



1.



2.



4.



6.



3.



9.



7.



10.



5.



8.

11. The Urnes animal – the pagan beast who became Christian

Brooches decorated in the Urnes style (c 1050 – 1150), were the height of Scandinavian fashion at the beginning of the Middle Ages. The Urnes style is still full of fabulous animals. The brooches feature a large elegant animal, probably a lion, surrounded by serpent-like creatures. Is the Urnes beast a symbol of Christ, or the Christian soul's battle against evil? Or does the animal still give strength and protection to those who wear the brooch as it did in the pre-Christian past?

In the case

Urnes brooches of (gilt) copper alloy.

1. Jong, Bærum, Viken (Akershus). C14077
2. Bø-Nordigård, Lesja, Innlandet (Oppland). C27822
3. Langangen, Porsgrunn, Telemark and Vestfold (Telemark). C28696
4. By, Hole, Viken (Buskerud). C26519

Urnes brooches of copper alloy.

5. Balke, Moss, Viken (Østfold). A2017/945
6. Haug, Ullensaker, Viken (Akershus): C59331
7. Prestegården, Sør-Fron, Innlandet (Oppland). C62610
8. Seierstad, Larvik, Vestfold og Telemark (Vestfold). C37710
9. Gamlebyen, Oslo. C37175/G75488

"Dragon brooch", gold and copper alloy. The animal on some of the later Urnes brooches developed wings and became more like a dragon.

10. Prestegården, Sør-Fron, Innlandet (Oppland). C58123

