

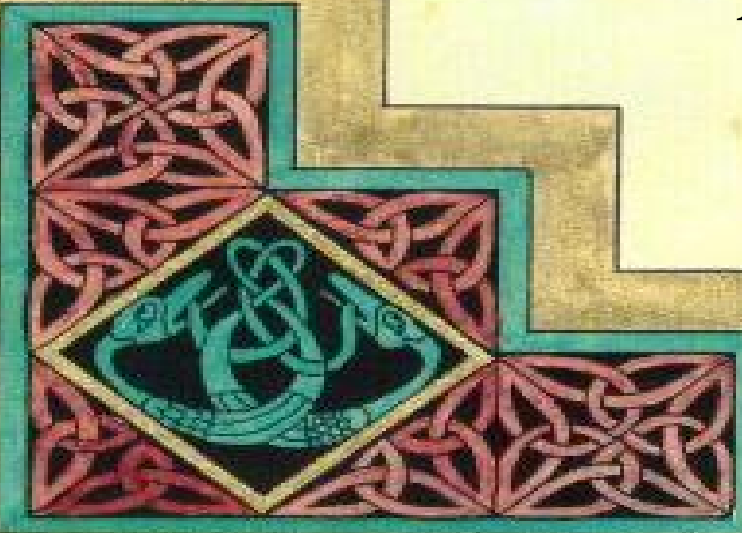


# Celtic Art and Early Heritage

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April 22, 2008



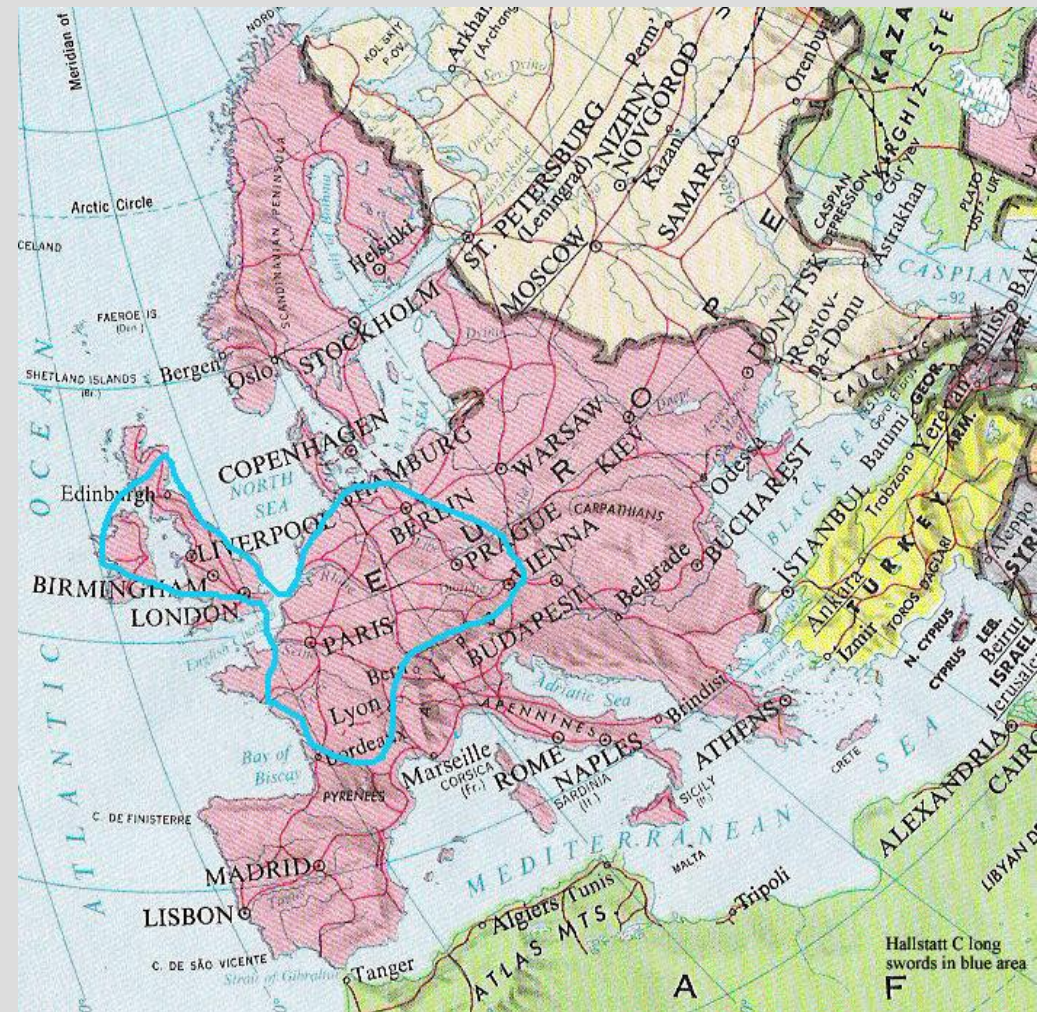
# The Early Celts

- Celtic Art is associated with the Celts, whom were people who spoke Celtic languages in Europe from prehistory on
- Heritage from many Germanic tribes which migrated into Europe
- Three Basic “traditions:
  - La Tène Iron Age (France Switzerland etc)
  - Iron Age in Britain & Ireland
  - Celtic Renaissance (middle ages)



# La Tène Culture

- Evolved from Hallstatt Culture (bronze age) which has also been linked to the early Celts
- Geographically LaTène Culture Flourished throughout France, Switzerland, Austria & other surrounding modern day nations from ~430BC to Roman conquest
- La Tène Culture is the name for the Celts of the Classic era.
- La Tène- “the shallows”



# Examples of La Tène Art Style

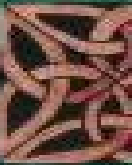


Trumpet and Sprial patterns!



# Insular Art Period (Celtic Renaissance)

- Also called “Hiberno-Saxon” style
- Post Roman history in British Isles
- Derived from *insula*- in latin = island
- Considered migratory period of Art because of it's difference to the rest of Europe at the time
- Originates from Irish Monasticism of Celtic Church, beginning around 600AD
- Merges to Anglo-Saxon art in England (900AD)
- Merges with Romanesque art (1200)
- Many examples also found in Gaul (France)
- Large influence on Medieval, Romanesque and Gothic art forms



# Examples of Insular Art



- Mainly manuscripts, metalwork, carvings and crosses.

# Celtic Revival

- From 18<sup>th</sup> Century to Modern era
- Effort of modern Celts to express self identification and Nationalism
- Celtic art of all kinds may be found anywhere today: Jewelry, tatoos, t-shirts etc
- While some still conforms and most has foundational characteristics found in the ancient styles of Celtic art of Manuscripts and stone carvings, it is evolving into it's own modern style in many mediums.



# Celtic Art Found Today

- **Hallstatt** - geometric designs.
- Maze type designs and repeated patterns make even simple designs feel complex.
- As these designs date back to the Bronze age, they are perhaps the most "elemental" feeling of all the styles.



note: taken from *history and meaning in celtic art* by: Cari Buziak



# Celtic Art Found Today

- **La Tène** - large amounts of spiral and leaf shaped designwork.
- Shapes of faces and animals may appear and disappear depending on how the design is viewed.
- Organic feel



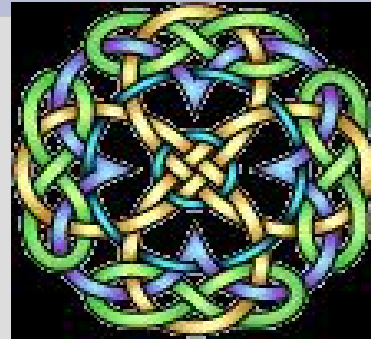
# Celtic Art Found Today

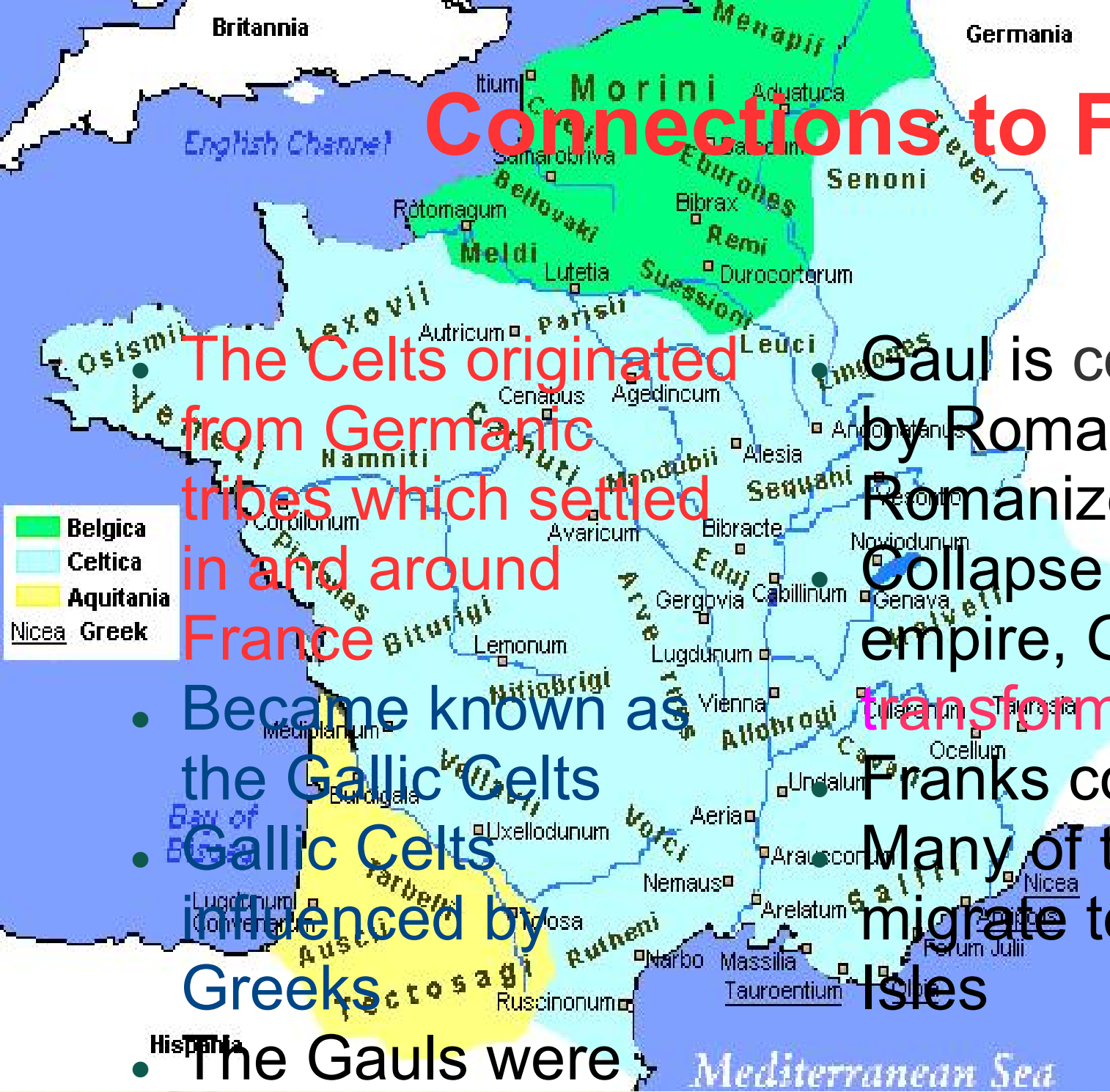
- **Knotwork Interlace-** most commonly identified kind of Celtic art
- Strands of woven or braided strips that bend and weaved together
- Good example is Trinity Knot -3 outer points or petals



# Meanings in Celtic Art

- Knotwork Interlace: represents unity between life and human life in the universe, the way they intertwine.
- Trinity knot: Believed to represent the Holy trinity.
- Lover's knot- two together as one, represented as 2 intertwined infinity symbols.





# Connections to France

The Celts originated from Germanic tribes which settled in and around France

Gaul is conquered by Romans, and Romanized  
 Collapse of Roman empire, Gaul transformed  
 Franks come about  
 Many of the Celts migrate to British Isles

- Became known as the Gallic Celts
- Gallic Celts influenced by Greeks
- The Gauls were Romanized



# References

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