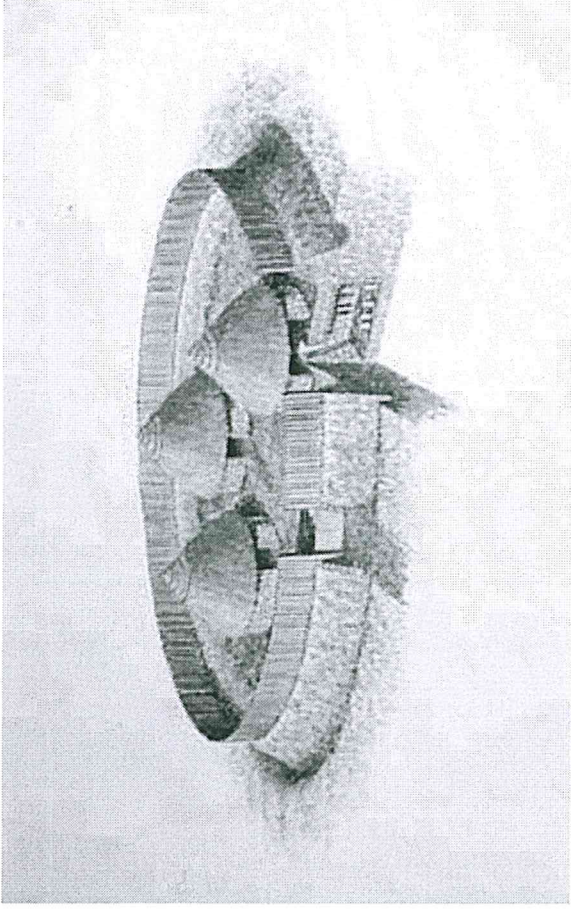


Iron Age 500 c to 500 AD



Iron Age

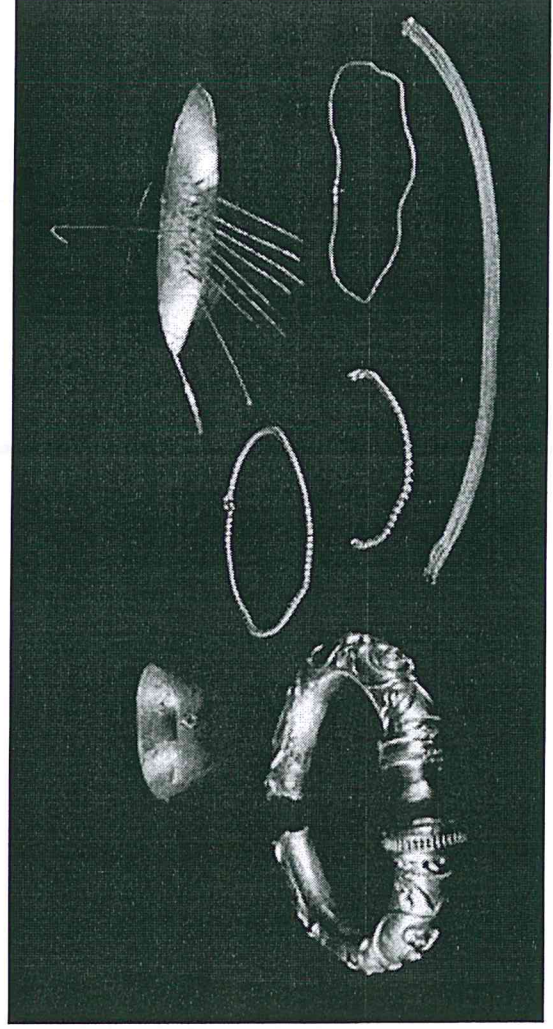
Ireland's Iron Age is usually said to run from the end of the Bronze Age (around 500 B.C.) and continues until around 500 A.D. The overlap from Later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age reflects how society changed slowly and did not make a great leap of technology and culture from one period into another. Similarly, the end of the Iron Age extends into the Early Christian period in Ireland, and while great changes were taking place at that time, the technology used in farming and blacksmithing, cart making, etc. would have continued unchanged up to relatively modern times.

Ireland's Iron Age has its origins in Europe where a culture known as the Halstatt was flourishing 800 B.C. This time is also associated with the arrival of Celtic-speaking peoples into Ireland who practised a very distinctive art style. http://www.ballybegvillage.com/iron_age.html

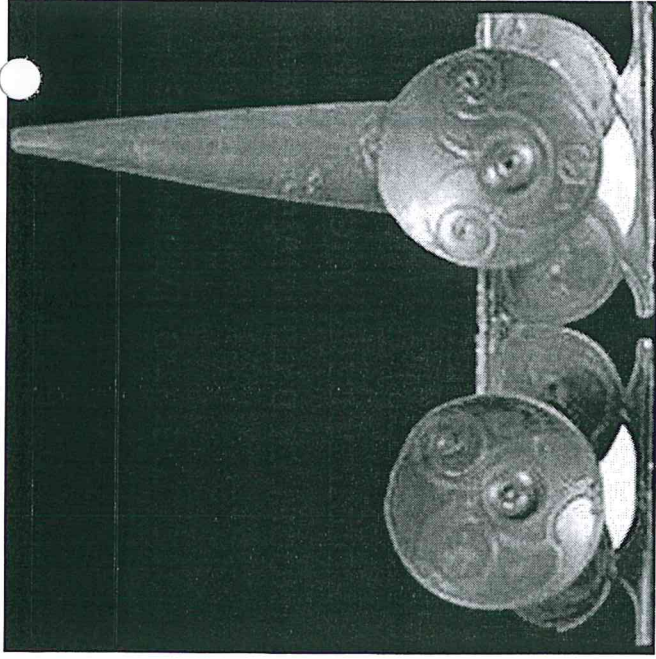
The Brighter gold collar made by Irish metalworkers and goldsmiths is a delicate tube of gold decorated in the La Tène style of Celtic art: The large tubular neck ornament has buffer-terminals and is decorated on the ring with raised and incised ornament. Stylised bird and horse motifs are present on the raised ornament which is accentuated by incised concentric arcs on the background. The terminals are fitted with a mortise and tenon device that fastened the collar.



<http://www.museum.ie/en/exhibition/list/ten-major-pieces.aspx?article=8257e88d-e1a3-4fd5-a21b-2bd58e10b52d>



The Brighter Hoard:
The Brighter Hoard which was discovered in 1896 by someone ploughing at Brighter, Co. Derry. Among the items of the hoard are a tubular collar and a model ship, both in gold. The material probably dates from the first century BC and is in the La Tène style.



Petrie Crow

This magnificent piece of early Irish Celtic metalworking from the Iron Age, is in fact made of bronze pieces that are riveted together and decorated in the La Tene style which consists of curvilinear or symmetrical abstract shapes worked into the bronze using the repoussé technique (punched from behind) The Petrie Crown was discovered in County Cork and named after its former owner George Petrie.

<http://www.visual-arts-cork.com/cultural-history-of-ireland/iron-age-art.htm>

La Tene

The Celts brought to Ireland a new Art form called La Tene, this Art form is named after a site in Switzerland where the earliest artefacts of this style were found. This new Art form is fundamentally a curvilinear or symmetrical style of abstract shapes and is commonly found over much of Europe and Ireland and lasted well into the Christian period where it fused with Christian symbols and design to give us such artefacts as the Book of Kells and the Cross of Cong etc.

