

A
Scandinavian History
Burials & Grave Goods
Bibliography

Bolin, Hans, 'The Absence of Gender', *Current Swedish Archaeology*, 12 (2004), 169-85 [UL/NF6 P595.b.1] – *discusses the definitions of male and female graves and artefacts.*

Jørgensen, Lars, 'Family Burial Practices and Inheritance Systems: The Development of an Iron age Society Form 500 BC to AD 1000 on Bornholm, Denmark', *Acta Archaeologica*, 58 (1987), 17-53 [UL T 468.b.1.50] – *studies the graves in Bornholm in order to evaluate their social and economical status. The findings indicate the existence of a system of inheritance as late as the Late Roman Iron Age (c. AD 175-375).*

Næss, Jenny-Rita, 'Some Reflections on the Study of Burial Customs in Norway', *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, 4 (1972), 23-7 [UL/NF6 P592.b.11.2] – *presents the attitude of Norwegian archaeology towards the analysis of graves.*

Ringstedt, Nils, 'The Birka Chamber-Graves, Economical and Social Aspects: A Quantitative Analysis', *Current Swedish Archaeology*, 5 (1997), 127-46 [UL P595.b.1.13] – *investigating the chamber-graves found in Birka (Sweden), Ringstedt concludes that they were built for the wealthy belonging to different social strata.*

Solberg, Bergljot, 'Social Status in the Merovingian and Viking Periods in Norway from Archaeological and Historical Sources', *Norwegian Archaeological Review*, 18 (1985), 61-76 [UL/NF6 P592.b.11.9] – *investigating several grave finds from the Merovingian and Viking periods, Solberg discovers three groups of people, which may indicate the existence of a stratified society.*

Myhre, Bjorn, 'The Royal Cemetery at Borre, Vestfold: A Norwegian centre in a European periphery', in *The Age of Sutton Hoo*, ed. by Martin O. H. Carver (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 1992), pp. 301-13 [UL/NF3 477:7.c.95.34] – *analyses the cemetery and grave goods in Borre and discuss them within a North European perspective.*

Andersson, Gunnar, 'A Struggle for Control: Reflections on the Change of Religion in a Rural Context in the Eastern Mälaren Valley', in *Visions of the Past: Trends and Traditions in Swedish Medieval Archaeology*, ed. by Hans Andersson, Peter Carelli and Lars Ersgård, Lund Studies in Medieval Archaeology, 19 (Stockholm: Riksantikvarieämbetet, 1997), pp. 353-72 [UL/NF6 596:3.c.95.15] – *discusses the problems involved when attempting to define whether a burial represents Christian or Pagan traditions. These traditions, the archaeological evidence shows, survived together and one influenced the other.*

also:

Gräslund, Anne-Sofie, *The Burial Customs: A Study of the Graves on Björkö, Birka*, 4 (Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1981)

Randsborg, Klavs, 'Social and Religious Implications of the Burials', *The Viking Age in Denmark: The Formation of a State* (London: Duckworth, 1980), pp. 121-35 [UL/NF6 597:2.b.95.8, UL/Reading Room 9592.c.67]

B
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Essay

Choose any or all of the articles above, which cover several geographical areas and chronological periods, and discuss what burials and grave goods can tell us about Scandinavia before and/or during the Viking Age.

You may also choose to discuss the subject from a theoretical perspective. For instance, taking Næss's articles as a starting point, you could discuss how burial and grave goods are used in archaeological/historical research; or, using two or more articles, you can compare their authors' methods of investigation. For instance, you can discuss Jørgensen's definition of female and male graves in the light of Bolin's article.