

**A VINDICATION OF THE  
CELTIC INSCRIPTIONS ON  
GAULISH AND BRITISH  
COINS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649740307

A Vindication of the Celtic Inscriptions on Gaulish and British Coins by Beale Poste

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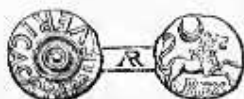


A  
VINDICATION  
OF THE  
CELTIC \* INSCRIPTIONS

On Gaulish and British Coins;

WITH

VIGNETTES, AND A PLATE OF FAC-SIMILES OF CHARACTERS USED IN ROMAN  
WRITING IN THE FIRST CENTURY, FROM POMPEII.



By BEALE POSTE

LONDON:  
PRINTED BY T. RICHARDS.

M.DCCC.LXII.

## P R E F A C E.

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SEVERAL literary enigmas of great moment have been solved within the last century. The key to the Egyptian hieroglyphics has been obtained. The arrow-headed writing of the east has been read ; and the inscriptions of Persepolis and the Assyrian marbles have been decyphered : and the Phœnician speeches inserted in the play called the *Pœnulus*, that is, the " Carthaginian " of the old Roman comedian Plautus, have been shown to be in close affinity with the Gaelic, or modern Irish language.

Celtic inscriptions on ancient moneys, only seem to remain, as supplying much chance of further literary development, which, as far as they can be decyphered, have the appearance of being of high ethnological interest, in illustrating the habits and customs and the political ideas and biasses of the ancient Celts, both in this country and on the continent.

The Welsh, Irish, and Bretons represent the Celts at the present day ; but this same Celtic race once held possession of the whole of Great Britain and Ireland in the time of Julius Cæsar, and the inscriptions of numerous specimens of their coins when correctly read, are found to apply to various chiefs and kings reigning in this our native land, mentioned by the old Roman historians, Dion Cassius, Tacitus, and Suetonius, and in one instance, as is supposed by Cæsar himself.

The Celts used Roman characters in their coinage, as it should be noted ; rarely Greek.

The political style and tone of the ancient Gaulish and British chiefs are given out plainly enough by our Celtic coin inscriptions. While Villemarqué's *Gododin*, and the other Celtic poems in his

*Bardes Bretons du Sixième Siècle*, may be referred to, to show their usual bearing and demeanour among their adherents and comrades, in their every day's intercourse among themselves; though indeed more particularly in war; for, unfortunately, from the unquietness of the early part of the middle ages, war became their principal occupation; and very especially so in this island.

There thus seems no apology required for attending to this branch of literature—the Celtic inscriptions on ancient Gaulish and British coins, which even now, though somewhat late in the nineteenth century, may be considered to open an almost new field of inquiry.

A great object being to secure inquirers on these topics from errors, the caution given in the *Celtic Inscriptions*, on the head of forgery, may, with advantage, be referred to here. It has been known of late years, that surmises on the new reading of a type, though only, perhaps, ventilated in some journal or periodical, have taken shortly afterwards a more solid form, and that coins conformably inscribed, have been on sale a few months afterwards. Also, I have known a coin to appear, the legend of which bore evidence of being mainly formed from a fac-simile which I myself had published.

I have fully made up my mind to one thing, that though there may have been controversies going on upon various points connected with ancient Britain, and in several of which, I have been necessitated in various researches to take a part; yet I will continue the custom I have always adopted, to disclaim all controversial bias. My object is solely truth; and I am equally as willing to do justice to those who have been my opponents, as to those who may have coincided with me. I accordingly will know no partialities or repugnancies: and if anyone be conscious that he has, at any time, made me the object of attack, he will find no difference made on that account, either in my referring to his numismatic productions, whatever they may have been, as points in question may require, or in giving the meed of approbation, if it be properly due.

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