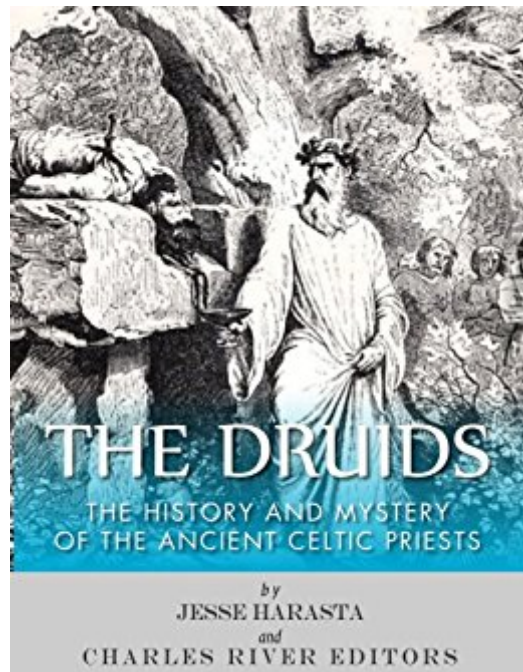




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# The Druids: The History And Mystery Of The Ancient Celtic Priests



## Synopsis

\*Includes pictures.\*Includes ancient accounts of the Druids written by Caesar, Cicero, Pliny, and more.\*Explains the modern revival of Druids.\*Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading.\*Includes a table of contents.

“Throughout all of Gaul there are two classes of people who are treated with dignity and honor. This does not include the common people, who are little better than slaves and never have a voice in councils. Many of these align themselves with a patron voluntarily, whether because of debt or heavy tribute or out of fear of retribution by some other powerful person. Once they do this, they have given up all rights and are scarcely better than servants. The two powerful classes mentioned above are the Druids and the warriors. Druids are concerned with religious matters, public and private sacrifices, and divination.”

Julius Caesar

The Celts are one of the most well-known groups in Europe and one of the least understood. Depending on which classifications are used, the Celts are also one of the oldest civilizations in Europe. In the centuries before Christ, the Celts were spread out across much of continental Europe, and though they are mostly identified with Gaul, evidence suggests they also spread as far as Portugal. However, even though they were spread out across Europe before the height of the Roman Empire, most people associate the Celts with the British Isles today, particularly Ireland and Scotland. After they had been relegated to those smaller regions as a result of the Romans and other migrations, the culture of the Celts as it is currently understood began to congeal during the Early Middle Ages, and Celtic culture, folklore, and legend have all become inextricably intertwined with Irish history and British history as a whole.

The Celts have fascinated people for centuries, and the biggest fascination of all has been over the Druids, a religious class at the heart of Celtic society that wielded great power. Naturally, people have been interested in Druids for centuries mostly because they don't understand much about the Druids or their practices. The earliest meaning of the word comes from the Ancient Romans, who labeled them "Druidae" in reference to the white robed order of Celtic priests living in Gaul, Britain and Ireland. They were a well-organized, secretive group who kept no written records and performed their rituals - allegedly including human sacrifice - in oaken groves, all of which interested and horrified the Romans. The order was eventually crushed under the weight of first Roman conquest and then the imposition of Christianity, and from the remains, centuries of myths, imaginings and dreams were superimposed over the little that was known about the Druids. Not surprisingly, people have come to associate the Druids with what have been imposed. Even today, there is a revived Druidic religious movement that fuses this skeleton of knowledge about the ancient Druids with ideas such as rituals at standing stones (like Stonehenge), nature and sun worship, the carrying of ornate staves, and

Arthuriana. Wider popular culture has seen "Druids" - usually some form of secretive nature-priests - in games like Dungeons and Dragons and World of Warcraft, and films like Wicker Man (1973 and 2006) and Druids (2001). The Druids: The History and Mystery of the Ancient Celtic Priests explores the known and unknown about the Druids, from the historical evidence of their existence and practices to the evolution of Druidic concepts over time. This book also looks at the growth of Druidism since the 1700s, along with the practitioners who embrace new ideas and beliefs. Along with pictures and a bibliography, you will learn about the Druids like you never have before, in no time at all.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

The Druids are difficult to study because there is a great deal of occult babble and they had a code of not writing things - this is not that and is somewhat informative, but Charles River Editors seem stuck in a mindset of historical ignorance. This is more informative than wikipedia, but not good history. You will be better off studying WHY the Druids have little history, how their lessons worked, and the Bible rather than this. Look up the British Israelites who seemed to have a better handle on

the early Brits.

I knew this book was short when I bought it, but there is a lot that can be done in even short books. This one does not. I was hoping for things like their mythology (which has survived), their lore, life during the time of the Druids, etc. Instead, I got the biased writings of Roman invaders and historians. There was some interesting information in there, but not enough to make this book worthwhile

Interesting reading. The history that is talked about is from the prospective of older writings as a direct account is not available. The history comes from the people who hated and distrusted the Druids.

I chose that rating because it related information about the Druids I wasn't aware of. Parts of History that effects our life today. It was well put together. It has a place in every libraryRalph Greenberg

An interesting read about the history but devoid of the mystery of the druids. Was hoping for a bit more insight into the lore of the druids.

VERY DRY AND CONFUSING. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE DRUIDS AND THE BOOK ONLY CONFIRMED THAT.

Quite fascinating insight to the Druids. Some facts I didn't know. I would recommend it to anyone wanting to partially delve into the history. Not heavy reading.

It is a good book and had what I needed.

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