

**BRITISH MUSEUM. A GUIDE TO THE  
ANTIQUITIES OF THE EARLY IRON AGE  
OF CENTRAL AND WESTERN EUROPE  
(INCLUDING THE BRITISH LATE-KELTIC  
PERIOD) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH  
AND MEDIAEVAL ANTIQUITIES**

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British museum. A guide to the antiquities of the early iron age of Central and Western Europe (including the British late-Keltic period) in the Department of British and Mediaeval Antiquities by Charles H. Read

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**CHARLES H. READ**

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A GUIDE TO THE ANTIQUITIES  
OF THE EARLY IRON AGE

IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH  
AND MEDIAEVAL ANTIQUITIES



PLATE I. ENAMELED BRONZE SHIELD, THAMES AT BATTERSEA (1).

HN 11  
B 2624 gw

BRITISH MUSEUM, Dept. of British  
and Medieval Antiquities

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IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH  
AND MEDIEVAL ANTIQUITIES

WITH 7 PLATES AND 147 ILLUSTRATIONS

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## PREFACE

THE national collection of Late-Keltic antiquities, as instituted by the late Sir Wollaston Franks, first Keeper of this Department, is now published as a whole, in continuation of the series of prehistoric Guides. Its special interest is to be found in the fact that here for the first time is seen a form of art peculiarly British, and distinct from contemporary styles on the Continent. Moreover, it may be claimed that the Late-Keltic artist in Britain reached a higher level than his kinsman abroad.

The acquisition in 1901 of the Gaulish collection formed by M. Léon Morel, of Rheims, has practically completed the Museum series of Early Iron age antiquities from western Europe, and the connexion between Gaul and Britain at that period is now fully illustrated. As remains of the earliest Iron age in Greece and Italy are not definitely marked off from those of the historic period, corresponding collections from classical lands must be sought in the adjoining Department of Greek and Roman antiquities. But an attempt is made in the Introduction to show how the Mediterranean culture affected the Keltic peoples north of the Alps; and a broad classification of Italian brooches has been introduced, as several specimens are known to have been found in our own country.

A survey of Britain's Early Iron age would be incomplete without some notice of the coinage, and as exhibition space is not available in the Department of Coins and Medals, a series of reproductions has been placed in the Late-Keltic section and labelled to show the development and variety of the types; while the tribal areas of the period are shown in maps of Gaul and Britain. The antiquities described in

these pages are somewhat scattered for various reasons, and references to particular cases are comparatively few, as the collection is more than usually subject to re-arrangement.

The Trustees are indebted to their colleague Sir John Evans for the loan of figs. 86-88, and to his son, Dr. Arthur Evans, for the photograph of the Marlborough bucket (fig. 25), as restored under his supervision. The Council of the Society of Antiquaries has kindly sanctioned the use of figs. 22, 23, 65 and 147. With the exception of a few gold coins, and the figures marked with an asterisk (\*), all the objects represented belong to the Museum collections; and the scale is indicated, where practicable, by a fraction, which refers to linear measurement. Thus,  $\frac{1}{2}$  means that the original has twice the length and breadth, but four times the area, of the reproduction.

The Guide has been written by Mr. Reginald A. Smith, Assistant in the Department, under my direction.

CHARLES H. READ, KEEPER.  
DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH AND MEDIEVAL  
ANTIQUITIES AND ETHNOGRAPHY.

*August, 1905.*

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