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To understand Roman Britain it is necessary to look at both the incoming imperial Roman society, and also the populous, talented and wealthy native British societies which the Romans encountered on arrival. Britain before the conquest. The view from Britain. Art, culture, and cultural choice. That the British tribes were talented peoples is shown by the brilliant technical and artistic quality of many of the things they made, particularly in metalwork. Notably the Celtic dialects and Latin which we think were spoken in Roman Britain were replaced by Germanic dialects. The latter, which became Old English, were hardly influenced by either Celtic or Latin. One important survival was the road network, which formed the skeleton of communications in Britain until the 18th century.