu 90
Cuailnge, great bull of 97
Cú Chulainn, Irish hero 17, 28, 31, 41, 86, 90, 91, 93, 97, 100, 101-106, 126, 127, 128
heroic quality of 106

initiation rites of 105 statue of 103 Culann the smith 105 Culhwch and Olwen, tale of 18, 33, 67, 76, 113, 115 Cult associations of animate nature 50-54 of inanimate nature 50 Cult centres, pagan 131
Curadhmhir, the champion's portion ritual of 99-100
Cú Roi mac Dáiri 100, 101
Cymidei Cymeinfoll ('Big-bellied Pattlen') Battler'), goddess 86

Daghdha, chief god of the Irish 33, 34, 43, 59, 61, 65, 66-67, 83, 86 cauldron of the 58, 66 club of 66 compared with Gaulish Sucellos 66
equated with 'Dis Pater' 44
ritual of over-eating of 66-67
Dáire's bull 119 Damona (The Divine Cow) Janu, People of the Goddess see Tuatha Dé Danun, Boules 85, 88 Datlo, Bough of 50 Dea Arduanna, goddess 54
Dea Artio, goddess 54
Dead, god of the see Donn
Dead, Land of the 128-129, 134
Deel, river 136
Deichtine 101 Deirdre 48-49, 97-99 death of 98 tragic fate of 98 **Delphi,** shrine of plundered by Celts 11

Descent from a divine ancestor,
myth of 42-44 Devi (Indian deity) 49 De Vries, Jan 25 Diana, Scythian 29 Dian Cécht the leech, deity 24, 33, 59, 61 Diarmaid mac Cerbhaill, Irish king 29, 127, 130 Diarmaid ua Duibhne 103, 106, 111, 114 elopement of 110-115

Dinnshenchas 'the lore of prominent places' 17, 50, 130
as source of Celtic mythology 49

Irish tradition of 49

Dio Cassius 32 'Dis Pater', Gaulish god 41-44 see also Donn Dis Pater, Roman god of the dead 42, 43-44 as ancestor of the Gauls 44 equated with Cernunnos 44 'Divine Horse, The' see Epona Divine mother, earth as 49 Don 79 family of 75-76, 80 Donn chief of the sons of Mil 64 House of 64 Donn, Irish god of the dead 41-44, Donn, Irish god of the dead 41-44, 57, 113, 128 assimilated to the Devil 43 see also 'Dis Pater' Donn of Cuailnge (Brown bull of) fight with the White-horned bull 50, Druidic magic of the Tuatha Dé 61 Druidic schools 131 Druids, the 14, 42, 119, 136 association with the oak 50 calendar of Gaulish 93 Gaulish 15, 57 Irish equivalent of 60 preaching of the 123 priesthood of 16 ritual sacrifice of bulls by 125

Drunemeton 'oak-sanctuary' 16

Dumézil, Professor Georges 48, 60, 61, 105 Dumnonii of Britain 58
Dun Aonghusa, stone fort 63
Dunatis, god of the fortified place Dún Dá Bhenn, court of 127 Dún Delga, fort of 128 Dyfed, desolation of 120 Dying Gaul, The 101 Dylan Eil Don, Dylan son of

Earth-goddess 49 Echtrae Laegairi 'The Adventures of Laeghaire' 126 Echtra Nerai, The Adventure of

Edain Echraidhe, Irish goddess 55 Edain, goddess 91-94, 120 legend of 91-92 marriage of 92 rebirth of 92
Edar (a champion of Ulster) 92
Elatha, king of the Fomhoire 59 Elemhaire, divine 33 Elysian otherworld 91 Emhain Abhlach, supernatural island of 72 Emhain Mhacha, royal fort of 90, 97, 131 bronze fibula from 96 Emhnae, apple-tree of 91
Entremont, Celto-Liguarian
temple at 80, 107, 134
Eochaidh Airemh, King of Ireland 92, 120 Eochaidh mac Eire, Irish king legend of 58
Eochaidh Ollathair see Daghdha Eoghan mac Durthacht murderer of Naoise 98 Epona, horse-goddess 51, 54, 74, 83, 91, 136 Érainn 120 Erebus 123 Eriu, goddess 64, 121, as one of the trio of divine eponyms 85 Esus, god 29, 33 cult of 31 Parisian relief of 44 relief from 31, 34 sacrifices to 29

Europe
weakening of Celtic influence in
(3rd cent.) 12
Eusebius (Christian historian) 57 Fairies of Limerick 94 Fál, stone of (stone penis) 58, 117 Fann 91, 126, 127 Fawn, magic 120 Feast of Bricriu 99-101 Feast of Tara 94
Feidhlimidh mac Crimthainn,
king of Munster 121 Feis Tembra, ritual marriage-feast Feradhach Fechtnach, sons of king 109 Fercherdne 101 Ferghus mac Roich 85, 97, 98 Fertility myths 47, 49, 60, 77, 86, 90, Irish 28 Fiachra 120 Fian, followers of Fionn 108, 111 as protectors of Ireland 108 initiation rites of 108 stories of the 109, 115 Fianaigheacht (adventures of Fian) 108 Fidhchell (boardgame of Irish tradition) 28 Filidh (social class) 16, 20, 34, 97, 98, 131

compared with druids 14 defined 15 repertoire of 17 social function of 15 Filidhect 34
Finnbhennach (White-horned bull) fight with 'Brown' bull 50

Fintan 57, 123 Fionn cycle (fianaigheacht) 17, 106-110 Fionn mac Cumhaill 18, 103, 106-110, 111, 115, 126 compared with Gwyn ap Nudd 115 similarity to Arthur 115
Fir Bholg (Irish tribe) 57-59, 63
Fir Dhomhnann (Irish tribe)

First Battle of Magh Tuiredh Fisher King maiming of the 120 Fjelnir, Norse 29 Flatha, 1rish warrior nobles 60 Fledh Bhricrenn (The Feast of Bricriu) 99-101 Fledh Ghoibhnenn (The Feast of Goibhniu) 36 Flidhais, Irish goddess of the beasts 54 Flood, myth of 57 Fódla, goddess 64 as one of the trio of divine eponyms Fomhoire (demons) 59, 61, 66, 86

battle against Tuatha De 58 expelled from Ireland 59 Partholon's battle against the 57

Foretales 97-99 Four Branches of the Mabinogi 18, 75 Freyja, goddess 61 Freyr, god 61 Fuamhnach, first wife of Midhir 91, 92

Furies, trio of 86 Gaelic spoken in Ireland 12
Gaels (dominant people of Ireland) 64-66 coming of 85 invasion of Ireland 64, 121 Gallion (Irish tribe) 57-58
Galatae (Celtic tribes in Asia
Minor) 11-12 Gallia Cisalpina, Celtic settlement in Italy 11 Garancières-en-Beauce bronze mask from 20 Gaul 14 conquered by Caesar 12 Gaulish literature 16 pantheon 23 Gaulish language ancient 12 disappearance of 12, 16 present-day use of 12 Gaulish mythology 16 Caesar's interpretation of 23 Gaulish sculpture
Greco-Roman influence on 16 Geissi, magical binding prohibitions 119 Gilfaethwy son of Dôn 75 Glanam, relief from 25 Goat (sacred animal) 22 Gobbán Saer (Gobban the Wright) myth of 36-37 Goddess of war see Morrighan Gododdin, The (early Welsh poem) Goewin, foot-holder to Mathonwy Gofannon, Welsh divine smith 35-36 myth of 35 see also Goibhniu and Vulcan Goibhniu, Irish divine smith 24, 35-36, 61 35-36, 61
as host of the Otherworld feast 36
see also Gofannon and Vulcan
Goidelic (language) 12
Goll (One-eyed) mac Morna 110
Good, Father William 129
Gormlaith, queen 121
Grail legend 120, 132
Gráinne 103, 106, 111, 114
elopement of 110-115
Grannus, god Grannus, god curative powers of 32

Great goddess, mother of the gods Grey of Macha, famous horse 101 Grow Pebyr 76
Guinevere 115
Gundestrup caldron 10, 25, 27, 29, 38, 47, 125
Gwenhwyfar 111
Gwreidawl 115 Gwydion 75, 76 Gwynn ap Nudd, British counterpart to Fionn 110, 115 Gwythyr son of Gwreidawl 115

Hadrian's Wall 79 Hadubrand 105 Henry, Françoise 131 Hephaestos, counterpart to Goibhniu 36 Hercules, god 36 Gaulish myth of 37-41 identified with Ogmios 40 Herdsman-god, mythology of 52 see also Cernunnos Hermes 37 Heroic Age in Irish literature 97 Hildebrand 105 Hill of Tara 117
Historia Brittonum (Nennius) 129
History of Places, The
(Dinnshenchas) 17 Holy wells, myth of 33 'Horned god' mythology of 44, 48

Horse-goddess see Epona

Horses, supernatural myth of 53

Ialonus, god of the cultivated field 50 Iceni 121 Iliad (Homer) 36 Imbolg, pagan festival of spring, 34,

mythology of 24 Indo-European mytho-heroic theme 105-106 theme 105-106
Indo-European mythology 24
influence on Celtic
mythology 60
magico-religious aspects of 16, 60
rational and juridical aspects of 60
Indian pantheon
tripartite division of the 60 Indra, god 60, 66
Initiation rites 105, 108, 110
for Irish kings 117-119
Innisfallen, Annals of 121 Invasion legend, ancient 57-58 Invasions, Book of see Book of Invasions Ireland 12 Anglo-Normans in 12 Celts in 12 division of 65, 109 Gaelic language used in 12 literary history of 15 personification of 29 system of learning in 15 Vikings in 12 Irish Annals 50 Irish Annals 50
Irish literature
describing Celtic customs 16-17
early manuscripts of 17
Mythological Cycle of 17
Irish literature 19
Heroic Age in 97
importance of triadic groups in 48 Irish mythology 136 interpretations of 24 sexual element in 120 Threefold Death in 31 Irish social order and learned systems 12-14, 16 influenced by Celts 14 Irish social system 60-61 creation of classical 58
Irish Voyage tales 129
Iron, magic properties of 35
Iseult 111, 114, 115

Indians 11

Jackson, Professor 28 Jupiter 23, 27, 31, 33 Gallo-Roman 29, 31, 34 identified with Taranis 31

Kells, Book of 71 Kildare, monastery at 35 King Arthur see Arthur, King Kingship myth of Irish 117, 120 sacral 117-122 Knowth, tumulus of 64 Krishna, cult of 115 Kshatriya (warrior caste) 60

Labhraidh of the Swift Sword-hand 126 Laeghaire 126 Lake-birds, magic 91 Lakshmi, Indian deity 49 Lamiis Tribus (To the Three Lamiae) 86 Lancelot 115 Land of Shade see Otherworld Land of the Dead 128-129, 134 Land of the Living (Tír inna mBeo) 123, 129 Land of Women (Tír inna mBan) 86, 123-124 La Tène culture (Irish) 97, 111 La Tène style motifs 107 Leabhar Gabhála Eireann see Book of Invasions Leabhar Gabhála settlers in Ireland 58-59, 64 Lebhorcham (the wise woman) 98 Le Conte del Graal (Crétien de Troyes) 110 Le Roux, Françoise 24, 41 Li Ban (Beauty of Women) 91, 127 Litavis 49 Llefelys 69 Lieu Llaw Gyffes, ('The Bright One of the Skilful Hand') 28, 75 as counterpart of Irish Lugh and Gaulish Mercury 76 Gauish Mercury 76

Lludd and Llefelys (Middle Welsh tale) 67, 69

Lludd, King of Britain 69

Lludd Llaw Ereint 67, 115 Lludd, son of Beli 67 Llyr, family of 76-80 Loeghaire Buadhach (The Triumphant) 100 Loki, Scandinavian god Bricriu as counterpart of 99 Longes mac nUisnigh*The Exile of the sons of Uisnech) foretale 98, 99

Longevity, myth of 94 Lough Swilly, birds of 119 Love, mythological role of 85 Love-tales, in Irish mythology 85 Lucan 23, 29, 31, apostle to the druids of 123 Luchta (or Luchtaine), craftsman god 35 Lucian 37, 40 Lughaidh Laoighdhe 120, 121 Lugh, Irish god 24, 27-29, 35, 42, 61, 64, 66, 73, 90, 94, 101, 110, 120 arrival of at Nuadhus' court 59 at the royal court of Tara 28 father of Cú Chulainn 28 Lleu as counterpart of 76 Lleu as counterpart of 76 myth of slaying Balar by 60 spear of 58 widespread cult of 28
see also Mercury
Lughnasadh (harvest festival) 28, 90, Lugoves, inscriptions of 28 Luxovius 49

83, 105 Macpherson 115 Mael Dúin 129 79-80

Mabinogi, Four Branches of the 75 as source of British mythology 18, First branch of the 80-83 Fourth branch of the 75-76 Second branch of the 78-80 Second branch of the 78-80
Third branch of the 79-80, 83
Mabonagrain see Mabon
Mabon-Maponos (Mac ind Óg)
Irish god 24, 33
Mabon, the 'Great Son' 83
Mabuz see Mabon
Mac Cécht, King 64
Mac Cuill, King 64
Mac Da Thó. god 100 Mac Da Thó, god 100
Mac Da Thớs Pig, The Story of Mac Gréine, King 64 Macha, second as ruler of Ireland 90 Macha, third as supernatural bride 90
Macha, trio of war-goddesses as first wife of Nemhedh 90 curse of on the Ulstermen 97 legends of 90-91 Mac ind Óg (Mabon-Maponos) 24,

Magh Dá Cheo (The Plain of the Two Mists) see Otherworld Magh Tuiredh, Battle of 28, 35, 86, First Battle of 58, 59, 69 Second Battle of 33, 58-62, 69, 72 Magic in Celtic mythology 114 in Irish mythology 65, 91-92, 101 powers of the gods 75-76 Magic cauldron of plenty 76, 101,

Magical symbols, system of 40 Maia, goddess 27 see also Rosmerta Manannán Mac Lir, Irish god of the sea 69-73 compared with Manawydan 79-80 legend of sea journey to the otherworld of 72 Manawydan 76, 79, 83 compared with Manannán 73,

tale of 120 see also Bran Manawydan fab Llŷr 69 Map, Walter 129 Maponos (The Divine Youth) head of 128 myth of 33 see also Mabon-Maponos Mark, King of Cornwall 114 Marne, river goddess of the 33 Mars Cicolluis 49 Mars, god 23, 24, 27, 31 Gaulish 29, 31

Mars Lucetius 49 Mars Vesontius 24 Mars Visucius 49 Math 75-76 Matholweh, King of Ireland 76 Mathonwy, lord of Gwynedd in North Wales 75

Math Vab Mathonwy, tale of 28 Matres, divine consorts 49-50 triadic grouping of 48 Matrona, 'The Divine Mother'

Medhbh Lethdherg of Leinster 120 Medhbh of Connacht, goddess and

queen 85-86, 90, 91, 97, 98, 120, 121, 126, 127 Medrawd 111 Megalithic tombs, Irish 88 Mercury 23, 25, 27, 31, 34, 43, 49, 52, 54 with his sacred animals 22 Mercury, Gaulish 27-29, 31, 53 Lleu as counterpart of 76 resemblance to Roman Mercury of see also Lugh Mercury-Lugh, god of warrior Mesca Vlad, (The Intoxication of the Ulstermen) story of 127 Midhir, lord of the sidh of Bri Léith 91 endeavours of 92
Miklebostad, Viking tomb in 71
Mil Espáine 64
Mil, sons of 129
invasion of Ireland of 64 Minerva, Gaulish (mother-goddess) 23, 34-35 assimilated to Sulis 34 assimilated to Suns 34
Belisama as epithet of 35
relief of 36
sanctuary of in Britain 34-35
see also Brighid Mithraic influence 125 Mitra, god 60 Moccus (Welsh 'moch' pigs) myth of 54 Modron, the 'Great Mother' 83, Mor of Munster 120 Morna House of 110 House of 110
Morrighan, goddess of war 66-67, 86, 90, 94, 106
Daghdha's tryst with 67
Morrighans, three 86
Mother-goddess 88, 122
cult of 85
mythology of 49 mythology of 49 see also Minerva

Mughain, queen of the Ulstermen

Muirchertach mac Erca, Irish King

Mughna, Oak of 50

Numster legend 120
Mythological Cycle of Irish literature 17

Nantosvelta, goddess 44, 49
Naoise son of Uisnech eloping with Deidre 48-49, 98 murdered 98
Nechtan, Irish god 33
Nechta Scéne, sons of 105
Nemetona 49
Nemhain, 'Frenzy', goddess of war 86, 90
Nemhedh death of 57
leading the third invasion 57, 90
Nemhedh's people in battle against Fomhoire 57
Nennius 115, 129
Nera 127
adventure of 126
Newgrange, tumulus of 67, 132
Niall Caille, King of Tara 121
Niall Noighiallach 120
Niord 61
Noah 57
Nodons, god 69
Noricum, Celtic Kingdom of 32
Noves, monster 46
Nuadha, King of the Tuatha Dé 43, 59, 66, 67-69, 119
house of 28
in the First Battle of Magh
Tuiredh 59
legends of 69

Oak, druids' association with the 50 Oak of Mughas 50 Odin, Germanic god 61 analogous with Lugh 29 Oenghus, god 91, 92, 111, 132 myth of 33 Ogham letters, system of writing 40, 56

myth of 33 sword of 58 Nudd Llaw Ereint 67 'Nun' of Bérre 94

Nymph goddess 86

Ogham magical symbols 41
Oghma, Irish god 37-41, 59, 61
identified with the Celtic Ogmios 40
Ogmios, god 37

identified with Hercules 40 identified with the Irish Oghma 40 Ogmios-Hercules, Gaulish 37-41 see also Oghma Ogmios-Oghma, god 41 Oisin, the son of Fionn 106, 115 O'Rahilly, T. F. 24, 60 Orosius (Christian historian) 57 Osismii of Armorica, coin of 132 Osma, inscription found at 28 Ossian (Irish Oisin) 106, 115 Otherworld 43, 53, 54, 66, 79, 83, 86, 109, 113, 123-131, 134 arms used in 31 Christian 129 concepts of 129, 131-132 dwelling 64, 65, 127 Elysian 91 fluidity of Celtic concept of 126 gateway to 127 invaded by Fionn and Arthur 115 liquor of 110 Manannán's sea journey to 72 raid on the 75 relativity of time and space in 65 role of ruler of as dispenser of feasts 129 rulers of the 24, 29, 75, 80 tree of 91, 124 voyage to the 131 Otherworld feast 24, 36 Goibhniu as host of 36 Otherworld, happy goddess of the 91 Owain, Welsh tale 47

Partholon 134 leading the second Invasion 57 Pashupati, (Lord of the Beasts) 38 People of the Goddess Danu see Tuatha Dé Danann 58 Perceval 110, 121 Pfalzfeld, carved stone pillar from 13 Pictish tradition 114 Posidonius 29, 99 comments on Celts by 11, 14 Pryderi, hero 75, 80-83, 101 birth of 83 succeeding to the lordship of Dyfed 83 Pushan, Indian 101 Pwyll, lord of Dyfed in South Wales 75, 80-83, 126

horse-race of 119
Ram (sacred animal) 27
Rees brothers 58
Reincarnation myth 123
Religion, in Celtic areas 14
Rhiannon, Welsh horse-goddess
54, 80-83, 91
magic birds of 76, 91
wife of Mamawydan 83
wife of Pwyll 83
Right-hand turn, ritual 90
Ritual marriage
feast 130
in Ireland 117
Roman calendar 93
Roman Empire 12
Romano-British temple (Lydney Park) 69
Rome
captured and sacked by Celts
(390 B.C.) 11
Roquepertuse, Celto-Ligurian 20
temple of 105, 111
Rosmerta 25, 49
Gaulish monuments to 29
see also Maia
Ross, Ann 24, 47, 48
Ross, Yew of 50
Ruadh Rofhessa see Daghdha
Rustum 105

Sacral kingship 94, 117-122 inauguration ceremony of 120 of kings and goddesses 121 Sacred birth, mythology of 101 Sacred marriage of kings and goddesses 121 Sacred tree, cult of 50 Sacrifice in Gaulish myth 29 of a pig 136 St Ann 131 St Brighid 95 cult of 131 myth of 34-35 see also Brighid, goddess St Ciarán of Saighir legend of 47-48 St Columcille 136 St Eligius 34

Samhain feast of 66, 101, 110, 126-128 sacred festival at 29-31 57, 127 Savitar, Indian god 29 Scáthach, ('The Shadowy One') 86, Scéla Mucce Maic Da Thó (The Story of Mac Da Tho's Pig) 99-100 Scythians 11 Sea, mythology of 69 Second Battle of Magh Tuiredh see Second Battle of Magn Turredn see Magh Tuiredh Sédanta see Cú Chulainn Sencha mac Ailella (pacifier of the Ulster warriors) 97, 100 Sequena, goddess of the source 15 Serapis 32 Serpent, ram-headed 45, 47, 53, 54 as fertility symbol 47
Shiva, Indian god 38, 49 Sidh 64 Sidh of Bri Léith 91, 92 Silvanus 37 see also Sucellus Sir Gawain and the Green Knight 101 Sirona, goddess 32, 49 Sjoestedt, Marie-Louise 17 Smith, Celtic conception of divine Sohrab 105 Solar myths 32 Solinus 34
Souls, transmigration of 123
Sovereignty, goddess of 94
Spain, Celtic people in 11
Spear (sacred), of Lugh 58
Spiral-symbol, Celtic 34 Spirits of the dead 127 Spirits of the dead 127
Spoils of Annwn, The, (Preiddeu Annwn) Welsh poem 128
Spring, pagan festival of 34
Springs, sacred cult of 79
Stag (sacred) 47, 53 magic 109
Standing stones, Irish 93
Standing stones, 1715 93 Strabo, geographer 15, 16 Sualtaimh severed head of 31 Sucellus ('The Good Striker') 41, 44, 49 identified with Dis Pater 44 see also Silvanus Sulis, deity 34 Sun-gods, of the Celts 32 Sun-worship among the Celts 32 in Ireland 32 Sword (sacred), of Nuadha 58

St Patrick 32, 35, 65, 106, 136 Salmon of Wisdom, myth of 110

Tacitus 12
Tadhg son of Cian 91
Tailtiu, mythical woman 90
Tâ in Bô Cuailinge (The Cattle-Raid of Cuailinge), great saga of 31, 41, 47, 50, 52, 85, 86, 90, 97, 98, 99, 123
Taliesin, mythical 123
Tara 134
feast of 92, 94, 117, 120
Hill of 117, 130
kings of 64, 117, 119
royal court of 28
royal house of 92
Taranis (Thunderer) 29, 34
sacrifices to 29
identified with Jupiter 31
Tarbhfhess, 'bull-feast' 119
Tarvos Trigaranus, ('The Bull with the Three Cranes') 31, 33, 34, 52
Tech Duinn (The House of Donn), island 42
Tech Midhchuarta ('The Hall of Mead-circuit') 130
Tertullian 32
Tethra, god of the sea 72
Teutates, Gaulish god 23, 27, 29
rites of 29
Teyrnon, lord of Gwent Is-Coed 83
Thor, god 61
hammer of 66
Threefold Death
in Irish mythology 31
Thunderbolt, Greco-Roman 34
Tir inna mBan (Land of Women)
86, 123-124 see also Otherworld
Tir inna mBeo (Land of the Living)
123
Tir Tairngiri ('The Land of
Promise') 132
Tortoise (sacred animal) 22, 27

Transformation myth 123
Tree, Cosmic 134
Tree, Cosmic 134
Tree of life' (crann bethadh) 50
Tree of the Otherworld 91, 124
Tree of Tortu, legend of 50
Trèves, relief from 33, 34
Triadic groups
in Irish and Welsh literature 48-49
mythology of 48-49
of deities 28
of holy sisters 131
of horses 136
Tribal tree 50
see also Sacred tree
Tribal warfare 97
Tricorii, goddesses of the (Dea Tricoriia) 23
Tristan 111, 114, 115
Tuatha Dé Danann (divine people
of Irish tradition) 28, 29, 33, 35, 57-72, 73, 76, 80, 85
defeated by the sons of Mil 64
leaders of the 66
retiring underground
64-66
three kings of 64
Turoe Stone 107
Twrch Trwyd, magical and venemous boar 33
hunted by Arthur 113

Ui Néill dynasty 64, 117, 120
Uisnech, Ash of 50
Uisnech, death of sons of 98
Uisnech, the 'navel' of Ireland 15
Ulaidh, cycle of the 17
Ulaidh (dominant people in
Ulster) 97
capital of the 131
Ulster cycle 17, 97, 110
oath-formula in 23
social conditions in 97
Ulstermen
assembly of the 90
cycle of the 17, 97, 99
in conflict with the
Connachtmen 97, 98
Underworld 42, 43
in contrast to otherworld 123
Sucellus as deity of 44
Unius, river 66
Vaishya (Indian farmer caste)
influence on Celtic myth 60
Val Camonica, carving of antlered
god at 25, 44, 47
Vanir 61

Varuna, Indian god 41, 60 analogous with Lugh 29 Vatis (Celtic professional class) 14 Vedic Pushan 52 Vedic Sanskrit 35 Vendryes, French scholar 23, 24 Vikings, in Ireland 12 Vishnu, Indian deity 49 Vishnu's avatar Krishna 64 Visucia 49 Voyage of Bran 72 Vulcan, Gaulish god 34, 35 see also Gofannon and Goibhniu

Wales
rich mythological tradition of 18
War, goddesses of 86-90
magic powers of 86
Washer at the Ford, legend of 86
Wasting Sickness of Cú
Chulainn (Serglige Con Culainn)
story of 91, 126
Well, Sacred
cult of 79
Welsh literature 19
importance of triadic groups in 48
medieval 75
Wheel, sacred 29, 31
White-horned bull (Finnbhennach)
50
White Mount in London 76
World Tree, universal (axis mundi)
29, 50

Yama, Indian god 42 Yeats W. B. 121 Yew of Ross 50