

Vikings

Ædwen's Brooch

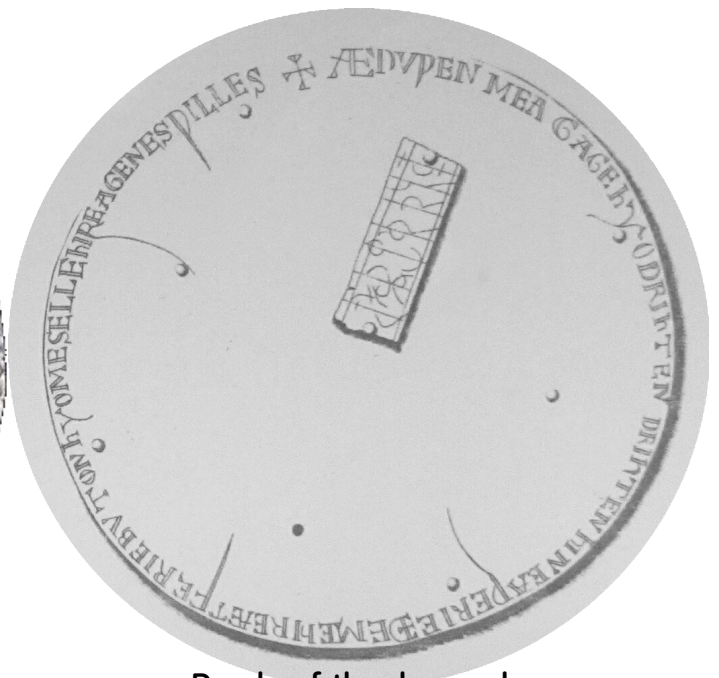
Ædwen's Brooch is a beautiful silver brooch made in the early 11th century. It was found in Sutton, near Ely, in 1694. The brooch can usually be seen on display at the British Museum, but in 2015 the brooch was displayed in a special exhibition at Ely Museum!

It was found with a number of coins from the period of William the Conqueror, which makes archaeologists believe it was probably buried during his reign. A silver disk and five gold rings were found with it, but these and the coins are now missing, and haven't been seen since the early 18th century. The brooch was also mysteriously missing for centuries before it was brought to the British Museum.

The design on the brooch shows four animals in a circular and floral pattern. The style of the pattern shows Viking influences on an Anglo-Saxon brooch. On the back of the brooch is a curse and some rune-like symbols.



Front of the brooch



Back of the brooch

The back of the brooch has a rhyming Old English inscription.

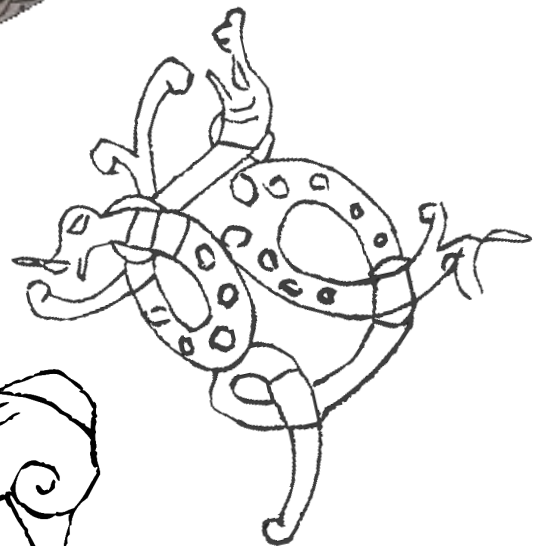
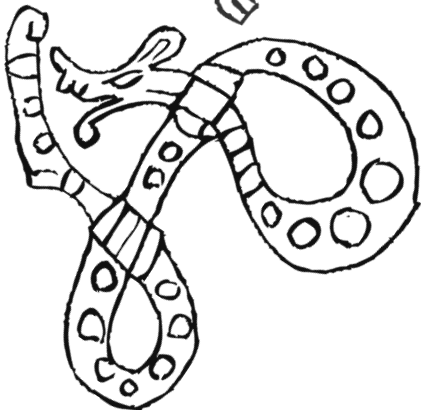
The inscription tells us who owned the brooch but is also a curse! It reads;

'Ædwen owns me, may the Lord own her. May the Lord curse him who takes me from her, unless she gives me of her own free will'

vikings

Ædwen's Brooch

The brooch is covered in mysterious beasts, animals and plants. How many different creatures can you see on Ædwen's Brooch?



vikings

Design your own brooch

Will you include animals, patterns or words on your brooch?

Why not choose things that reflect your personality and interests?

Front

Back

