

# *The Development of Celtic Mercenaries*

AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL  
APPROACH



LUC BARAY

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HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY  
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VOLUME 502

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# The Development of Celtic Mercenaries

*An Anthropological Approach*

*By*

Luc Baray

*Translated from the French by*

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The translation of this book was co-funded by the CNRS – UMR 6298 ARTEHIS and the Archaeological Society of Sens.



Cover Illustration: Detail of the decoration on the sword sheath from grave 994, Hallstatt, PA51244, © NHM / Vienna

The Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available online at <https://catalog.loc.gov>

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: “Brill”. See and download: [brill.com/brill-typeface](https://brill.com/brill-typeface).

ISSN 2352-8656

ISBN 978-90-04-75011-1 (hardback)

ISBN 978-90-04-75012-8 (e-book)

DOI 10.1163/9789004750128

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This book explores the determining factors of Celtic mercenarism through a multidimensional approach, going beyond traditional stereotypes. Through a rigorous analysis of ancient sources and an anthropological perspective, it sheds light on the warrior culture and patronage system of Celtic societies. Contrary to the idea of mercenarism linked to poverty, the engagement of warriors was often motivated by elitist aspirations and the quest for prestige. By also examining property structures, succession, the *ver sacrum*, migrations, and political crises, the book offers new perspectives on the social and economic dynamics influencing the development of mercenarism.

LUC BARAY, research director at the CNRS, has published several syntheses on armed conflicts in Celtic societies, including *De Carthage à Jéricho. Mythes et réalités du mercenariat celtique* (2017), *Les Celtes d'Hannibal* (2019) et *Les guerres celtiques* (2024).

*This book is volume 502 in the series*  
MNEMOSYNE SUPPLEMENTS.

ISSN 2352-8656  
[brill.com/mns-haca](http://brill.com/mns-haca)

