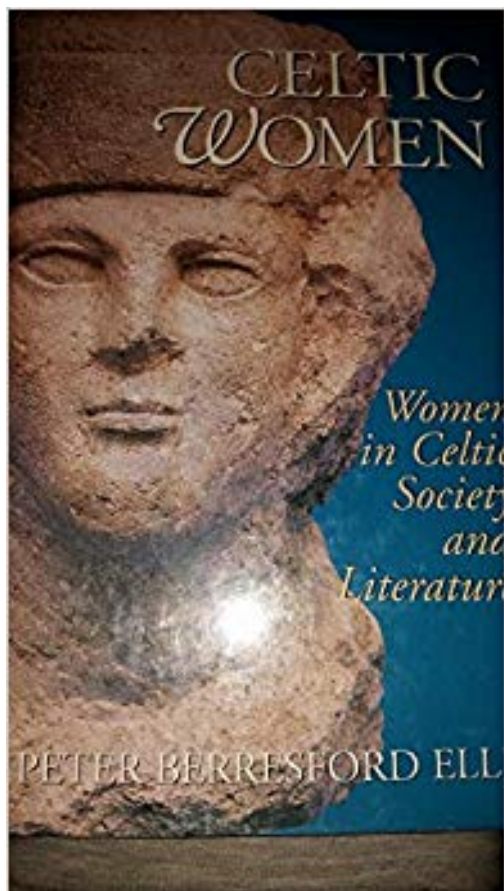


Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society and Literature *by* Peter Berresford Ellis



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Looks at the history of women in Celtic folklore, society, and civilization



Reviews of the **Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society and Literature** *by* Peter Berresford Ellis

Tantil

Peter Berresford Ellis reveals the important role Celtic women played in their society in his book, "Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society & Literature." Using historical documents, Ellis offers evidence that women in Celtic society had rights that were protected by law to own property, to choose who and when they wanted to marry, to divorce if they wanted and to take with them the property they owned prior to marriage, as well as half of the property held with their husband (after a certain period of time). The women of the Ancient Celts fought in battles, and trained young

warriors. They could be rulers, priests, doctors and lawyers. Ellis reveals how all of these rights granted to Celtic women gradually changed after the introduction of Christianity by the Roman priests. Well written and documented, Ellis makes the history of the Ancient Celts, particularly women, very interesting reading.

Mr.Savik

I am enjoying this book.

Keramar

loved look new good

Gindian

I was hoping to find more information on Boudica and other women from ancient Celtic times. It was my error , as it turned out to be more about modern Irish women. I did get some info about the ancient Celtic period, but it wasn't really what I had hoped. NOT the fault of the seller.

Balhala

Good book to add to my collection.

Rainshaper

While Ellis' "Celtic Women" is the best book I have yet read on the subject, it suffers from peculiar inconsistencies, as well as the author's tendency to disregard or dismiss evidence which contradicts his thesis. This work is definitely preferable to Jean Markale's book of the same title, as Ellis seems to be more of a scholar and less of a mystic. Ellis focuses on material from the Classical authors, native Celtic law texts, and vernacular works of literature and history in painting a vivid picture of the many roles of Celtic women and Celtic female divinities. This work is not without flaws, however, for one must ask, would a book about Celtic men include an overview of Celtic male gods? Female divinities are also prominent in Greek mythology, but I find the argument that the stature of goddesses reflects the status of women in the culture which worships them to be, at best, highly speculative. While there is definitely evidence that women could attain high social positions in Celtic societies, Mr. Ellis seems to gloss over the fact that ruling queens and influential female Brehons (judges) were notable exceptions to the rule. In addition, while there is much material introduced from native law regarding women's rights to property and divorce, nothing is said concerning women's rights to child custody. The reader is left to wonder whether nothing is said in these law texts about such an important and revealing point as a woman's right to her own children, or if the author considered it to be of no importance. As a woman, I would love to look to the Celts as an example of the "original egalitarian model" that the book's jacket claims, but as a scholar I feel that Mr. Ellis overstates his case, a failing of many of his otherwise fine works. Perhaps more disturbing, there are sections of the book that strike a strangely discordant note in view of the overall theme. For instance, Mr. Ellis devotes an entire chapter (out of 10) to the subject of personal adornment. In this chapter, he discusses not only the costume and adornments of women, but of men as well. Does this suggest a view on the part of the author that the whole subject of dress is a concern specific to women, or is this material introduced solely by way of comparison? While I would recommend this book as being the best available on the subject, I believe that a truly 5 star book on Celtic women has not yet been written.

Zargelynd

When I read, Celtic Women: Women in Celtic Society and Literature, the author Peter Berresford Ellis portrayed the Celtic culture so well and compared the women to that of the Romans and other Middle Eastern cultures to where the reader can understand and imagine how wild the Celtic women were to that of the rest of the world. With this book, Peter Berresford Ellis explains how the Celtic society evolved and how the women were treated in the society and how high of a value they were both in life and spiritual form. Ellis also writes to where someone with little knowledge about Celts can understand the way both the men and women function and they are treated as one in the Celtic nation. He backs up his thesis with knowledge from his studies and from others, as well uses quotes and facts to support his statements. Peter Berresford Ellis has written over 40 books dealing with mythology and history of cultures, a good amount of them dealing with the Celtic society so

believe me when I say that if you want to know anything about the Celtic culture, read any of his books!

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