

Celtic Art 2

La Tène

Dates for La Tène culture

La Tène usually refers to the material culture associated with the Celts in the period from around 450 BC until the time of Roman occupation, i.e. various dates in the first century BC or the first century AD (for Britain 43 AD). It is variously divided into La Tène I, II and III, or A, B, C and D. The British Museum prefer the former and offer dates as follows:

I	450–320 BC	A	450 BC–400 BC
		B	400 BC–275 BC
II	320 BC–125 BC	C	275 BC–120 BC
III	125 BC–AD 43	D	120 BC–20 BC

See also <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/term/x111161>

Where you will find hundreds of objects associated with the term. You can narrow the number of associated objects by selecting the La Tène periods I, II and III.

Introductions

The following general studies on Celtic art provide generous coverage of all kinds of objects from the La Tène period. See for example:

- Chapters 2–5 of Ruth and Vincent Megaw, *Celtic Art from its Beginnings to the Book of Kells* (London: Thames and Hudson, revised and expanded edition 2001).
- Chapter 3 of Lloyd and Jennifer Laing, *Art of the Celts* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1992).
- Chapters 2–5 of Vencelas Kruta, *Celtic Art* (London: Phaidon, 2015).
- Chapters 3 and 4 of Julia Farley and Fraser Hunter (eds), *Celts: Art and identity* (London: British Museum, 2015). Chapter three, Fraser Hunter and Jody Joy, 'A Connected Europe c. 500–150 BC', can be found on [Academia](#).

Barry Cunliffe's *The Ancient Celts* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018) is also recommended for current thinking about the nature of the Ancient Celts, incorporating much recent research. It is also well illustrated with many of important objects associated with Celtic culture during the Iron Age.

For a short overview of the European Iron Age see this article, available online:

Jody Joy, '[The Iron Age](#)', in T. Insoll (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 405–24.

Here are a couple of key objects with good information online:

- Basse-Yutz flagons – notes and lovely images on the British Museum website: https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1929-0511-1 and included in Neil MacGregor's *History of the World in 100 Objects* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00qsvj3> with a transcript at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5ShhkW0FXX1QmY4Ch701ldv>

- A short personal introduction to the Gundestrup cauldron by Julia Farley can be found online at: <https://youtu.be/IZ39MmGzvnQ>
Remember to think critically about the huge amount of material that has been written about the cauldron.

The University Library provides online access to an important collection of essays published as Christopher Gosden, Sally Crawford, Katharina Ulmschneider (eds), *Celtic Art in Europe: Making Connections* (Oxbow, 2014).

For an interesting selection of La Tène material, see the posts that make up the *Journal of Celtic Studies in Eastern Europe and Asia-Minor* at <https://balkancelts.wordpress.com>

Martin Crampin
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