

Old Ages

The Celts - The men wore trousers or brags (bracae for the Romans) in many forms. They could be tight fitting and extending just over the knee and were adopted by the Roman legions which called them 'femoralia'. Others were looser fitting (=larghi) with feet in them (=con piedi incorporati) or secured at the ankles (=chiusi alle caviglie) with the strips (=laccielts) from their shoes. The trousers either had a tie (=corda) at the waist (=vita) or had belt loops (=cinture). Shirts were either the basic t-tunic type or sleeveless (=senza maniche). Cloaks were rectangular or ovoid; the oval ones were made on the loom (=telaio). Some Roman depictions show Celtic men wearing caps (=berretti) and hats. Shoes for the most part were one piece leather or made of straw. Women usually wore narrow tunic or chiton. In some tribes they used to wear white tunics with purple embroidery. Another form of clothing was the short tunic inserted into a long skirt. Celtic people were skilful (=abili) weavers (=tessitori) and they made their own clothes. Usually they also dyed (=tingevano) them with lively and bright colours. Continental Celtic clothing was made of wool (=lana) or linen (=lino) with occasional references to silk (=seta) . As they became more Romanized, luxury fabrics (=tessuti di lusso) increased (=aumentarono). Celtic people loved ornaments. They had great quantities of gold and used it for decorations. They wore golden bracelets, necklaces and rings. The torque was one of their most important ornaments and was made of bronze or gold. torque

The Celts at war - Many Roman historians give a full description of the Celts at war. At first (=dapprima) the Romans were frightened (=spaventati) by Celtic people: they were very tall, pale (=pallidi) and blond. They looked very different from Mediterranean people. Most of them had no beard (=barba), the nobles had big moustache (=baffi). They combed (=si pettinavano) their hair in an unusual way, like an horse mawarriorne (=criniera) because they washed it with water and lime (=calce)...like rastas nowadays. In some tribes they had knots (chignon) on their heads to look taller. They tried to keep them fit (=mantenersi in forma) in battle, in time of peace they ate and drank a lot. In battles most of the tribes fought naked (=nudi), only with their arms. Others wore trousers and light cloaks (=mantelli) because they did not want to be obstacles by clothes during the battle. Their bodies and faces were painted with tattoos, usually blue tattoos because they made them with berries (=bacche). Their favourite figures were owls (=gufi) and horses. The bravest warriors wore a particular necklace (=collana) – a torque- around their neck.