

Celtic Art 5

Insular Manuscripts and Metalwork

Introductions

General studies on Celtic art provide a closing chapter or epilogue to summarise Insular art of the early medieval period, such as:

- Chapter 5 of Lloyd and Jennifer Laing, *Art of the Celts* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1992).
- Epilogue of Ruth and Vincent Megaw, *Celtic Art from its Beginnings to the Book of Kells* (London: Thames and Hudson, revised and expanded edition 2001).

The best guides to the period are two well illustrated and very readable volumes:

Chapters 6–9 of Julia Farley and Fraser Hunter (eds), *Celts: Art and identity* (London: British Museum, 2015).

Michelle P. Brown, *Art of the Islands: Celtic, Pictish, Anglo-Saxon and Viking Visual Culture, c. 450–1050* (Oxford: The Bodleian Library, 2016).

Manuscripts

Some of the major manuscripts have monographs, while these and others have numerous scholarly essays on aspects of their contents, ornament, dating and provenance.

Michelle P. Brown, *The Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality and the Scribe* (London: British Library, 2003).

Janet Backhouse, *The Lindisfarne Gospels* (London: Phaidon: 1981).

Rachel Moss, *The Book of Durrow: Official Guide* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2018).

Bernard Meehan, *The Book of Kells: Official Guide* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2018, new edition).

It is now possible to access many of these manuscripts online. Some of these and associated pages have detailed information and bibliographies:

British Library: The Lindisfarne Gospels
<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/lindisfarne-gospels>

British Library: The Echternach Gospels
<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/bnf-the-echternach-gospels>

Trinity College Dublin: The Book of Kells
<https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/collections/ks65hc20t>

Trinity College Dublin: The Book of Durrow
<https://digitalcollections.tcd.ie/concern/works/wm117t53k>

Durham Cathedral Library

https://www.durhampriory.ac.uk/mediawiki/Durham_Durham_Cathedral_MS_A.II.17

Lichfield Cathedral: St Chad Gospels

<https://lichfield.ou.edu/st-chad-gospels/>

Abbey Library of St Gall, Switzerland (e-codices) several relevant manuscripts including:

<http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/list/one/csg/1395>

<http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/list/one/csg/0060>

<http://www.e-codices.unifr.ch/en/list/one/csg/0051>

You can listen to Michelle Brown, Richard Gameson and Clare Lees discussing the Lindisfarne Gospels on 'In Our Time':

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00548tq>

Metalwork

Susan Youngs, *The Work of Angels: masterpieces of Celtic metalwork, 6th-9th centuries AD* (London: British Museum, 1989).

Chapters 5 & 6 of Patrick F. Wallace, and Ragnall O'Floinn, *Treasures of the National Museum of Ireland: Irish Antiquities* (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2002).

George and Isabel Henderson, *The Art of the Picts: Sculpture and Metalwork in Early Medieval Scotland* (London: Thames & Hudson, 2004).

For the Sutton Hoo hanging bowl see the British Museum Collections pages:

https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/object/H_1939-1010-110

you can navigate to other items found at Sutton Hoo: over 8,000 of them!

For early medieval silver in Scotland see the talk by Martin Goldberg, '(Re)discovering the Gaulcross Hoard and other early medieval silver' for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland:

<https://youtu.be/iTjJwHB2cR4>

Some important works can be found on the Collections pages of National Museums Scotland. See for example the Hunterston Brooch:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/collection-search-results/brooch/132606>

There are also longer stories on some of their items, such as the Monymusk Reliquary:

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/explore-our-collections/stories/scottish-history-and-archaeology/monymusk-reliquary/>

For a small selection of Irish material see the pages on items from the 'Treasury' of the National Museum of Ireland:

<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/Collections-Research/Collection/The-Treasury>

Former Director of the National Museum, Ragnall Ó Floinn, provides an introduction to some Hiberno-Norse treasures of the museum and the influence of the Vikings in Ireland:

<https://youtu.be/wSOYUSnLJa0>

Monasticism

For some perspectives on early monasticism in Britain and Ireland see the BBC Series Saints and Sinners: A Millennium of Monasteries, which can be accessed via the library:

https://librarysearch.uwtsd.ac.uk/permalink/44WHELF_UWTSD/11c0l68/alma99100401067902421

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