

Celtic Art 4

Monumental Sculpture

Iron Age and Romano-Britain

The term Iron Age is used to describe the period up to the Roman invasion. There was clearly considerable political change in Britain during the middle and second half of the first century AD, but the indigenous visual culture (and of course the use of iron doesn't disappear at this point, although it is substantially augmented by Roman visual culture).

To get started look at the British Museum's illustrated introduction 'Celtic life in Iron Age Britain', available on Google Arts and Culture:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/story/AWRz1O9u3piJg>

Introductions

Few general studies on Celtic art provide much information on stone crosses from Britain and Ireland in the early medieval period, among the best is probably:

- Chapter 5 of Lloyd and Jennifer Laing, *Art of the Celts* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1992).

Regional Studies

Early medieval inscribed stones and stone sculpture in **Wales** is comprehensively catalogued and illustrated in three volumes:

Mark Redknap and J. Lewis, *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales, I: South-east Wales and the English Border* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2007).

Nancy Edwards, *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales, II: South-west Wales* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2007).

Nancy Edwards, *A Corpus of Early Medieval Inscribed Stones and Stone Sculpture in Wales, III: North-west Wales* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2013).

For an alternative overview, see chapters 1 & 2 of Peter Lord, *The Visual Culture of Wales: Medieval Vision* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2003).

Basic information and some images may be found on Coflein, the online catalogue of archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage in Wales: <https://coflein.gov.uk/>

For **Ireland** see:

Peter Harbison, *The High Crosses of Ireland: An Iconographical and Photographic Survey* (Bonn, 1992, 3 vols).

Rachel Moss, *Art and Architecture of Ireland Volume 1: Medieval c. 400-c.1600* (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2015), pp. 121-223.

Elinor D.U. Powell, *The High Crosses of Ireland: Inspirations in Stone* (Dublin: Liffey Press, 2007).

Good images and information on Irish High Crosses can be found in a special section of the Megalithic Ireland website at:

<http://www.megalithicireland.com/High%20Cross%20Home.htm>

3D models of a selection of high crosses can be found at:

<http://www.3dicons.ie/3d-content/high-crosses>

A new book on crosses in **Cornwall**:

Ann Preston-Jones, Andrew Langdon and Elisabeth Okasha, *Ancient and High Crosses of Cornwall: Cornwall's Earliest, Tallest and Finest Medieval Stone Crosses* (Exeter, University of Exeter Press, 2021).

Recent work on sculpture in **Scotland** includes:

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

Ian Fisher, *Early Medieval Sculpture in the West Highlands and Islands* (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 2001).

Basic information and some images may be found on Canmore, the catalogue to Scotland's archaeology, buildings, industrial and maritime heritage: <https://coflein.gov.uk/>

3D models of Manx (**Isle of Man**) crosses:

<https://sketchfab.com/manxnationalheritage/collections/manx-crosses>

There are also good late nineteenth and early twentieth century studies for Cornish, Welsh, Irish Manx and Scottish sculptured stones and crosses, demonstrating Celtic Revival interests.

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