

The Iron Age | Higher Level Notes

Iron Age (500 BC - 400 AD)

The Celts

- Groups of tribes
- Warriors, horsemen, crafts workers, producers of gold, bronze and iron
- Only historical record of them are second-hand accounts by their enemies
- By the time of the Iron Age they were living all over Europe
- 1st century BC Celtic influence arrives in Ireland
- Developed Celtic language and a uniform social and political system

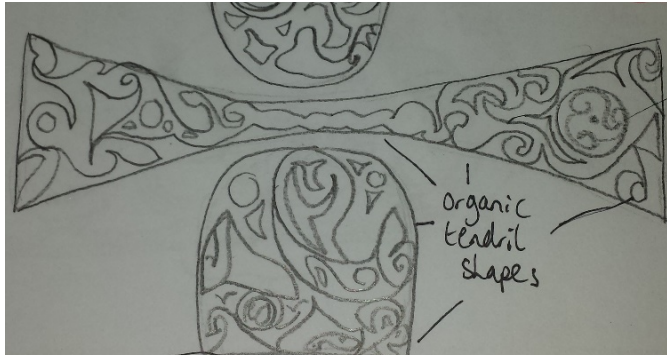
Hallstatt Celts

- Developed iron age technology (improved farming and military equipment)
- Used bronze and gold
- Abstract style

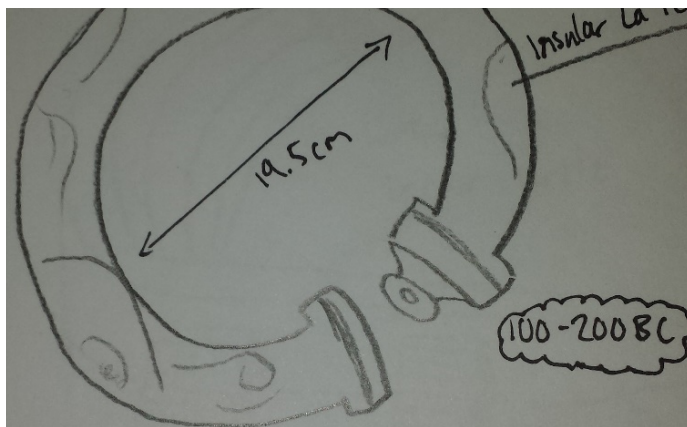
La Tène Style

- New style of Celtic art (5th Century BC)
- Influenced by classical Greek and Roman art
- Called after site on shore of Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland, where first examples were found.
- Consists of leafy palmate forms, tendrils and scrolls

Important Diagrams for Iron Age



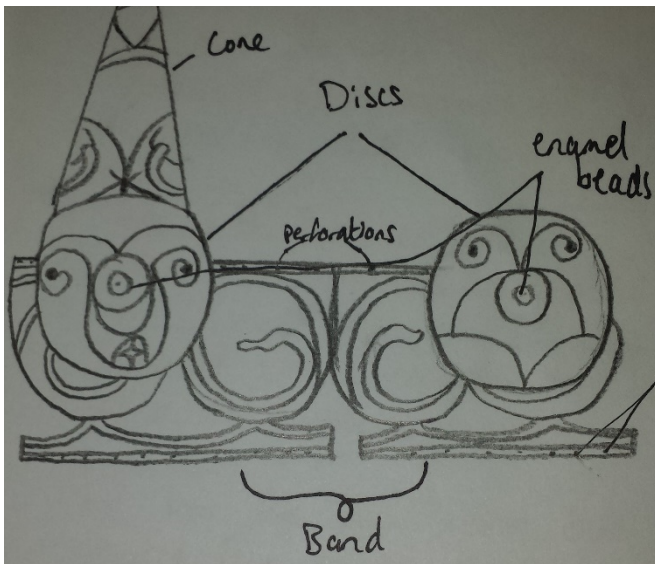
Layout of Turoe Stone (Co. Tipperary). 4 tonnes, 1.69 m high, made from pink Galway granite, low relief. Originally from Galway but moved to Tipp during the last Ice Age. Step pattern at base



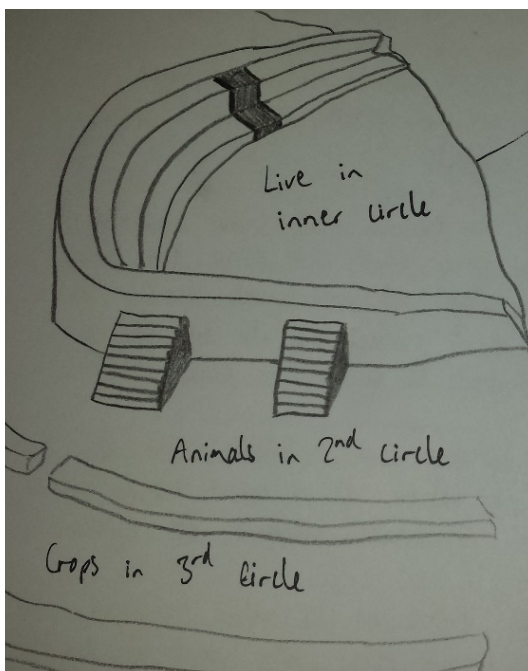
Broighter Collar from Broighter Hoard (Co. Derry). Two sheets of gold curved and soldered together to form tube. Chasing (opposite of repoussé). Decorated before rolled.



Loughnashade Trumpet (Co. Antrim). Two curved tubes joined by a ridged ring in the middle. Ultimate La Tené style. Repoussé technique. Tendrils ending in spiral bosses in high relief.



Petrie Crown (200-300 BC)
Chasing technique. La Tené on two discs (spiral designs). Enamel beads in centre of discs. Originally two cones but now only one remains.



Hillfort (Dún Aengus, Inis Mór, Aran Islands). On cliff for defence. Others include Mooghaun North, Co. Clare and Ballylin, Co. Limerick.