

PRESS RELEASE

Horse and Rider in the late Viking Age

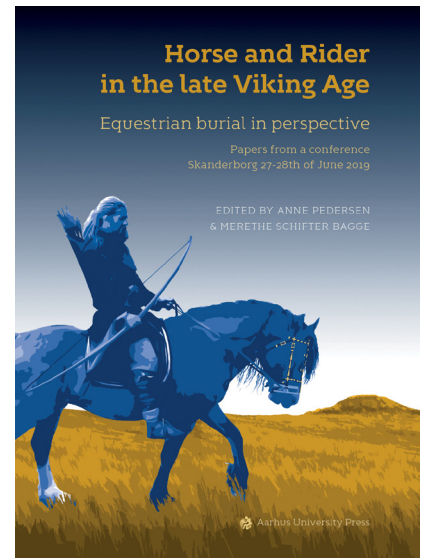
Finds of Viking-Age elite graves are rare: the custom of burying the most powerful in chambered graves with equestrian equipment are known from approximately 80 finds in the old Danish area. Few of these burials are well documented. But in 2017 an exceptionally rich equestrian burial from the 10th century was discovered at Fregerslev near Skanderborg, Denmark. The burial contained a high-status horseman, buried with valuable grave goods. *Horse and Rider in the late Viking Age* seeks to place the burial in a wider context. First of all, the preliminary results from the excavation of the Fregerslev burial are embraced. The finds and scientific results demonstrate what a remarkable burial this once was. Moreover, the description of the excavation methods and documentation procedures, the sampling strategies, and the following conservation and preservation of the finds, gives an idea of the many new scientific approaches, which may be useful when dealing with a decomposed grave in the future.

Contributions also explore the social, political, cultural and religious background of equestrian burial in a variety of countries, including Slovenia, Scotland, Sweden, England and Iceland. Was the burial from Fregerslev and others like it, an expression of a new powerful elite? New religious symbolism? New funerary rituals? New cultural impulses and changing values?

THE EDITORS

Anne Pedersen is Senior Researcher at the National Museum of Denmark

Merethe Schifter Bagge is Curator at Museum Skanderborg



HORSE AND RIDER IN THE LATE VIKING AGE. EQUESTRIAN BURIAL IN PERSPECTIVE

Edited by Anne Pedersen and
Merethe Schifter Bagge

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