

2. The sword scabbard's golden beasts

Wide bands of gull adorn the warrior's sword scabbard. The warriors wore his sword suspended from a belt fastened at the waist or across the chest. The decorative mounts on the scabbard would have gleamed like gold, a clear sign of his wealth and status. All the mounts are decorated with animal art. Some animals are easy to identify, we can see the beaks and claws of birds. Others are more abstract and difficult to understand.

The Migration Period (c 400-550 AD) is the “golden age” of Norwegian prehistory. More gold has been found in this period than in any other. Many of the gold objects are decorated with animal art. The shining, costly gold increased the animal figures' power. The golden animals made both the scabbard and the warrior stronger.

In the case

Scabbard mounts of gold from:

1. Aamdal, Farsund, Agder (Vest-Agder). C25077
2. Lerhus, Eidsvold, Viken (Akershus). C11423
3. Lerhus, Eidsvold, Viken (Akershus). C11424
4. Onsrud østre, Ullensaker, Viken (Akershus). C28057
5. Sletner, Indre Østfold, Viken (Østfold). C2468



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