

Medieval Baltic

1) Vikings

The term Viking is customarily used to refer to the Norse (Scandinavian) explorers, warriors, merchants, and pirates who raided, traded, explored and settled in wide areas of Europe and the North Atlantic islands from the late eighth to the mid-11th century – the Viking Age.



Viking Ship Museum at Roskilde, Demark



The Trelleborg fortress near Slagelse in Odense, Demark

It is characterised by having a circular rampart with a moat and four roofed gates. The fortress has a severely geometrical street system, the inner area being divided into squares, each with four longhouses arranged in a quadrangle. The architecture of the fortress is uniform and strictly symmetrical, as clearly illustrated by the circular shape of the fortifications and the location of the gates at the four points of the compass - apparently without regard to the terrain.

The Trelleborg fortress was built around 980. But it probably did not last very long, perhaps only 10 to 20 years. It has traditionally been linked to [Harald Bluetooth's](#) efforts to unify Denmark and Norway and make the Danes Christian in accordance with his runic stone proclamation. Another interpretation links the fortress to the conquest of England and therefore to Harald Bluetooth's son, Sweyn Forkbeard. Whatever the case, the fortresses must be viewed as a monumental and military manifestation of the central power of the late Viking era.

The fortress is visible in the landscape today in the form of reconstructed embankments without woodwork or moats. In addition, reconstructions of the longhouses traceable in the fortress have been built. The landscapes surrounding the fortress clearly demonstrate the strategic location of the fortress and the military reasons for building them at what must be described as Viking era junctions.

The fortresses should probably be viewed in relation to the unification of Denmark and Norway referred to on the large runic stone in Jelling and therefore as part of the lengthy process that resulted in the integration of the Nordic countries into the European community of culture and the establishment of the Scandinavian states.

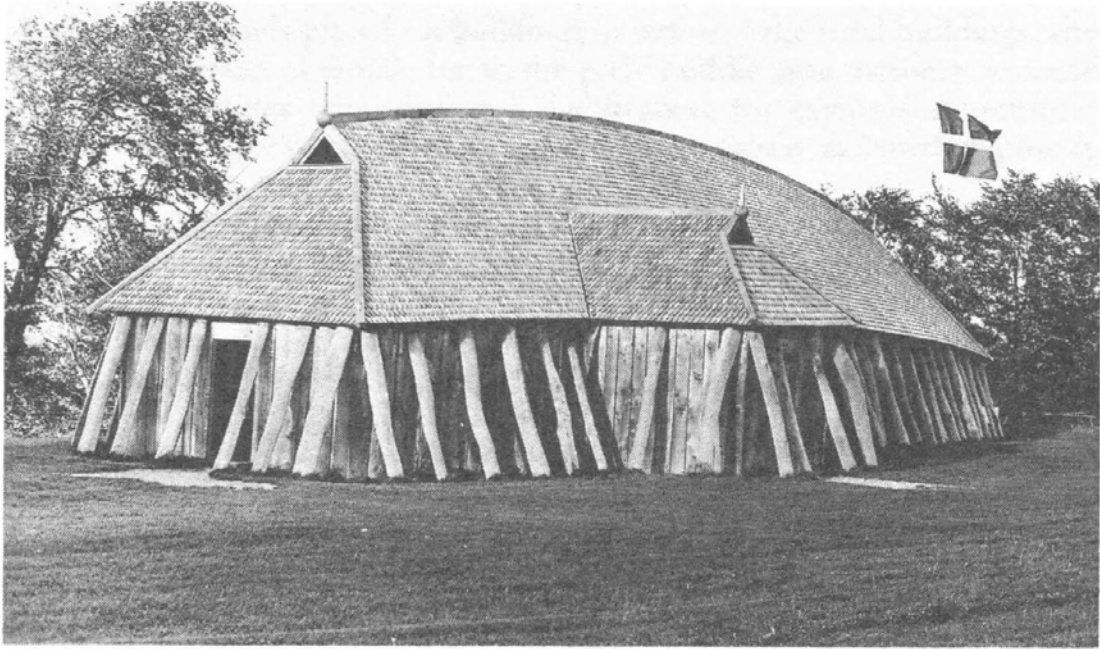


Fig. 7.10 The 'Trelleborg' type of house carried the weight of the roof on the walls. Oblique buttress timbers were needed to counteract the thrust of the roof. This is a reconstruction of a building at Fyrkat, Denmark (Photo Björn Ambrosiani)

Runic alphabet

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/runic.htm>



The older and smaller of the runestones



(*side A*) : ᚢᚢᚱᚢᚢ : ᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢ :
: ᚢ(ᚢᚱ)ᚢᚢ : ᚢᚢᚢᚢ : ᚢᚢᚢᚢ :
: ᚢ(ᚢᚢ) : ᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢ : ᚢᚢᚢᚢ

(*side B*) : ᚢᚢᚢᚢ : ᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢᚢ : ᚢᚢᚢᚢ :

"King Gormr made this monument in memory of Thyrvé, his wife,

Denmark's adornment." ([Rundata](#), DR 41)

2) Amber Route



Obverse: On the left side an image of the Eagle as the State Emblem of the Republic of Poland. On the left side an inscription: 20 ZŁ. Below: two silver Roman cups. Around an inscription: RZECZPOSPOLITA POLSKA 2001. Under the left talon of the Eagle the Mint mark: MW.

Reverse: A stylised map of Europe with the Amber Route marked by stars. Above a piece of amber, below a denarius with an image of Nero. On the left side a semicircular inscription: SZLAK BURSZTYNOWY (Amber Route).

http://www.nbp.pl/homen.aspx?f=/en/banknoty/kolekcyjne/2001/bursztyn_20zl.html



Ludmila Shalyna: pendant "Time"



sculpture "A Toad"

Amber Trade and the Environment in the Kaliningrad Oblast

<http://www1.american.edu/ted/amber.htm>

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 Princess of Qidan (1001-1018)

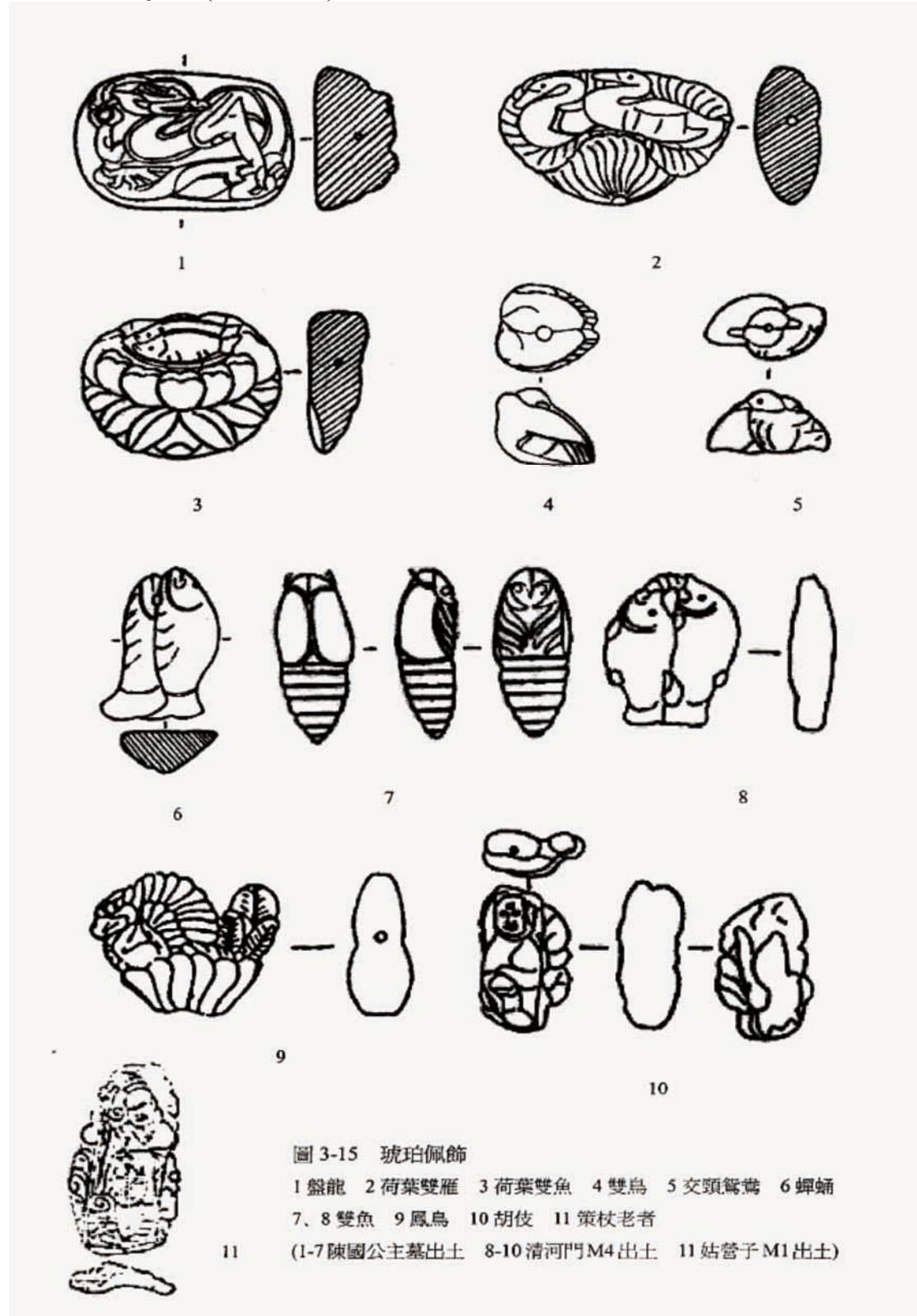


圖 3-15 琥珀佩飾
 1 盤龍 2 荷葉雙雁 3 荷葉雙魚 4 雙鳥 5 交頸鴛鴦 6 蟬蛹
 7、8 雙魚 9 鳳鳥 10 胡伎 11 策杖老者
 (1-7 陳國公主墓出土 8-10 清河門M4出土 11 姑營子M1出土)

3) Teutonic Knights



Reformation in Scandinavia



*A sketch of 1780 for decoration in Christiansborg Palace by **Nikolaj Abildgaard**. The painter's intention was undoubtedly to glorify the Oldenburg dynasty, which had ruled Denmark since the early Middle Ages, in one of the relatively rare history paintings commissioned there at that time.*

While theology may be the queen of all branches of knowledge, the **Catholic Church** as an ecclesiastical institution enjoyed a very masculine role as the most powerful social authority in the pre-Reformation Nordic region, a supranational power even

ving with kings in the exercising of temporal and political authority. However, the advent of the Reformation and the changes which followed in its wake created a violent break with **the Nordic Catholic past, itself only a few centuries old**. The Church's power has been eroded slowly from a position around 1500 of immense and unassailable spiritual and temporal authority, to one which by our own century more resembles **a charitable society** for the liberally minded. The first serious fissures were apparent in the early years of the sixteenth century and may be seen as a beginning to a centuries-long process in which the rigid reign of one all-encompassing and autocratic church was thrown off for a more circumscribed ecclesiastical authority, held in tight rein by the monarch and his government. This, in turn, was itself to give way in more recent times to a **pluralistic and tolerant church**, living in peace and harmony with both heretics and non-believers, and with contemporary power politics playing only a very indirect role.

In the 1520s, however, such a pacific stance was certainly not in evidence. On the contrary, it was a period of militant confrontation with respect to both politics and religion; indeed, the two were inextricably linked. This state of affairs must, of course, be seen against the background of the Protestant Reformation in Germany and the views of Martin Luther and others who rejected many established Catholic beliefs and traditions. For it was at this time that itinerant German preachers began to spread the Protestant message, especially in coastal towns. The German-educated King **Christian III of Denmark** (1503-1559) had met **Martin Luther** himself and had been considerably influenced by the latter's Protestant beliefs. Assuming the throne after a **bloody civil war in 1536**, this deeply religious king went on to establish **Lutheranism** as the one church of Denmark.

Neil Kent, The Soul of the North – a social, architectural and cultural history of the Nordic Countries, 1700-1940, London: Reaktion Books Ltd. 2000.

4) Hanseatic League



Lübeck and Hamburg Treaty, 1241

In the thirteenth century and after the Baltic and North Seas came to form a sort of "northern Mediterranean" in which lands and ports were drawn into connection and trade by sea links. Due to common problems of piracy, excessive customs, and discrimination, some of the trading cities began to look to each other for mutual aid and protection. In 1241 the ports of Lübeck and Hamburg signed a treaty of mutual aid. It eventually grew into an entire league of such cities, and an independent power in its own right - the Hanseatic League.



The advocate and common council of Lübeck. . . . We have made an agreement with our beloved friends the citizens of Hamburg.

- 1. That if by chance robbers or other evil men rise against our citizens or theirs, from that place where the river which is called the Trave flows into the sea to Hamburg, and thence along the Elbe to the sea, and if they assail our citizens or theirs, whatever costs or expenses are incurred for extirpating those robbers we ought to share with them, and they with us.**
- 2. If by chance any criminal should outrageously kill, wound, beat, or, God forbid, in any way ill-treat outside the city any burgess of Hamburg or Lübeck whom he has accused, whatever expense is incurred in taking him and punishing him, we shall share with them and they with us this condition being added, that whatever happens to their citizens near their city, and to our citizens near our city, they with their citizens, and we with ours, shall punish at the expense of the city.**
- 3. Further, if any of the burgesses of their near our city of Lübeck, or burgesses near the city of Hamburg, should be ill-treated, we shall surrender the doer or doers of the deed for punishment, and they will surrender such people to us at the expense of the commune likewise**

From Roy C. Cave and Herbert H. Coulson, *A Source Book for Medieval Economic History*, (Milwaukee, WI: Bruce, 1936), pp. 232-33. Reprinted in Leon Bernard and Theodore B. Hodges, eds. *Readings in European History*, (New York: Macmillan, 1958), 115-116



The coin issued by Cook Islands is dedicated to the city of Lübeck. It belongs to "Hanseatic League" series.

HANSEATIC LEAGUE - CITY OF LÜBECK - COOK ISLANDS 2009

The northern German city of Lübeck was one of the principal cities of the Hanseatic League, a league of merchant cities which held a monopoly over the trade of the Baltic Sea and the North Sea. The functioning of the Hanseatic League is not only proof of early economic co-operation in Europe, but it also founded a social and cultural community which has left its mark throughout the region, particularly in the self-contained architectural world of brick Gothic. The coin obverse depicts the city in very high details, in particular the Holsten Gate ("Holstein Tor", later "Holstentor") is a city gate marking off the western boundary of the old center of the Hanseatic city of Lübeck, and the Lutheran Marienkirche (St. Mary's church) constructed between 1250 and 1350. For many years it has been a symbol of the power and prosperity of the old Hanseatic city, and as Germany's third largest church it remains the tallest building of the old part of Lübeck.

The reverse, common for all coins in the series, shows Queen Elisabeth II effigy and a stylized image of the cities that belonged to the Hanseatic League.

HANSEATIC LEAGUE

The Hanseatic League was an alliance of trading cities that was established during the Late Middle Ages and Early modern period, c.13th- 17th centuries. This alliance was able to control trade monopoly along from the North Sea to the Baltic Sea along the Northern European coast. This alliance was also often referred to as the Hansa. There are many reasons other than the ones above that the Hanseatic cities are so significant

from a historical point of view. Perhaps the biggest reason is the fact that the cities were controlled by their own law system and mutual aid.

Most historians have tracked the origins of the Hanseatic League to during the time period when Duke Henry the Lion of Saxony started to rebuild the Lubeck in 1159 in Northern Germany. This reconstruction occurred after Henry had helped to capture the town from Count Adolf II of Holstein. After this happened, Lubeck became one of the premier locations for trading along the cost and acted as a means of trading with towns over seas.

http://www.powercoin.it/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=419&language=en