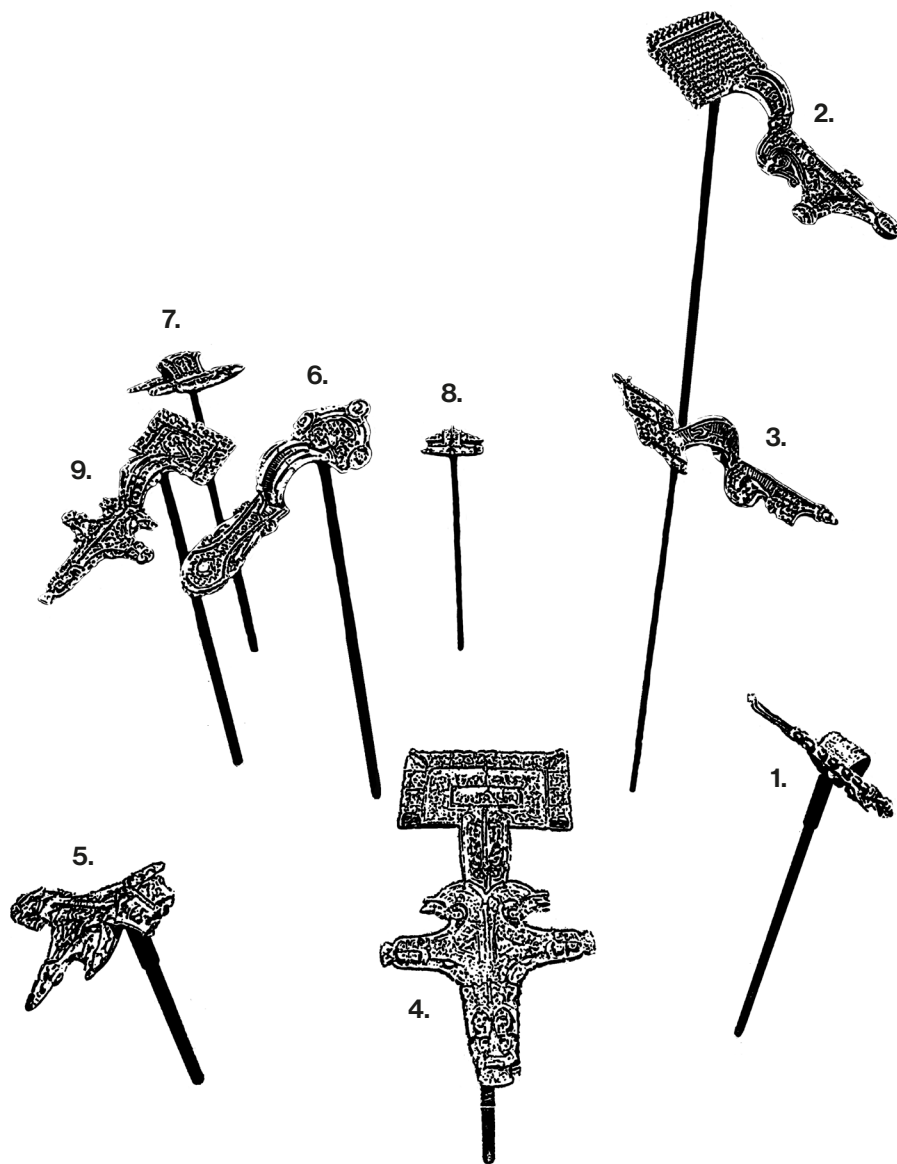




7. Bearing knowledge

These large brooches from the Migration Period (c AD 400-550) are called relief brooches. They are richly decorated and we can make out both human faces and parts of animals in the ornate designs. Some of the figures seem to be human and animal at the same time. It is not easy to understand what the figures mean. This was probably also the case in the Migration Period. The women who owned the brooches were among the chosen few who had special knowledge about the hidden animals.

In the case

Brooches of gilt silver or copper alloy.

1. This brooch of gilt silver is one of the earliest types. Spirals and other geometric patterns on the square plate are borrowed from Roman fashion. However, the "body" of the brooch takes on animal form, with outstretched arms and a head at the lower end. Eidstein, Larvik, Telemark and Vestfold (Vestfold). C19235
2. Relief brooch. Tveitane, Larvik, Telemark and Vestfold (Vestfold). C11221c
3. Relief brooch. Bratsberg, Skien, Telemark and Vestfold (Telemark). C26566
4. Relief brooch. Sande, Farsund, Agder (Vest-Agder). C55731/1
5. Relief brooch. Skrautvål (parish), Nord-Aurdal, Innlandet (Oppland). C12280
6. Relief brooch. Ommundrud, Larvik, Telemark and Vestfold (Vestfold). C29300 a
7. Relief brooch. Ommundrud, Larvik, Telemark and Vestfold (Vestfold). C29300 b
8. Relief brooch. Hægebostad, Lindesnes, Agder (Vest-Agder). C13697
9. Relief brooch. Isesjøen, Sarpsborg, Viken (Østfold). C15668

