

Author's note

I would like to express particular thanks to Martin Millett and Ian Stead, who read much of the text in draft (but bear no responsibility for what I have made of their help and comments). Thanks also to Timothy Potter, Ralph Jackson, Catherine Johns, Valerie Rigby and many other colleagues at the British Museum and elsewhere for information and discussion. I am also grateful to Patricia James, Steve Trow, Simon Keay, Colin Haselgrove, Barry Cunliffe and Anthony Harding for information and other assistance, and to Pete Horne for illustrations and comments. Special thanks to Peter Connolly for allowing me to reproduce some of his excellent paintings. I gratefully acknowledge the Society of Antiquaries, London for allowing me to reproduce plates from the Ramsauer Protokoll, and the Trustees of the British Museum who kindly gave permission to reproduce drawings by Steve Crummy and myself.

Finally I would like to acknowledge a particular debt to the staff at Thames and Hudson for their support, great professionalism and good humour throughout this project.

Half-title: Face of an Iron Age Celt, from a gold coin of the Gaulish Parisii.

Title-page: Bronze statuette of a god(?), 42 cm tall, from Bouray, France, first century BC or first century AD.

Any copy of this book issued by the publisher as a paperback is sold subject to the condition that it shall not by way of trade or otherwise be lent, resold, hired out or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form of binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including these words being imposed on a subsequent purchaser.

© 1993 Thames and Hudson Ltd, London

Reprinted 1998

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording or any other information storage and retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data  
A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0-500-05067-8

Printed and bound in Slovenia by Mladinska Knjiga

# CONTENTS

## I WHO WERE THE CELTS?

- The Celts in Myth and Reality 8  
An Outline History of the Celts 12  
Discovering the Celts: Hallstatt and La Tène 14  
Timeline · Map of the Celtic World 16

## II THE EARLIEST CELTS

- The Hallstatt Culture: Hillforts and Barrows 20  
The Hochdorf Chieftain 26  
Centres of Power: The Heuneburg 28  
Upheaval and Migration, 500–400 BC 29

## III THE CELTIC LANDS

- Gauls in Italy 34  
The Alps, South Germany and Bohemia 36  
The Danube Lands and the Attack on Greece 37  
The Galatians in Asia 40  
Spain and Portugal: The Celtiberians 42  
Gaul, 400–100 BC 44  
Iron Age Britain 47  
Early Ireland, 600–1 BC 49

## IV THE PATTERNS OF LIFE

- The Shape of Society 52  
Celtic Husbandry 54  
Farms and Villages 57  
Hillforts, Brochs and Major Settlements 60



People, Population and Disease	63
Celtic Men	64
Celtic Women	66
Feasting and Fighting: How Society Functioned	70

## V

# THE CELTS AT WAR

The Spectrum of Violence	74
The Technology of War: Weapons and Armour	75
Chariots and Cavalry	78
The Celts on Campaign	80
War with the Greeks and Romans	83
The Battle of Telamon, 225 BC	84

## VI

# GODS AND THE AFTERLIFE

The Celtic Gods	88
Druids, Priests and Seers	90
Holy Places and Sacrifice	92
Lindow Man: Dead Men Do Tell Tales	96
The Testimony of the Grave	98
The Cemeteries of East Yorkshire	100
Celtic Cremation Rites	103

## VII

# LA TÈNE ART AND TECHNOLOGY

The Origins of La Tène Art	106
Celtic Art Styles	108
Technologies of Fire: Metal, Glass and Pottery	111
Crafts: Working in Wood	114
What Was La Tène Art for?	115

## VIII

# THE CELTS AND THE CLASSICAL WORLD

The Changing World of Late Iron Age Gaul	118
Roman Conquest: Italy, Iberia and Galatia	122
Julius Caesar and the Conquest of Gaul	124

The Revolt of Vercingetorix	126
Britain from Caesar to Hadrian	128
Why not Scotland or Ireland?	133
The Romanization of Gaul and Britain	134
Boudica's Revolt	139
Gauls in Togas	140

Romano-Celtic Religion in Britain and Gaul	142
--	-----

The Countryside: Continuity, Change and Conflict	146
--	-----

Civil War and Crisis in the Empire	148
------------------------------------	-----

The Golden Age of Roman Britain	150
---------------------------------	-----

The Fall of Roman Gaul and Britain	151
------------------------------------	-----

## IX

# THE CELTS OF IRELAND

Ireland in the Roman Iron Age, AD 1-400	154
Forts, Farms and Royal Residences	156
Myths and Legends of Ireland	158
From St Patrick to the Vikings	162

## X

# THE CELTIC RENAISSANCE

The Welsh and the English	166
King Arthur: Fact and Fiction	168
The Picts and the Scots	170
Scholars and Saints, Missionaries and Manuscripts	172

## XI

# TO MODERN TIMES

Celts in Medieval and Early Modern Europe	178
To the Ends of the Earth: The New Migrations	180
The Celts Today	181

Glossary	182
----------	-----

Gazetteer	183
-----------	-----

Further Reading	186
-----------------	-----

Acknowledgments	188
-----------------	-----

Index	189
-------	-----