

This thesis contains the following basic aspects of Celtic/Galatean penetration and presence in Anatolia (central Turkey).

1. Historical background and survey; records of the ancient authors concerning the Celts and Galatians; Celtic penetration through the Balkans and Greece to Galatia; the establishment of the Galatian state; the struggle between the Hellenistic kings and the Galatians; questions of cult, society, policy and urban living and the decline of the Galatian tribes in Anatolia.

2. The archaeological evidence for a Celtic/Galatian presence in Turkey in general and in central Anatolia in particular; groups of monuments and archaeological material.

3. Reflections of the historical events in the figurative art of Antiquity; sculpture; toreutics; terracotta.

4. Evaluation and interpretation.

Having left Central Europe, the Celts passed through the Balkans in the fourth and early third century BC and established here between 279 and 277 BC a Celtic state called the Tyllis Kingdom. Contemporaneously they entered Greece, where they and their chieftain Brennos were infamous as the bands, endangering the sacred area of Delphi in 278 BC. After this incident a part of the Celts moved on to the Hellespont, reacting to the invitation of Hellenistic Bithynian ruler Nikomedes to assist him by struggle of political dominancy. This invitation, however, created a permanent danger to the surrounding regions. The Celts were defeated in 275/4 BC by Antiochos I, who was thenceforth known among the Greeks of Asia Minor by the epithet "Soter" (the Saviour). Although they were settled in north-east Phrygia, their tribes nevertheless continued to endanger the local population. They were defeated again in two battles (230 and 228 BC) by Attalos I., but Eumenes II found new conflicts with the Galatians necessary.