

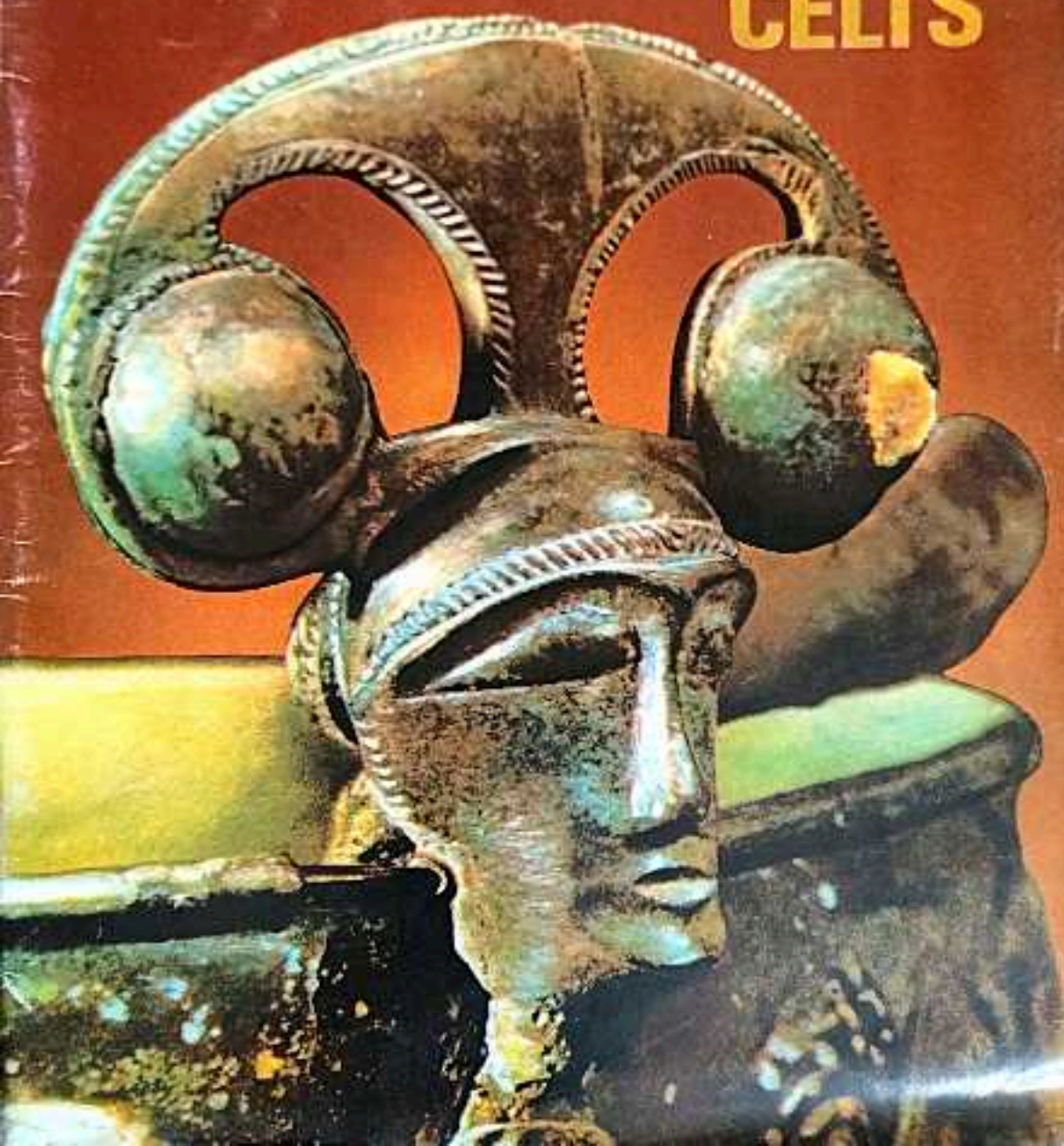


A window open on the world

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THE CELTS



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Editorial Office

Unesco, Place de Fontenay, 75700 Paris - France

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Illustrations: Anna-Maria Mallard

Research: Christine Soucher

Layout and Design: Robert Jacquemin

All correspondence should be addressed to
the Editor-in-Chief in Paris

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Cover



Photo © I.V.N. Hughes, London, U.K.

This issue is devoted to the art and civilization of the Celtic peoples who, during the last 1,000 years of the pre-Christian era, established themselves in a vast area of Europe stretching from the Danube to Ireland. Modern scholarship is gradually piecing together the history of the Celts and unravelling many of the mysteries surrounding the relics of their culture. New disciplines and scientific techniques are revealing the originality of Celtic civilization and throwing fresh light on its extraordinary contribution to world art. Our photo shows a remarkable bronze face which embellished a wooden bucket found in a grave at Aylesford, Kent (U.K.). The face was made in the 1st century B.C., possibly by a British artist who had been trained in Gaul.



BESTIARY OF CELTIC ART

This head of a bird made of bronze is an example of Celtic art. It is part of a harp and was produced during the period of Celtic civilization known as La Tène, which flourished during the last four centuries of the pre-Christian era. Celtic ornamental art includes a remarkable bestiary of animals such as boars, horses, dogs, vipers, wings and many kinds of birds, all of which were venerated by the Celtic peoples. Working with metals, particularly gold, bronze and silver, Celtic craftsmen created some of the most original and refined works of art that resemble no others in antiquity. The bird's head shown here was discovered at Malsbarna, near Brno (Czechoslovakia) and is now in the Moravian Museum, at Brno (see article page 32).

Photo © Bob Leasing - Museum, Paris