



The Celtic Heroic Age

John T. Koch (Editor), John Carey (Contributor)

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A new fourth edition of an invaluable collection of literary sources, all in translation, for Celtic Europe and early Ireland and Wales. The selections are divided into three sections: the first is classical authors on the ancient Celts - a huge selection including both the well known Herodotus, Plato, Aristotle, Livy, Diogenes Laertius, and Cicero - and the obscure-Pseudo-Scymnus, Lampridius, Vopiscus, Clement of Alexandria and Ptolemy I. The second is early Irish and Hiberno-Latin sources including early Irish dynastic poetry and numerous tales from the Ulster cycle and the third consists of Brittonic sources, mostly Welsh. This edition includes three new early Irish tales, translated by Mairin Ni Dhonchadha: The Birth of Aed Slaine; Fingal Ronain, and the Story of Mis and Dubh Rois.

The Celtic Heroic Age Details

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Author : John T. Koch (Editor) , John Carey (Contributor)

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From Reader Review The Celtic Heroic Age for online ebook

Neil says

A real gem of a sourcebook. The authors collect and translate a voluminous amount of texts that relate to the Celtic heroic age. The book is divided into three sections, Latin sources, Irish and British.

The Latin selection collects extracts from classical authors on the Celtic tribes. While most of the collection covers British and Irish texts, this covers the Celts on mainland Europe. Authors include Caesar and Tacitus and their views on Druids and the Celtic uprisings against roman rule.

The second selection covers the Irish Mythological, Ulster and Fenian Cycles. The texts included are the *Lebor Gabála Érenn* (Book of Invasions of Ireland), narratives on the Ulster heroes and too many more to mention.

The final section on British material is the one I enjoyed the most. Included in the selection are Nenius, the Welsh Arthurian poems but best of all are the selection that cover the Hen Ogled (old north). Included from this subject are the Urien Rheged poems, Gododdin, Llywarch Hen poems and a few more odd little texts.

On the initial publication of this book, I was given a free hardcover copy. On reading it, I found the text to be peppered with printers errors and thought that some important texts were also missing but I could still see the potential in the book. Years later I picked up a the revised paperback edition and all the printing errors were gone, plus the authors had added a few extra texts to the collection, which made a vast improvement over the first edition.

The book is an ideal quick reference tool for scholars in the field but is also ideal for the general reader to make an initial acquaintance with some obscure Celtic source texts. Each text is prefaced by a short introduction and the book isn't overloaded with scholarly notes.

Othy says

Oh, SO much fun! This was my first introduction to Celtic literature of any sort, and, from my limited point of view concerning the stuff, had a fair selection of early literature from Ireland. Wales I'm not too sure about, since the book seemed to be somewhat lacking in that area, unfortunately. My biggest quipe at the book is that the editor leaves any introduction or footnotes for the stories up to the translators, who are generally rather sparse. Only a few sections note much about when the tales were written, or anything for that matter, making all the stories in the collection seem as if they were both created and written down at the same time. In all, though, enjoyable and fun.

Dei Mur says

Diddorol dros ben. Pob cyfeiriad at y Celtiaid erioed ynddo.

Flint Johnson says

Koch and Carey managed to get the best translations from various experts and bring it all into one place, supplementing with their own work as necessary. The result is a classic work that can be used for quick references. Highly recommended for casual and professional scholars, a great taste of the Celtic people for everyone else.

Thom Dunn says

{RECO Neil, 7-14-12} Essay collection.

Evy says

I used this book in a course on Celtic mythology and literature and found it to be an easy read. It included key works that were interesting and well translated. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in Celtic history from the beginner to the more advanced scholar.

Robertstaviski says

Anyone interested in learning about the Celts, this is the text to own.

Has all of the classical (Roman and Greek) writings on the Celts, and then a plethora of historical stories, tales, poems and more from the Brythonic to the Irish.

Ciaran Donohoe says

A now classic and indispensable resource for Celticists and all those interested in ancient Celtic culture and history, Celtic literature and the interrelation between the two. Clear and useful translations by John Koch and John Carey. Something I refer to again and again. Highly recommended!

Cansu says

A great, resourceful book on its domain. Strongly recommended for Celtic history/literature students and enthusiasts.

Katharyn says

Read for HISTAM 276: Celtic Civilizations
