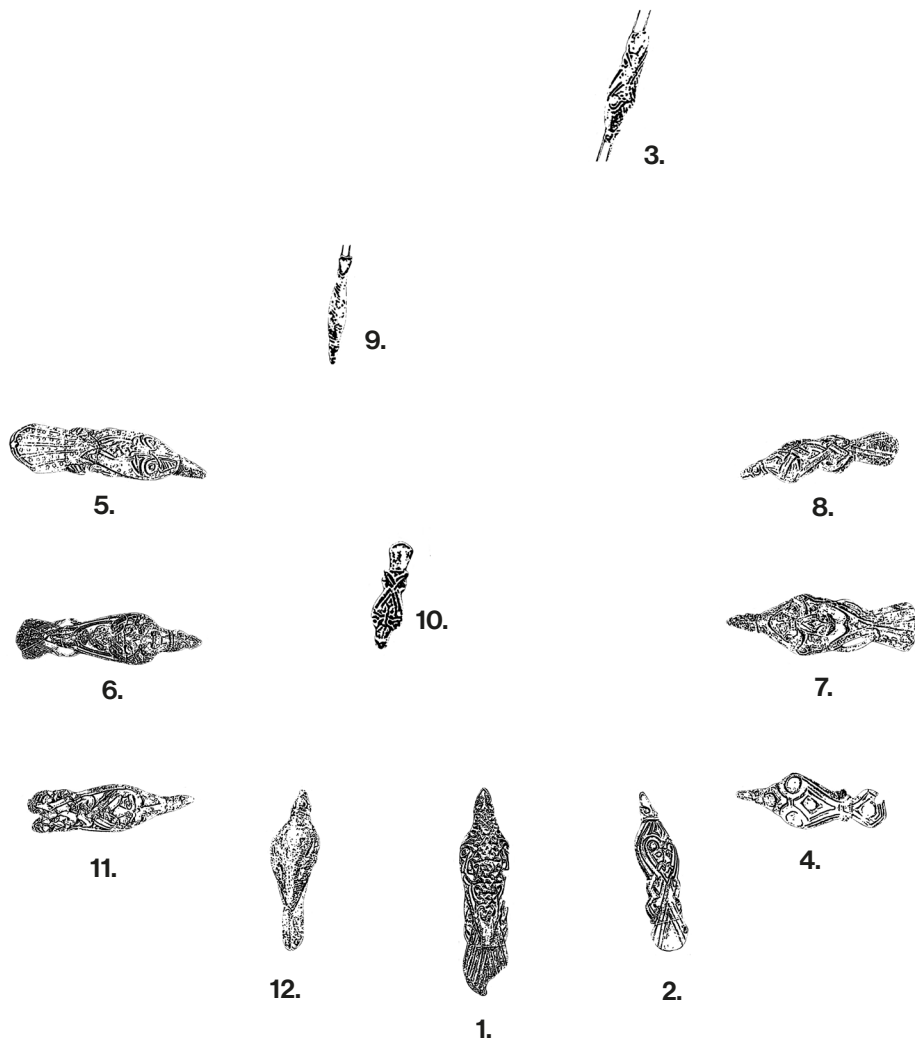




15. Bird's eye view

Birds score high on the list of fabulous beasts, especially birds of prey and carrion eaters like eagles and ravens. These birds are ferocious and dangerous, they can fly over great distances and see and hear everything.

The eagle is the most majestic of all the birds of prey, and eagle- like birds with large claws and sharp beaks appear everywhere in Iron Age Animal art. In many cultures, the eagle is associated with shamanism and soul-journeys. The god Odin was a shaman and was known to fly in the guise of an eagle. Odin is also the raven god. Like Odin, ravens are birds of war and knowledge. They are the birds of the battlefield and flock around the corpses of fallen warriors.

Every morning Odin's two ravens Hugin (Thought) and Munin (Memory), fly to other worlds and return in the evening to Odin with news and knowledge about the past and future.

In the case

With a bird on your shoulder?

Bird-shaped dress pins like these were the fashion in the 600s.

1. Holter mellom, Nes, Viken (Akershus). C56532/4
2. Aker, Innlandet (Hedmark). C53469/1
3. Listad, Sør-Fron, Innlandet (Oppland). C59329
4. Nordrum, Larvik, Telemark and Vestfold (Vestfold). C23175
5. Storhov, Elverum, Innlandet (Hedmark). C61380
6. Gaalaas (Gålås?), Ringsaker, Innlandet (Hedmark). C61471
7. Foss nordre, Sørums, Viken (Akershus). C61472
8. Huseby, Råde, Viken (Østfold). C61473
9. Bygdøy kongsgård, Oslo. C56186
10. Jessnes nedre, Ringsaker, Viken (Hedmark). C60609
11. Asla, Ringsaker, Innlandet. A2017/732
12. Elgestad østre, Ferder, Vestfold and Telemark (Vestfold). A2017/1078