

**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 MEDIÆVAL 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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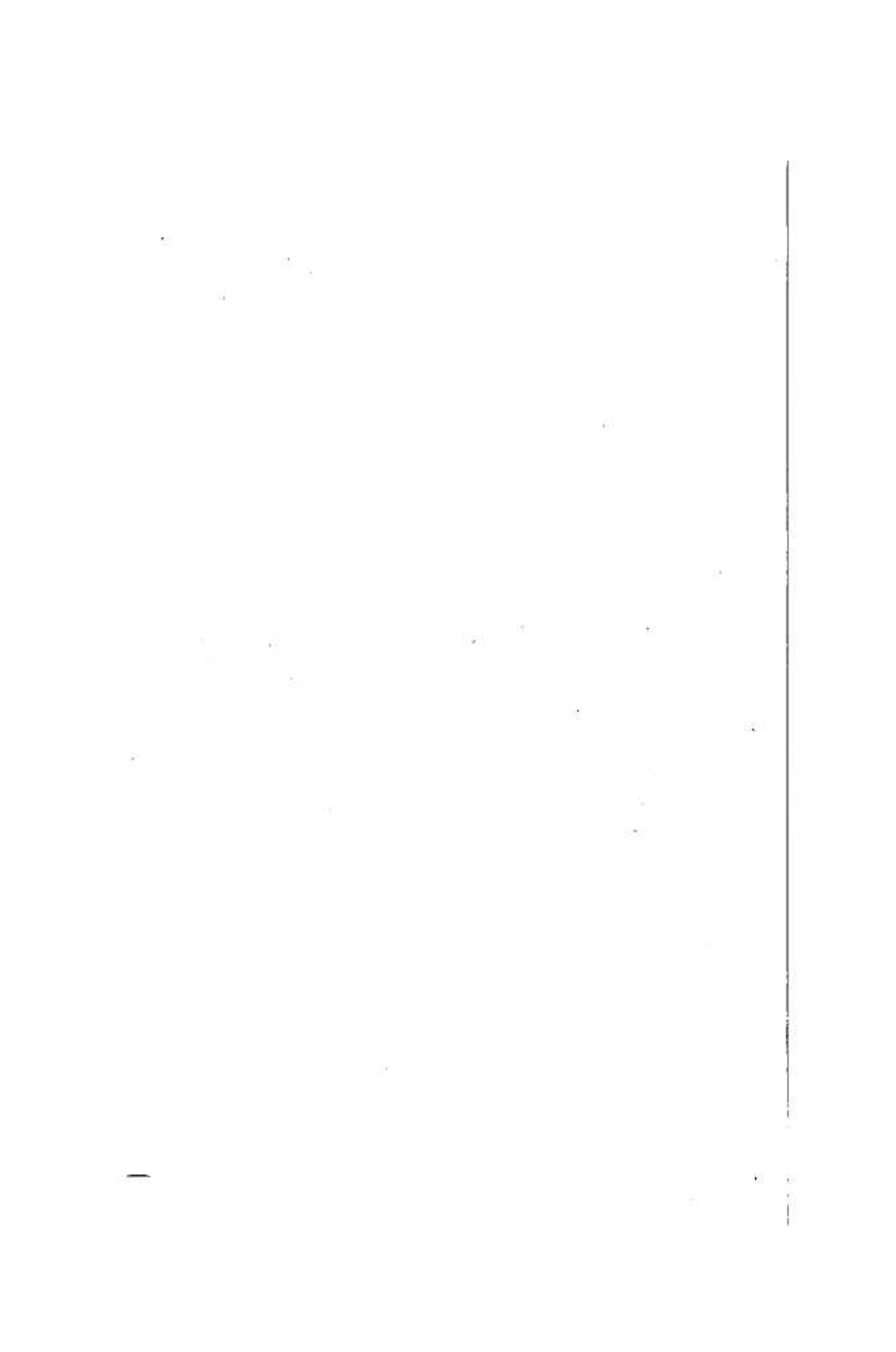
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CHARLES H. READ

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**A GUIDE TO THE ANTIQUITIES
OF THE EARLY IRON AGE**

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH
AND MEDIÆVAL ANTIQUITIES**



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PLATE I. ENAMELLED BRONZE SHIELD, THAMIS AT BATTERSEA ($\frac{1}{2}$).

[See p. 93.]

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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