

Jewelry: buckles and pendants

The sacrificial site finds

During an archaeological excavation in 1909 of the Vuolit Orritjuovva sacrificial site, around thirty pieces of jewelry were found: buckles, beads, arm and finger rings, pendants, strap fittings, chains and buckles. The jewelry is from the 11th to the 14th centuries and made of bronze, silver and tin-rich bronze.

Some jewelry is made locally, such as trapezoidal and ax-shaped pendants. Most of the jewelry is imported from the east, from Finno-Ugric and Russian areas.

The Eastern objects have been brought here through the fur trade, which was conducted with the dominant trading center of the time, Novgorod in present-day Russia. Furs were exchanged for jewelry. In the Sami world, the jewelry took on a new, religious meaning. Here they could be used as protective amulets. Some items, such as pendants in the form of animals, were specially made for religious use among the Sami and other Finno-Ugric peoples.

The buckles

The two shield-shaped buckles in bronze are from the 11th century. Such occurred mainly in Finland and in Northern Scandinavia. They were probably made in Finland. There, the buckles were worn in pairs to hold the garment together over the chest. Here they were instead used one by one as decoration on belts and headdresses.

Pendant

A bronze pendant, also of Finno-Ugric origin, dates from the 12th to 14th centuries. The pendant is hollow and conical. It is likely that three chain links originally hung in the loops, which have been finished with bell-shaped pendants. Similar jewelry was common for women's clothing in the Finno-Ugric area. They were attached to leather cords or chains and hung from the belt or chest and jingled when you moved.

Animal pendant

Another piece of bronze jewelry is a flat, animal-shaped pendant. The pendant is dated to the earliest 11th century and the type is found in a vast area from Perm in the east all the way to Latvia in the west. The piece was probably worn as an amulet. A wool cord has been attached to the loop.