

# Hibernia

Hibernia is the Classical Latin name for the island of Ireland.

The name Hibernia was taken from Greek geographical accounts.

The Roman historian Tacitus, in his book *Agricola* (c. 98 AD), uses the name Hibernia.

The Romans also sometimes used *Scotia*, "land of the Scoti", as a geographical term for Ireland in general, as well as just the part inhabited by those people.



Unlike many Roman geographical names, the Latin "Hibernia" did not become the basis for the name for Ireland in any modern languages, with even Italian using Irlanda. Apart from the Celtic languages all modern languages use a local variant of the English "Ireland". This is because direct medieval contacts between Ireland and continental Europe were at too low a level to embed use of the Hibernian root



HIBERNIA  
COLLEGE

Hibernia is a word that is rarely used today with regard to Ireland, except in long-established names.

It is occasionally used for names of organisations and various other things; for instance: Hibernia National Bank, Hibernian Insurance Group, Ancient Order of Hibernians, The Hibernian magazine, Hibernia College, Hibernian Football Club

# Hibernia (personification)



Hibernia as a national personification representing Ireland appeared in numerous cartoon and drawings, especially in the nineteenth century.



As depicted in frequent cartoons in Punch, a magazine outspokenly hostile to Irish nationalism, Hibernia was shown as "Britannia's younger sister".

She is an attractive, vulnerable girl. Unable to defend herself, Hibernia is depicted turning to the strong, armoured Britannia for defence.

John Tenniel, now mainly remembered as the illustrator of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, produced a number of such depictions of Hibernia.

