

THE SWORD IN ANGLO-SAXON ENGLAND



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The Sword In Anglo Saxon England Its Archaeology And Literature

Jean Cook



The Sword In Anglo Saxon England Its Archaeology And Literature:

The Sword in Anglo-Saxon England Hilda Roderick Ellis Davidson, 1998 This study concerns the importance of the sword in Anglo Saxon and Viking society with reference to surviving swords and literary sources especially Beowulf The Sword in Anglo-Saxon England Hilda Roderick Ellis Davidson, 1994 **The Sword in Anglo-Saxon England** Hilda Roderick Ellis Davidson, 1962 The sword is closely associated with all that was most significant in a man's life in the Anglo Saxon world: family ties, loyalty to a lord, the duties of a king, the excitement of battle, the attainment of manhood and the last funeral rites. Hilda Ellis Davidson explores the revelations of archaeology, methods of sword making and references in Anglo Saxon poetry and Old Norse sagas to reveal a past where the sword was of supreme importance as a weapon and as a symbol. She restores a vital dimension to Old English literature and endows those few surviving swords in museums with a real glamour and magic. She shows that for a fuller understanding of Anglo Saxon poetry it is important to have due regard to the warrior culture from which it sprang and of the potent part played by the sword within that culture. Much can be learnt from surviving swords and from the context in which they are discovered. Careful study of the disposition of swords found in peat bogs in Denmark and in graves, lakes and rivers in the British Isles yields information on religious and social practices. The swords themselves and their decoration reveal the technical skill and cultural achievements of the people who wielded them. To read Beowulf is to be immediately aware of the aura of magical power the poet vested in the sword. Hilda Ellis Davidson's other concern in this book is to look at literary sources for what they reveal of the quality of a good sword and its significance in Anglo Saxon and Viking societies. For Viking raiders played as important a part as Anglo Saxon colonists in the history of early medieval Britain. A survey of the sword in Anglo Saxon historical records and poetry is followed by an exploration of descriptions of the sword and of the parts of the sword in Old Norse literature. The real world of the Anglo Saxons is brought into dramatic close focus through this thorough study of the physical remains and literary memorials of a highly charged symbol. BOOK JACKET Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America Inc. All Rights Reserved

The Lords of Battle Stephen S. Evans, 1998-09-10 In examining the image of the comitatus or war band as it is portrayed in literary and historical sources from Britain's early medieval period, this work attempts to determine the extent to which this image reflects an historical reality. **Warfare and Society in the Barbarian West 450-900** Guy Halsall, 2008-01-28 Warfare was an integral part of early medieval life. This book looks at warfare in a rounded context in the British Isles and Western Europe between the end of the Roman Empire and the break up of the Carolingian Empire.

Beowulf John D. Niles, 2008 More than one hundred glorious images, many of objects dating from the time of the story, enhance Seamus Heaney's masterful best-selling translation. Composed toward the end of the first millennium, Beowulf is the elegiac narrative of the Scandinavian hero who saves the Danes from the seemingly invincible monster Grendel and later from Grendel's mother. Drawn to its immense emotional credibility, Seamus Heaney gives the great epic convincing reality for

the reader But how to visualize the poet s story has always been a challenge for modern day readers In Beowulf An Illustrated Edition John D Niles a scholar of old English brings Heaney s remarkable best selling translation to life More than one hundred full page illustrations Viking warships chain mail lyres spearheads even a reconstruction of the Great Hall make visible Beowulf s world and the elemental themes of his story death divine power horror heroism disgrace devotion and fame Now this mysterious world is transformed into one that only becomes more amazing after viewing its elegant goblets dragon images finely crafted gold jewelry and the Danish landscape of its origins *Living by the Sword* Kristen Brooke Neuschel,2020-11-15 Sharpen your knowledge of swords with Kristen B Neuschel as she takes you through a captivating 1 000 years of French and English history Living by the Sword reveals that warrior culture with the sword as its ultimate symbol was deeply rooted in ritual long before the introduction of gunpowder weapons transformed the battlefield Neuschel argues that objects have agency and that decoding their meaning involves seeing them in motion bought sold exchanged refurbished written about displayed and used in ceremony Drawing on evidence about swords from wills inventories records of armories and treasuries in the possession of nobles and royalty she explores the meanings people attached to them from the contexts in which they appeared These environments included other prestige goods such as tapestries jewels and tableware all used to construct and display status Living by the Sword draws on an exciting diversity of sources from archaeology military and social history literature and material culture studies to inspire students and educated lay readers including collectors and reenactors to stretch the boundaries of what they know as the war and culture genre Riddles at work in the early medieval tradition Megan Cavell,Jennifer Neville,2020-03-13 Capitalising on developments in the field over the past decade Riddles at work provides an up to date microcosm of research on the early medieval riddle tradition The book presents a wide range of traditional and experimental methodologies The contributors treat the riddles both as individual poems and as parts of a tradition but most importantly they address Latin and Old English riddles side by side bringing together texts that originally developed in conversation with each other but have often been separated by scholarship Together the chapters reveal that there is no single right way to read these texts but rather a multitude of productive paths This book will appeal to students and scholars of early medieval studies It contains new as well as established voices including Jonathan Wilcox Mercedes Salvador Bello and Jennifer Neville **Lost Gold of the Dark Ages** Caroline Alexander,2011 Through beautiful landscape photography cutting edge technology and a treasure trove of precious artefacts this title recreates the crucible of England s creation the mysterious dark ages *Daily Life in Anglo-Saxon England* Sally Crawford,2009 An introduction to the daily life of men women and children living in England from the end of Roman Britain in the 5th century AD to the Norman Conquest based on documentary and archaeological evidence The Sword in Early Medieval Northern Europe Sue Brunning,2019 A wide ranging study of the significance of swords throughout the whole Anglo Saxon period offering valuable insights into the meaning of and attitude towards swords Swords were

special in Anglo Saxon England Their names deeds and pedigrees were enshrined in writing Many were curated for generations revealed by their worn and mended condition Few ended their lives as casual discards placed instead in graves hoards and watercourses as part of ritualised acts Contemporary sources leave no doubt that complex social meanings surrounded these weapons transcending their use on the battlefield but they have yet to transcend the traditional view that their primary social function was as status symbols Even now half a century after the first major study of Anglo Saxon swords their wider significance within their world has yet to be fully articulated This book sets out to meet the challenge Eschewing modern value judgements it focuses instead on contemporary perceptions exploring how those who made used and experienced swords really felt about them It takes a multidisciplinary and holistic approach bringing together insights from art archaeology and literature Comparison with Scandinavia adds further nuance revealing what was and was not distinctive of Anglo Saxon views of these weapons Far from elite baubles swords are revealed to have been dynamic living artefacts with their own identities histories and places in social networks ideas fuelled by their adaptability durability and unique role in bloodshed Sue Brunning is Curator of European Early Medieval Collections at The British Museum

Truth Is Trickiest Jennifer Neville, 2024-11-30 At the end of the tenth century English manuscript the Exeter Book there is a collection of almost one hundred riddles They are notable for many reasons but one feature in particular has challenged modern readers their lack of solutions In *Truth Is Trickiest* Jennifer Neville argues that the absence of solutions rather than being an unfortunate accident uncovers an essential quality of these texts In opposition to the general expectation that a successfully solved riddle will have one correct answer Neville argues that the Exeter Book riddles are written to generate multiple solutions The correct response to an Exeter Book riddle is not a single elegant solution but instead an ongoing process of interpretation that leads readers to question what they think they know *Truth Is Trickiest* contextualizes its readings within the larger field of Old English poetry early medieval material culture and Anglo Latin riddles The book pursues the central issue of interpretation in relation to social values craftsmanship hierarchical social structures violence irony humour and sexuality It concludes with a full list of previously proposed solutions to document the history of the ongoing argument that the Exeter Book riddles have provoked

The Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries of Caistor-by-Norwich and Markshall, Norfolk John Nowell Linton Myres, Barbara Green, 1973 Report on the largely cremation cemetery excavated in the 1930s full illustration of pots and other items Discussion of pottery by Myres and interesting comments on other objects by Barbara Green

The Archaeology of the Oxford Region Jean Cook, 1986

The Sword in Anglo-Saxon England Hilda Roderick Ellis Davidson, 1962

Rome, Britain and the Anglo-Saxons N. J. Higham, 1992

JEGP, Journal of English and Germanic Philology Gustaf E. Karsten, 1996

The Heroic Poetry of Dark-Age Britain Stephen S. Evans, 1997-03-20 Heroic Poetry provides a wide ranging introduction to selected aspects of Britain's principal works of Celtic and Anglo Saxon heroic poetry regarding their dating method of composition and use as historical sources The historical and cultural context in which these

poems were composed is recounted by examining court poets and their poetry and the importance that they were accorded by the warrior elite for whom they sang The author also gives a brief review of oral theory and examines the applicability of oral theory to the examples of dark age poetry Under consideration is the Anglo Saxon poem Beowulf and the Old Welsh poems The Gododdin and the poetry of Taliesin The dating and transmission of these poems are discussed plus a wide range of arguments to assign dates for composition Beowulf s oral genesis is placed in the sixth century and a written version in the early seventh century The author assigns Gododdin s composition to the mid sixth century while Taliesin s poetry is viewed to have been composed ca 560 80 This book is unique in providing a clear and concise introduction for the heroic poetry of both the Britons and Anglo Saxons **The Archaeological Journal** ,2009 **University of California Union Catalog of Monographs Cataloged by the Nine Campuses from 1963 Through 1967: Authors & titles** University of California (System). Institute of Library Research,University of California, Berkeley,1972

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