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# Irish Druids And Old Irish Religions



## Synopsis

This scholarly, but very readable, book covers what was known about Druids and Irish Paganism at the end of the nineteenth century. It discusses many of the concepts which later would be utilized by the Wiccan movement to construct Celtic Neo-Paganism. Global Grey editions are fully formatted and always have linked table of contents and cover page. Footnotes and illustrations are included when applicable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent review of both history and religion.

I was excited to find that this book was available after having found a reference to it elsewhere. But the book itself is a disappointment. I expected an orderly review of the origins, development, and practice of Druidism and its contemporary religions, along with specifics on their beliefs, rituals,

paraphernalia, etc. Instead, this book is disorganized and rambling, with little specific information on Druidism and no attempt to develop any specific portrayals of this interesting magico-religious movement.

Contrary to the other "reviewer", this is a classic reprinted annually with the originals worth as much as a nice flat screen for a reason. The book has always stirred controversy because it doesn't kow tow to the "correct view" of those who want to believe that everything before Christianity was barbarism. At the time it was originally published in 1894, this book was literally revolutionary. Keep in mind, the belief of the time was that the Irish were less than human and this book showed that they had been civilized with laws, music, history, and science long before the forced conversion which included the murdering of almost all of the Druid priests. Check out Wikipedia and other sources for more information on James Bonwick (who was very much a religious Christian btw) and the Druids. And, read it for yourself - it is an easy read if you relax about things like the Scottish being called the Scotch and just go with the flow of the book.

After having read this book, I have to say that I wasn't terribly impressed--nor was I seriously let down. There are plenty of great pieces of hard to find information about Irish Druids--I mean, lets face it. These days you have to really look hard to find your way out of all the wishy-washy fairy-tales concerning Druids and Celtic religion--especially on the internet, where almost everyone seems to be in costume. I also appreciated the mention of other Celtic tribes throughout Europe. What I didn't care for was the repeated and tiresome disdain towards the "so-called Druids" of Britain. When I'm reading for information/enlightenment, it's difficult to feel that I'm getting it from a credible source when the author's writing seems so biased and disdainful towards the non-Irish Druids. Yes, I know that the book is written with Ireland in mind, but the author just seemed to keep making digs at the other country while elevating Irish Druids over the rest. Kind of annoying, but not terrible.

Blarney, utter Blarney. This is historical fiction. I teach Irish history and ancient religion, and this is nonsense.

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