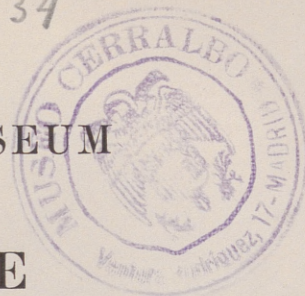


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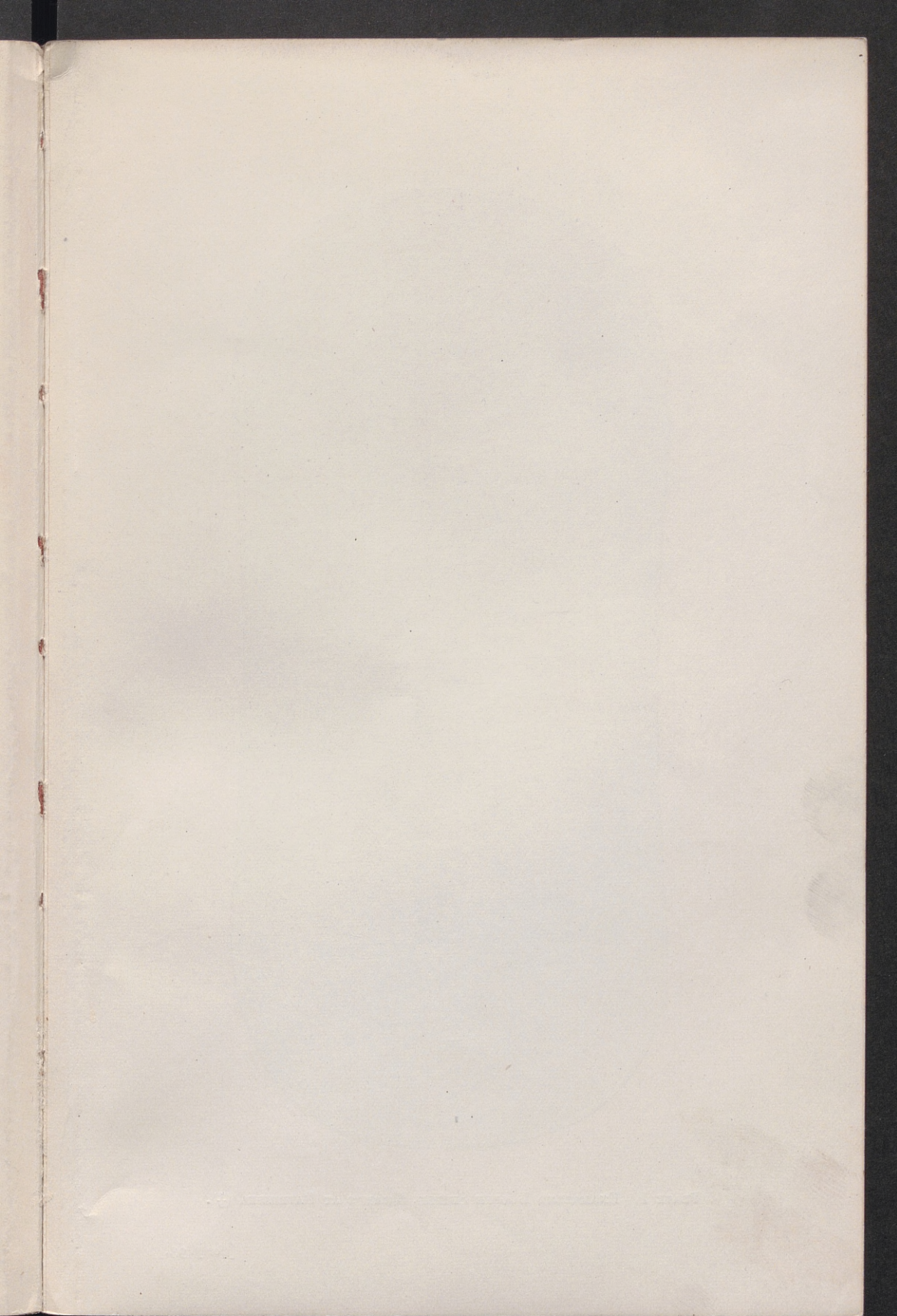
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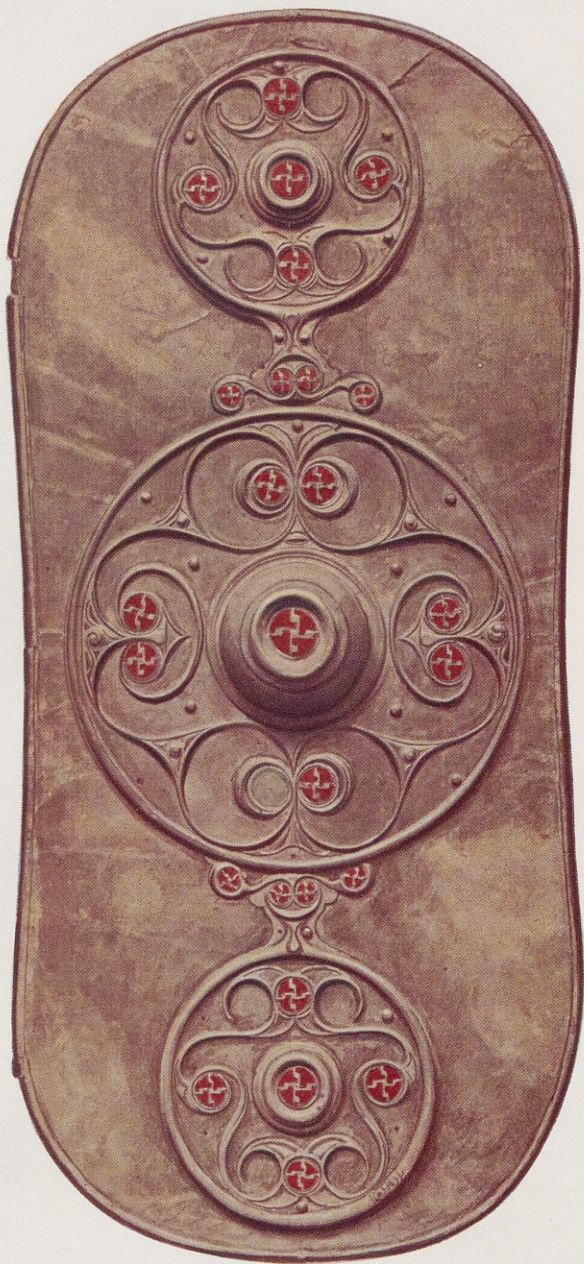
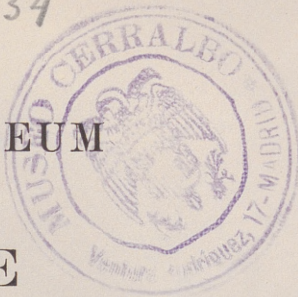


PLATE I. ENAMELLED BRONZE SHIELD, THAMES AT BATTERSEA ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

[See p. 93.]



*Appendice n<sup>o</sup> 2534*



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## PREFACE

THE national collection of Late-Keltic antiquities, as instituted by the late Sir Wollaston Franks, first Keeper of this Department, is now published as a whole, in continuation of the series of prehistoric Guides. Its special interest is to be found in the fact that here for the first time is seen a form of art peculiarly British, and distinct from contemporary styles on the Continent. Moreover, it may be claimed that the Late-Keltic artist in Britain reached a higher level than his kinsman abroad.

The acquisition in 1901 of the Gaulish collection formed by M. Léon Morel, of Rheims, has practically completed the Museum series of Early Iron age antiquities from western Europe, and the connexion between Gaul and Britain at that period is now fully illustrated. As remains of the earliest Iron age in Greece and Italy are not definitely marked off from those of the historic period, corresponding collections from classical lands must be sought in the adjoining Department of Greek and Roman antiquities. But an attempt is made in the Introduction to show how the Mediterranean culture affected the Keltic peoples north of the Alps; and a broad classification of Italian brooches has been introduced, as several specimens are known to have been found in our own country.

A survey of Britain's Early Iron age would be incomplete without some notice of the coinage, and as exhibition space is not available in the Department of Coins and Medals, a series of reproductions has been placed in the Late-Keltic section and labelled to show the development and variety of the types; while the tribal areas of the period are shown in maps of Gaul and Britain. The antiquities described in



these pages are somewhat scattered for various reasons, and references to particular cases are comparatively few, as the collection is more than usually subject to re-arrangement.

The Trustees are indebted to their colleague Sir John Evans for the loan of figs. 86-88, and to his son, Dr. Arthur Evans, for the photograph of the Marlborough bucket (fig. 25), as restored under his supervision. The Council of the Society of Antiquaries has kindly sanctioned the use of figs. 22, 23, 65 and 147. With the exception of a few gold coins, and the figures marked with an asterisk (\*), all the objects represented belong to the Museum collections; and the scale is indicated, where practicable, by a fraction, which refers to linear measurement. Thus,  $\frac{1}{2}$  means that the original has twice the length and breadth, but four times the area, of the reproduction.

The Guide has been written by Mr. Reginald A. Smith, Assistant in the Department, under my direction.

CHARLES H. READ, KEEPER.  
DEPARTMENT OF BRITISH AND MEDIEVAL  
ANTIQUITIES AND ETHNOGRAPHY.

*August, 1905.*



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DIVISIONS OF THE EARLY IRON AGE, WITH  
TITLES AND APPROXIMATE DATES FOR CENTRAL  
EUROPE, GAUL AND BRITAIN.

Austria & S. Germany (Tischler, 1885)	Switzerland (Heierli, 1898)	France (Montelius, 1901)	Central Europe (Reinecke, 1902)	Britain (Franks, 1863)
Early Hallstatt	Early Hallstatt 750-600, B.C.	Hallstatt I 850-600, B.C.	Stages of Hallstatt period	Late Bronze Age
Late Hallstatt	Late Hallstatt 600-400, B.C.	Hallstatt II 600-400, B.C.	La Tène A 5th Cent., B.C.	
Early La Tène	La Tène I 400-200, B.C.	La Tène I 400-250, B.C.	La Tène B 4th Cent., B.C.	Late-Keltic or Early British
Middle La Tène	La Tène II 200-50, B.C.	La Tène II 250-150, B.C.	La Tène C 3rd & 2nd Cent., B.C.	
Late La Tène	La Tène III and Roman after 50 B.C.	La Tène III 150-1, B.C.	La Tène D 1st Cent., B.C.	La Tène IV (Déchelette, 1901)
Early Iron Age in Europe				
Early period of Roman Empire				

23



## INTRODUCTION

THOUGH antiquities of the Early Iron age discovered in these islands do not compare in number or variety with continental remains of the corresponding period, they yet present many features of interest and include several works of art that have never been surpassed in their particular sphere. Before dealing with the objects themselves it may be well to define the period represented, and to connect the present inquiry with a sketch of the earlier civilization given in the *Guide to the Antiquities of the Bronze Age* in this Department.

In one sense of the term, the civilized world is still in the Iron age, while in some remote regions that stage of culture has not yet been reached. The use of metallic iron for domestic, agricultural, and military purposes is of long standing in Europe, but in many areas there was evidently a time, to be determined within a century or two, when iron was unknown or unappreciated, and bronze was the staple metal for most purposes of life. The earlier metal, of course, continued in use for artistic purposes, but the Early Iron age is marked by a general adoption of iron for weapons and utensils of everyday use. Apart from Egypt, where conclusive evidence has not yet been procured, and in certain other areas at present almost inaccessible to archaeological investigation, the Iron age opened about the same time in central and western Europe, but the conditions in Greece and Italy, the two countries which are usually regarded as the home of European culture, are still under discussion. Though a precise chronology is impracticable in questions of this kind, 1000 B.C. may be taken as an approximate date for the close of the exclusive Bronze culture in classical lands, while north of the Alps there seems to have been a transition period of several centuries, and the full Iron age was not entered upon by most of the Keltic and Teutonic peoples till about five hundred years before the Christian era. On the Continent two stages have been noticed, and named after important discoveries at Hallstatt in the Austrian Tyrol and at La Tène in Switzerland; the former including the transition from bronze to iron, and the latter corresponding roughly to what in England is