Finch & Co



ANCIENT IRON AGE IRISH CELTIC GRANITE VOTIVE HEAD

AN ANCIENT IRON AGE IRISH CELTIC GRANITE VOTIVE HEAD PROBABLY FROM A SANCTUARY OR SHRINE
3RD - 1ST CENTURY BC
SIZE: 30.5CM HIGH, 18CM WIDE, 16CM DEEP - 12 INS HIGH, 7 INS WIDE, 6¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

SPRINGS, WELLS AND RIVERS ARE OF FIRST AND ENDURING IMPORTANCE AS A FOCAL POINT OF CELTIC CULT PRACTICE AND RITUAL, AND THE HUMAN HEAD, SYMBOLIC OF DIVINITY AND A POWERFUL CELTIC MOTIF, WAS ALWAYS ASSOCIATED WITH SACRED SPRINGS, WELLS AND RIVERS. MADE OF STONE, WOOD OR METAL, IMAGES OF HEADS WERE USED IN MAKING VOTIVE OFFERINGS AND DROPPED INTO THE WATERS. MANY OBJECTS OF A CULT NATURE HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM SPRINGS, WELLS, LAKES, POOLS, BOGS AND RIVERS, SUGGESTING THAT THEY WERE REGARDED AS A FOCUS FOR VENERATION AND HEALING.

THE CELTS REGARDED THE SOURCE OF A RIVER AS A NATURAL SANCTUARY AND AN ENTRANCE TO THE OTHERWORLD. IN IRELAND MANY RIVERS HAVE GODDESS NAMES AND IRISH CULT LEGENDS PURPORT TO THE NAMING OF THE BOYNE AND THE SHANNON. THE GODDESS BOAND AND SINANN DEFIED THE MAGIC POWERS OF THE WELL OF SEGAIS AND THE WELL OF COELRIND AND AS A RESULT THE WELLS ROSE UP IN ANGER DROWNING THE GODDESSES AND TURNING INTO MIGHTY RIVERS, RUSHED DOWN TO THE SEA.