

Re: OT 50 States was: OT: Hemlines

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From: Alistair Maclean (alistair_at_ld50macca.demon.co.uk)

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In message <3FCBFE96.46B78F60@shaw.ca>, James J. Gavan <jjgavan@shaw.ca> writes

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>

>Alistair Maclean wrote:

>

>> >Truth is there was a great deal of to-ing and fro-ing between the northern

>> >Irish and Scotland, (Picts and Scots).

>>

>> Scots not Picts. The Scots came from Ireland and crossed to Mull.

>>

>

>OK so I went in alphabetical sequence – what would a Sassenach know anyway <G>

>

>>

>> Ah-ha. The Keltai (mentioned by the ancient Greeks) was a generic term

>> referring to anyone from the north of the alps. No identifiable group,

>> even in Britain, identified themselves as Celts. The notion of the Celts

>> is modern dating from the 18th century.

>

>Maybe this group should be renamed 'Anything but COBOL'. I see where you're
>coming from, but a quick dash downstairs to the basement, I found my Penguin
>paperback 'The Celts' by a Nora Chadwick. Hell – I can have a memory lapse –
>it was printed in 1972.

>

>She's not on the same wavelength as you – that's where I got my original quote
>from. Your word 'Keltai' is written as 'Kelttoi'

Yep, my mistake. She has the correct spelling. Well what do you expect?

I was sober at the time!

>from Greek (KEATOi – with

>appropriate Greek symbols). Known by that name from the 5th century, the

>Romans referred to them as the Galli – later becoming Galatae in both Greek and

>Roman writing.

>

All well and to the good (you didn't need to put all of the dates and references in unless you are a true masochist). I read recently a book written by one of the academics at the British Museum. His argument is that even up to the time of the Roman invasion of Britain there was no evidence to indicate that the tribes considered themselves to be part of a greater Celtic culture. Rather, they seemed to be fiercely independent of each other. As someone who had hung his hat on being Celtic (and therefore superior to the later cultures ;-)) it was a shock to discover that there was no such cultural identity. The curator chappy did mention the La Tene culture and pointed out the similarities in artefacts and the dissimilarities as well. He pointed out that the notion of the Celts chiefly springs from the 1700s when people were attempting to show noble lineages back to Abraham and co and were attempting to justify Gaelic cultures as something other than savages. He did finish by saying that if Scots, Irish, etc., chose to identify themselves as Celtic in order to distinguish themselves from the johnny-come-latelies (Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Normans) then this creates the Celtic identity and culture. Clearly not quite the same as the Keltoi.

I did state that the Isle of Man was a viking stronghold. To this day they have the only surviving Viking parliament, the Manse.

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Alistair Maclean

From the UK tv series "The Kumars at No. 42":

Grandmother Kumar interviewing Patrick Stewart (Captain Jean-Luc Picard of the Federation Starship Enterprise),

"Why aren't there any Indians in Star Trek?

Don't you need any IT support?"