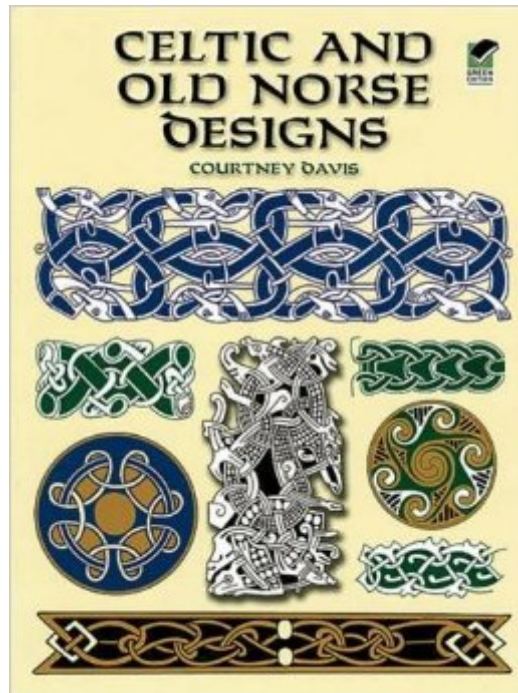


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# Celtic And Old Norse Designs (Dover Pictorial Archive)



## Synopsis

Artists, illustrators, designers, and craftspeople in search of exceptionally bold and inventive motifs will find them in this versatile treasury brimming with 125 royalty-free designs. Taken from authentic Celtic and Old Norse sources, they include an amazing array of birds, human figures, and mythological creatures, all ingeniously woven into an intricate network of spirals and interlacings. Meticulously adapted from artwork that graced ancient rune stones and religious symbols, furniture, manuscripts, bronze mirrors, sword hilts, cooking utensils, and other artifacts, the illustrations depict a crucifix; decorative creatures that adorned the pages of the Lindisfarne Gospels; interwoven designs from stone crosses of Ireland, Scotland, and Cornwall; and many other designs and motifs. Convenient and inexpensive, this collection offers inspiration and a wealth of immediately usable dramatic ornamentation rich in character and distinctive in content.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (39 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this book as an artistic tool. In the process of ultimately developing my own designs in this stylistic vein, I wanted to be able to refer to line art renderings of actual ancient Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Nordic designs. This book has proved to be an excellent resource. The representations featured here make up a top-notch selection, and I appreciate the basic geographic and chronological labels for each piece. The renderings are nicely detailed, but they're not so intricate as to prove impossible to mimic in a sketch book.

STRONGLY recommend this book as THE best source for Norse type designs! Bold and true, this book is highly usable to impart the Nordic of Old flavor to your work!

Most of the designs in CELTIC AND OLD NORSE DESIGNS by Courtney Davis appear to have been copied from items found in and around archeological sites that date from around 1,000 B.C.E. to about 1,000 C.E., now housed in museums. Davis does not inform the reader of the specific aspects of these pieces. In fact, her text is almost non-existent. Some of the items shown appear to match items that precede Roman times, others seem to coincide with Roman and early Christian times, and others are very similar to items discovered in Anglo-Saxon tombs like Sutton Hoo, or Viking sites in Scandanavia and are thus contemporary with the early Middle Ages. Some designs are found on spoons, horse collars, or weather vanes, while others are taken from church sculpture or graveyard crosses. As the elements shown are not categorized by historical period, or referenced or sourced, this is not the scholarly work that I hoped it might be. However, if you don't care it does not matter. I will be using the book for children's artwork projects this summer (i.e. coloring books).

I bought this book looking for inspiration for a Celtic or Viking tattoo design. Hearing what a revered artist Courtney Davis was, I thought I couldn't go wrong with this book. Unfortunately, all the drawings were incredibly unsophisticated and they remind me more of an amateur's work (perhaps at copying Courtney Davis). All of the designs were in black and white and many of them were just plain - and I \*do\* mean plain - knotwork patterns better suited to tablecloths than tattoos. There is none of the beautiful intricacy you find in real Celtic art - almost all of the patterns have huge unfilled or "blackened" spaces. If you're looking for inspiration in Celtic design, buy a reproduction of the Book of Kells. I know that will put the shoddiness of this work to light. I suspect this was just a cheap attempt at making money and that Courtney himself does not prize this work. The good news is - it's cheap, so it wasn't a total waste.

I liked the designs and there were many to choose from. It would have been better if the period for each design was listed instead of Celtic Design found on a brooch. If you want to know an exact period for reenactment clothing you won't get any info in this book. If you don't care about the period that the design comes from then you have a lot to choose from. There was mostly Celtic designs and some Norse designs so if you want more Old Norse designs you won't find them in this book. The Celtic designs are very good with plenty to choose from.

This Celtic and Nordic design book shows an equal amount of both forms of art, but lacks description when it comes to each example. I bought the book to use for jewelry patterns, which it is fine for, but don't expect to learn about the cultures, as the pictures are not explained, except for a few words per image. I guess I would recommend it for a younger audience, or for someone who knows what most things represent. You could always look them up online, right?

Ancient and medieval Celtic/Norse designs rendered on large pages, black/white patterns, in full detail. Great introduction to motifs of serpentine/spiral disks, weaves of a particularly enthralling nature. For all adults, but would be exceptional gift for that exceptional young mind; also, coloring book for kids. [Beyond titles/names no text regarding history of symbolic art, but for one page and back cover. Such info available online with name of said symbol.] Visuals only.

I gave this books a rating of 5 because finally there are drawings shown in large enough print that I can view all of the details.

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