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Celtic And Anglo-Saxon Painting: Book Illumination In The British Isles, 600-800



Synopsis

The art of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Painting and Book Illumination in the British Isles from 600 to 800 AD. Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Painting flourished during this period, and the pages reproduced in this volume represent the most unusual and dazzling of the painting and illuminations from this period. Within settings exquisitely portrayed, a world of great luxury and delicacy unfolds on every folio, all realized in shimmering, jewel-like illuminations that delight the eye, please the mind, and uplift the spirit. Carl Nordenfalk of the University of Pittsburg, traces the historical development of Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Painting and book illumination from 600 to 800 AD. Oversized Softcover, 8 x 11 inches, 127 pages; includes 48 color plates, numerous black & white illustrations, and commentary. Printed in West Germany.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book features forty eight color plates that are reproduced in high quality paper from original manuscripts from the seventh and centuries. The author, Carl Nordenfalk, provides a historical background and commentry on each of the plates. The author's style of writing lends itself well to one not overly knowledgeable of the subject matter. The manuscripts are taken from the Gospel Books which were richly ornate, having almost talismanic qualities having been produced in the native art style of the Celts and Anglo- Saxons as the Christian missionaries were proselytizing in the Bristish Isles. Most of the manuscripts come from the Book of Lindisfarne, the Book of Durrow and the Book of Kells. The manuscripts feature portraits of various Christian messengers such as Saint Luke, Saint John, Saint Chad and biblical figures such as King David, Madonna and Christ.

There are also pages of the written word from the various gospels shown in the rich decorative style of the Celts. The looping interlocked letters and motifs are an amazing contribution to civilization that everyone can enjoy from these ancient, partially intact codex. The symbols and strange animation create symmetrical patterns that are highly imaginative and will astound the viewer with its complex primitivism. The intrinsic beauty and composition is sometimes in stark contrast to the flatness of the figures. You can literally get lost in the patterns, there are endless oblong patterns of scrollwork, tied together by knots, interwoven and intertwined animals stretching out and connecting to fancy letters or other motifs that will dazzle your senses. This is a great book to gaze upon and reassure yourself of the beautiful beyond that has inspired many centuries of art work.

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