Iron Age Art 300 BC—AD 400

Decoration on Iron Age objects is characterised by curvilinear motifs in the so-called La Tène style, an art style known throughout Iron Age Europe. The style is characterised by its curvilinear nature: vegetal designs, such as stylised palm trees, lotus blossoms, vines and tendrils are seen, as well as human masks, stylised animals and bird heads. Non-representational motifs include trumpet- and lye-shapes, spirals and S-shaped scrolls. Various techniques include casting, hammering and engraving. Red enamel is used in stud settings or in fields to highlight reserved decoration.

The Golden Age of Irish Art AD 700—AD 850

The Golden Age is defined by a vast array of finds seen in the marvelous form of these tombs and tomb-like high status objects that show exceptional quality in their construction, especially in the fine detail.

The Birth of Christ AD 33

The earliest evidence of La Tène forms decorate this scabbard from a tomb in northern England. This scabbard is probably an import from eastern Ireland. This necklet is of a type known from northern England and the Isle of Man. This necklet is of a type known from northern England and the Isle of Man. This necklet is probably an import from eastern Ireland.

The Birth of Christ AD 406

Roman legions withdraw from Britain. Although their presence can be seen by the many objects of Roman prototypes. Triskeles, spirals and bird-headed motifs, and the use of red enamel. However, items combining Roman and Irish traditions are seen, as well as human masks, stylised animals and bird heads. Non-representational motifs include trumpet- and lye-shapes, spirals and S-shaped scrolls. Various techniques include casting, hammering and engraving. Red enamel is used in stud settings or in fields to highlight reserved decoration.

The Birth of Christ AD 431

The missionary Palladius is sent to ‘the Irish believing in Christ’. Although Ireland is not conquered by the Romans, Roman influence is traced in artefacts dating from this period. The most enduring influence of all is the introduction of Christianity.

Early Medieval Art AD 400—AD 1200

During the 5th and 6th centuries Irish metalworkers develop new techniques and decorative styles. Craftsmen continue to use Celtic, La Tène motifs and combine these with new types of ornament, to decorate new object forms. External sources of inspiration include the Roman world, Anglo-Saxon England and the Germanic cultures of Europe.

The Clonmacnoise Crozier AD 800

The Clonmacnoise Crozier shows the appearance of continental ornament across the Christian Church. The Cross of Cong shows the appearance of continental ornament across the Christian Church. The Cross of Cong is made around 1120 to hold a relic of the True Cross. The Cross of Cong is made around 1120 to hold a relic of the True Cross.

The Moylough Belt Shrine AD 9th century

The Moylough Belt Shrine is produced in the 9th century. Die-stamping is used, and new techniques such as die-stamping are used. The Moylough Belt Shrine is produced in the 9th century. Die-stamping is used, and new techniques such as die-stamping are used.

Deirdre’s Chalice AD 400

Deirdre’s Chalice is produced in the 4th century. It combines native and Roman techniques and decorative styles. Deirdre’s Chalice is produced in the 4th century. It combines native and Roman techniques and decorative styles.

The Ardagh Chalice AD 700–800

The Ardagh Chalice displays peltae and spiral forms. Various techniques include casting, hammering and engraving. Red enamel is used in stud settings or in fields to highlight reserved decoration.

The Moylough Belt Shrine AD 11th century

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The Moylough Belt Shrine AD 12th century

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The Moylough Belt Shrine AD 13th century

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The Moylough Belt Shrine AD 14th century

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