CLASSICAL FAX*: Halloween

*(a word or phrase in Ancient Greek or Latin, or custom, which has been “faxed” to the modern era) MRBrown 1996

NOTA BENE [note well]: The source of information about the Druids and ancient Celts, in many instances, derives from Commentarii De Bello Gallico attributed to Julius Caesar.

The ancient Celts believed that the presence of otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future.
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By A.D. 43, the Roman Empire had conquered the majority of Celtic territory.
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In the course of the four hundred years during which the Romans ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin, the Feralia and festival of Pomona, were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain, the original Halloween.
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On the night of October 31, the Celts celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth before the start of the new year on November 1.
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During the celebration of Samhain, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, to ward off the ghosts of the dead.
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The Roman festival Feralia, in late October, commemorated the passing of the dead. Pomona, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees, was honored during harvest time.
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The symbol of the Roman goddess Pomona was the apple and the incorporation of her worship in the Celtic Samhain probably explains the Halloween tradition of “bobbing” for apples.
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On May 13, 609 A.D., Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in honor of all of the Christian martyrs, and the Catholic feast of All Martyrs Day was established, later observed on November 1.
CLASSICAL FAX*:  Halloween

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The All Saints Day celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse = All Saints Day) and the night before it, the traditional night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.