A2629-Eur-Sweden-Late Urnes Style Brooch-Bronze-c 1150 CE

 

Figs. 1-2. Eur-Sweden-Late Urnes Style Brooch-Bronze-c 1150 CE

**Case no.: 4**

**Accession Number: A2629**

**Formal Label:** Eur-Sweden-Late Urnes Style Brooch-Bronze-c 1150 CE

**Display Description: From Wikipedia**

The **Urnes Style** is a Scandinavin art style of the 12th c CE which is named after the northern gate of the Urnes stave church in Norway, but most objects in the style are runestones in Uppland, Sweden, which is why some scholars prefer to call it the Runestone style.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-national-2-15)

The style is characterized by slim and stylized animals that are interwoven into tight patterns.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-national-2-15) The animals heads are seen in profile, they have slender almond-shaped eyes and there are upwardly curled appendages on the noses and the necks.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-national-2-15)

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Upplands_Runinskrift_871.jpg)

[Uppland Runic Inscription 871](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uppland_Runic_Inscription_871) showing Åsmund's craftmanship in the Early Urnes Style.

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Urnesportalen.jpg)

The eponymous carving on the [Urnes stave church](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urnes_stave_church) is an example of the late Urnes Style stage.

**Early Urnes Style**

The early style has received a dating which is mainly based on [runestone U 343](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orkesta_Runestones#U_343), [runestone U 344](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_Runestones#U_344) and a silver bowl from c. 1050, which was found at Lilla Valla.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-sig206-16) The early version of this style on runestones comprises [England Runestones](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England_Runestones) referring to the [Danegeld](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danegeld) and [Canute the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canute_the_Great) and works by [Åsmund Kåresson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%85smund_K%C3%A5resson).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-sig206-16)

**Mid-Urnes Style**

The mid-Urnes Style has received a relatively firm dating based on its appearance on coins issued by [Harald Hardrada](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harald_III_of_Norway) (1047–1066) and by [Olav Kyrre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olaf_III_of_Norway) (1080–1090). Two wood carvings from [Oslo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo) have been dated to c. 1050–1100 and the Hørning plank is dated by [dendrochronology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dendrochronology) to c. 1060–1070.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-sig207-17) There is, however, evidence suggesting that the mid-Urnes style was developed before 1050 in the manner it is represented by the [runemasters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runemaster) [Fot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fot) and [Balli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balle_(runemaster)).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Viking_art#cite_note-sig207-17)

**Late Urnes Style**

The mid-Urnes Style would stay popular side-by-side with the late Urnes style of the runemaster Öpir of Uppland. He is famous for a style in which the animals are extremely thin and make circular patterns in open compositions, or, in this case where no animal is depicted the curving lines herald a distinctive variant. Uppland on the eastern coast of Sweden is just north of Stockholm and is bordered by lake Mälaren and the Baltic sea. Uppland has the highest concentration of Runestones in the world, with as many as 1,196 inscriptions in stone left by the Vikings.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:** 1150 CE

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References**: Fuglesang, S.H. 1998. Swedish runestones of the eleventh century: ornament and dating, Runeninschriften als Quellen interdisziplinärer Forschung (K.Düwel ed.). Göttingen.