

PROJECT OUTLINE DOCUMENT

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#CELT:About the Celtic tribes

[What are the Celtic tribes?]



Before Christianity dominated all regions of Europe, there lived indigenous peoples who use “language” as a deity yet having no written language.

They loved nature with a feeling of awe, seeing this world as a place they could live happily forever.

Thus, the Celtic people don’t clearly make the distinction between the real world and the other world where gods and fairies dwell.

One of the convincing reasons why the Celtic spirit is still attracting world-wide attentions is that their view of the world or “fantasy” has a universal value. The fantasy is filled with wisdom to live with nature.

The journey to touch this wisdom is the second chapter of HIBIKI: “Celts.”

However, the “Celtic people” don’t exist now in an articulate manner like Aboriginal people or other indigenous peoples of other countries.

Its definitions widely differ according to a wide variety of categories, such as “race,” “history,” “linguistics,” or “style of art.”

In HIBIKI, we have learned these definitions, regarding the “spirit” underlying all of them as “Celtic.”

[By word of mouth]



For the Celtic people, “language” is sacred. Important folklore and stories have been handed down “by word of mouth.” It does not mean that their culture was totally “non-literate.” It was believed, however, that the holy power of “language” was lost if it was expressed through “letters.”

The people taking charge of communicating important stories by word of mouth were called “druids,” the monks of extremely high rank in the Celtic society.

It is said that some decades of hard practices were required to become druids. The lore to be learned by heart would amount to more than 250 traditional stories,

and additional more than 100 stories relating to them.

The druids learned all the stories by word of mouth.

Among them, the status of “Bard” - the poet class - was so high that even kings had to follow their demands.

They acted as mass media at the time who controlled information. All through the ages, “information” manipulates power.

Religious leaders “druids” manipulating sacred “language” had unparalleled influence at that time.

In particular, what HIBIKI pays attention to is a prophet-poet class named “file.” Druids were later destroyed by Christians. Yet file survived as a bearer of traditions. In this journey of HIBIKI, I want to come to see descendents of file living today. Since druids conveyed all their culture by “word of mouth,” their extinction made “Celtic culture” even more enigmatic.

The materials on Celts we can now get to know were compiled by Roman armies or Christian monks. So, they were somewhat mixed with Christian cultures.

Even so, Ireland has seemingly been “guarded” by its geographic conditions and others. More traditions still remain in Ireland than in Britain: England, Scotland, and Wales.

They include “songs” and “festivals” which are quite attractive themes for HIBIKI as well.

#Coverage concepts

I have three concepts of coverage for chapter two of HIBIKI, “Celtic people.”

1. Connection between people and music - exultation



Celtic people are often associated with an image of fighting. In nature, however, they are considered a people loving nature and peace. Threatened several times by other tribes, such as Viking, Greek, and Romans, they seemed to have to fight back to protect themselves.

The Celtic people were also brave in the battlefields, and willing to offer their lives to show their honor and bravery. This is because they believed in the cycle of reincarnation or rebirth. So, the ancient

Romans were afraid of them, calling them “barbarians.”

And they have the fortitude to survive the harsh natural environments through the acts of agriculture, hunting, and fishing.

For example, the Aran Islands of Ireland famed for their “Aran knitting” are really a barren waste filled with rocks and steep cliffs. Men dare to go fishing into rough sea. Aran sweaters had different knitting patterns by household. This was because those patterns represented signs of drown family members lost in the deep.

While suffering the slings and arrows of living, they enjoyed the thrills and pleasure of living together all the more.

With such happy feelings, the Celtic people threw parties night after night, loving drinking, gourmet foods, poetry, and stories.

Even now Irish people always say, “We are all story tellers.”

The most important thing to cheer up their delight must be “music.”

This way “Irish music” has been developed among common people.

Today it is impossible to see the genuine indigenous people of “Celts.” However, the “spirit” of Celts has been handed down to their descendents without fail. Through “Irish music,” we may touch it.

HIBIKI is going to touch the spirit of the Celtic people by interviewing people who are enchanted by Irish music.

2. Connection between people and forests - prayer



“Druids”: extremely high-ranking monks in the Celtic society.

The meaning of “druid” is “oak-knower.”

In this manner, trees were regarded as sacred to the Celtic people. Among others, the “oak” tree was worshiped as “the holiest of all.” And the mistletoe was seen as a spirit inhabited in a tree.

A field of thick woods was established as a sanctuary named “Nemeton.” Even today, the name leaves a mark on geographical names,

including “Vernemetum” in Britain.

Also animals living in woods were seen as sacred creatures, such as a male deer, the king of a forest.

Like this, the Celtic people loved forests, were awed by, and lived with forests. When building a house, they carefully selected and cut trees one by one which were essential for the house.

The love of forests by the Celtic people would be a prayer to live together with nature, as well as “wisdom” to be conveyed for the prosperity of their descendents.

We living in a modern world have much to learn from the Celtic people about the deep feelings toward forests.

HIBIKI is going to shoot Celtic forests.

HIBIKI just wants to convey the scent and life of the forests blown in Celtic wind.

I think the ancestors’ love - beyond time-space - must be packed there fully.

3. Connection between people and fairies - fantasy



One of the Celtic wisdoms to live together with nature is how “people” can get along with “fairies.” In Ireland where the Celtic spirit still remains strong, they say they believe in the fairies even if not believing in god. We can witness such a spirit in their daily living.

For example, getting up in the morning, they first place a cup of milk at a window. It is so that fairies may not get angry and play a trick on them.

The fairies can get angry easily unless called “good neighbors.” They sometimes kidnap a baby, or lead people astray at the forest.

Likewise, the Celtic people have passed down a lot of tales of the fairies who are assumed to live in the area from the ancestors to descendents.

In those stories, “life” and “death” are depicted to learn how to cope with harsh and unreasonable nature.

They learn to “live,” and then “die” which inevitably comes to all of them. If learned, they would sure be saved.

They are feeling sad, scary, or happy. This way, the fairies may be born.

I believe the Celtic people have learned “the ability to accept nature” through the fairies.

HIBIKI is looking into the “fairies” from the daily life of ordinary people.

#Shooting plan

For the second chapter of HIBIKI “Celts,” I am covering mainly Ireland based on the following three concepts.

1. Connection between people and music - exultation

-> Banquets of ordinary people going on night after night. Drinking, singing, and dancing. HIBIKI is going around “Irish pubs” in each region of Ireland, making interviews with people who are exulting with the music.

2. Connection between people and forests - prayer

-> The camera of HIBIKI will enter into the forests of Ireland and Scotland. The Celtic wind would bring love of the ancestors beyond time and space.

3. Connection between people and fairies - fantasy

-> I am closely interviewing a typical ordinary family of Ireland, and shooting the “fairies” that may reside in their daily life.

#Candidate sites for shooting



Irish towns

Ireland is almost as large as Hokkaido, the northern island, of Japan.

At first, I will go to Dublin, the capital of Ireland. From then on, I have no plan to go, just going around Ireland for the coverage.

The style of HIBIKI: “without agenda”

* Aran Islands, isolated islands of Ireland, are included in a candidate site of the coverage.

* It is up to the progress of Ireland coverage whether I am going to shoot in the three countries of the Britain: Scotland, England, and Wales.

* I want to shoot “Stonehenge” near Salisbury, a southern city of England.

#The timing of Shooting

There are four big festivals in Ireland.

- February 1: Imbolc - the beginning of spring
- May 1: Bealtaine - the beginning of summer
- August 1: Lughnasadh - the beginning of the harvest season
- October 31-November 1: Samhain - the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter

Among these four festivals, I am going to shoot one, at least, during the shooting timing.