

A. Relation between the sword and the

A: A deadly weapon and symbol of power — jewellery for a man, with magical properties, the sword gave power to the warrior; but the warrior's strength could also be transferred to the sword. That is how they were bound together: man and weapon, warrior and sword.

B. Place where the sword was found and is presently on

B: This sword was found in Langeid in Bygland in Setesdal in 2011. It is a truly unique sword from the late Viking Age, embellished with gold, inscriptions and other ornamentation. The discovery of the sword has not been published until now, when it is being displayed for the first time in the exhibition 'Take It Personally' at the Historical Museum in Oslo

C. Unique Features of the place where the grave was discovered

C: In the summer of 2011 archaeologists from the Museum of Cultural History in Oslo discovered a Viking burial ground in Langeid in Setesdal in southern Norway. In one of the graves they made a startling discovery. "Even before we began the excavation of this grave, I realised it was something quite special. The grave was so big and looked different from the other 20 graves in the burial ground. In each of the four corners of the grave there were post holes," said excavation leader Camilla Cecilie Wenn of the Museum of Cultural History.

D. Things found in the grave which Pointed to the German Viking Age of 978-1016 AD

D: The post holes reveal that there was a roof over the grave, which is a sign that the grave had a prominent place in the burial ground. But when they dug down in the coffin in the bottom of the grave, there were few traces of gifts for the afterlife only two small fragments of silver coins. The coins were from northern Europe; one was probably from the German Viking Age, judging by how it was embossed, while the other was a penny minted under Ethelred II in England dating from the period 978-1016.

E. Unearthing of a special sword while digging of the grave

E: "But when we went on digging outside the coffin, our eyes really popped. Along both sides, something metal appeared, but it was hard to see what it was. Suddenly a lump of earth fell to one side so that the object became clearer. Our pulses raced when we realised it was the hilt of a sword! And on the other side of the coffin, the metal turned out to be a big battle-axe. Although the weapons were covered in rust when we found them, we realised straight away that they were special and unusual. Were they put there to protect the dead person from enemies, or to display power?"

F. Dating of the contents of the grave, the post holes, coins pointed that it was a Viking sword

F: Dating of charcoal from one of the post holes shows that the grave is from around the year 1030, at the very end of the Viking Age. "And that fits in well with the discovery of the English coin."

G. Various materials used in the sword

G: The sword must have belonged to a wealthy man who lived in the late Viking Age. The sword is 94 cm long; although the iron blade has rusted, the handle is well preserved. It is wrapped with silver thread and the hilt and pommel at the top are covered in silver with details in gold, edged with a copper alloy thread" said project

leader Zanette Glørstad. “When we examined the sword more closely, we also found remnants of wood and leather on the blade. They must be remains from a sheath to put the sword in,” explained curator Vegard Vike. He has had the challenging task of cleaning up the handle and preserving the sword.

G. Christian Symbolism found on the sword pointin out its religious importance

H: The sword is decorated with large spirals, various combinations of letters and cross-like ornaments. The letters are probably Latin, but what the letter combinations meant is still a mystery. “At the top of the pommel, we can also clearly see a picture of a hand holding a cross. That’s unique and we don’t know of any similar findings on other swords from the Viking Age. Both the hand and the letters indicate that the sword was deliberately decorated with Christian symbolism. But how did such a sword end up in a pagan burial ground in Norway? The design of the sword, the symbols and the precious metal used all make it perfectly clear that this was a magnificent treasure, probably produced abroad and brought back to Norway by a very prominent man,” added Camilla Cecilie Weenn.

In which paragraphs can the following information be found:

- 1: The metals used in the sword’s manufacture. *G. Various materials used in the sword*
- 2: The connection between a Viking and his instrument of war *A. Relation between the sword and the warrior*
- 3: Questions about the religious significance of the discovery. *G. Christian Symbolism found on the sword pointin out its religious importance*
- 4: The current whereabouts of the weapon. *B. Place where the sword was found and is presently on display*
- 5: The 11th Century owner of the weapon. *F. Dating of the contents of the grave, the post holes, coins pointed that it was a Viking sword*
- 6: The thrill of making an archaeological discovery. *E. Unearthing of a special sword while digging of the grave*
- 7: The differentiating features of the particular resting place of the sword. *C. Unique Features of the place where the grave was discovered*
- 8: Early clues as the the age of the discovery. *D. Things found in the grave which Pointed to the German Viking Age of 978-1016 AD*