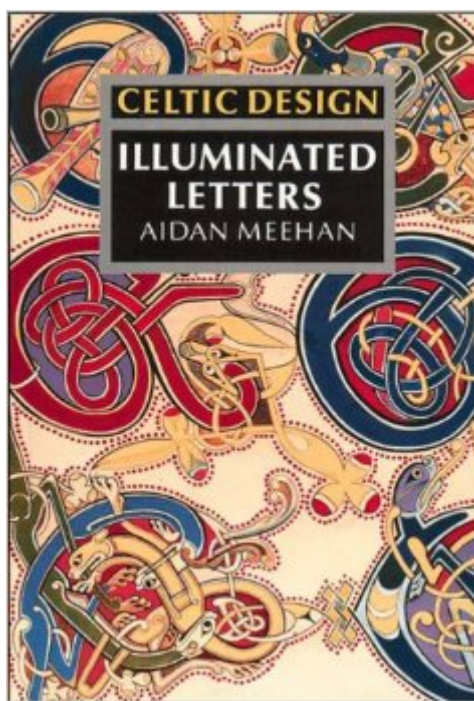


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# Celtic Design: Illuminated Letters



## Synopsis

From the Celtic Design series: a reference manual on Celtic illuminated letters, blending history and anecdote with practical instruction. The step-by-step instructions provide an invaluable resource for artists, designers, and craftspeople—a unique blend of history, anecdote, and practical instruction that recreates the schooling of the Celtic illuminator. Fully illustrated with examples throughout

## Book Information

Series: Celtic Design

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,128,668 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Illuminations](#) #396 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Calligraphy](#) #1001 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Graphic Design > Commercial > Illustration](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book for those looking to create celtic designs. This book teaches about the development of illumination. It then goes into the major initials, decorated alphabet, decorated ampersands, the animal alphabet and animal ampersands. The book is best used when accompanied by Aidan's other Celtic Design books. I have 7 of the books in this series and love them all! All in all this is a great book for someone looking to create celtic designs.

I purchased my first book in this series by Aiden Meehan hoping for a bit of inspiration for my own work as an artist. Since purchasing that first book I have sought out more and now have seven and have found all unique and fascinating as well as inspiring. Thank you Mr. Meehan! I was surprised to find a review on Mr. Meehan's "Illuminated Letters" that held the book as anything other than a five star work. "Illuminated Letters" is my favorite of the seven books I have in the series, bar none! The complaint that the illustrations were in black and white is mind-boggling. Perhaps the naysayer should have taken more than a cursory glance at the book. In the introduction, Mr.

Meehan tells us the book isn't focused on the most complicated and colorful examples of the art form, as is so often the case. Instead, "Illuminated Letters" focuses on the actual technique for the creation of the artwork that is ready to be colored at the artist's leisure once he actually learns that technique. Not only are a number of diverse types of illuminated letters accurately rendered, the often mysterious and rarely comprehended symbolism of the patterns are given. Of the many books on illumination, many of which I have collected, I find this small book on the simple illuminations of letters to be a most excellent guide for those of us who dare to try to follow the path of the masters who came before ... perhaps the best of the series!

I first bought Aidan Meehan's book "Celtic Knots Mastering the Traditional Patterns", which is a seminal work for anyone interested in this subject, and was very excited to find his book on illuminated letters. Initially, I was disappointed to find that all of the illustrations were in black and white. However, the author anticipated me. In his introduction, he states "Books about celtic illumination usually present us with colour reproductions that focus on the most elaborate examples as tightly packed with details as a Persian carpet. This book is a collection of simpler ornamental letters picked out and rendered as line drawings, ready to be coloured." The book does not disappoint. Meehan provides many examples of exquisitely rendered drawings. He explains the symbolism of the patterns and provides direction on how to illuminate the letters while explaining why the letters are illuminated in a particular way. This little book is a veritable treasure of sources and symbolism of celtic letters.

Another good book by Aidan Meehan although this one does not go into details on recreating the knotwork designs (would have been a great addition) as does his spiral patterns book with those patterns.

Arrived well ahead of scheduled delivery and was in what I deem excellent shape! I love it, thank you so much!

THE COVER OF MEEHAN'S "ILLUMINATED LETTERS" IS MISLEADING. THE COVER EXHIBITS THE VIBRANT AND RICH COLORS THAT CELTIC ILLUMINATION IS REKNOWN FOR, BUT UPON OPENING THE BOOK, I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO FIND NOT A HINT OF COLOR. COMPLETELY BLACK AND WHITE. THERE IS AN INTRODUCTION, BRIEF BUT INFORMATIVE, AN EARLY DEVELOPMENT CHAPTER, MAJOR INITIALS CHAPTER, DECORATED ALPHABET

CHAPTER, ANIMAL ALPHABET, AND TWO DECORATED AMPERSAND CHAPTERS; WHO USES AMPERSANDS THAT MUCH?! I THOUGHT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN MANY MORE EXAMPLES OF ILLUMINATED LETTERS (NOT AMPERSANDS) FOR THE 160 PAGE VOLUME THAT IT IS.

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