

KVINDEN I GRAVEN

THE WOMAN IN THE GRAVE

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Kvinden i graven

Kvinden var sikkert ikke ret gammel, da hun blev båret til graven. Hendes skelet lå umageligt på den bare jord nede i graven. Måske havde hun oprindeligt ligget på et fint lag af smukke blomster?

I graven havde de efterladte placeret en krukke. Traditionen var, at det døde menneske skulle have noget mad med på hendes rejse til dødens rige. Måske var hendes alt for små børn blandt de sørgende rundt omkring graven?

Sidste år var en arkæologi-interesseret mand heldig. Han fik af en lokal bonde- mand lov til at søge med metaldetektor på et stykke jord højt over den nærved liggende store ådal.

Heldet var med manden. I løbet af kort tid havde han fundet mere end to hundrede små metalgenstande som metalspænder og smykker.

Han viste sine fund til de professionelle arkæologer, og så gik det stærkt. I løbet af kort tid blev der skabt finansiering og ressourcer til at få markerne omkring bondemandens gård undersøgt.

Arkæologerne var forbavsede. De fandt hurtigt spor af et kæmpe gravområde. Gravene strækker sig over flere bakkedrag i området. Alle er indtil nu dateret til den yngre romerske jernalder eller ældre germanske jernalder fra årene 200-500 efter Kristi fødsel. Gravfelternes størrelse er på mere end 1,2 hektar. Arkæologerne har vurderet, at der må være mere end fem hundrede grave i området.

Udgravningerne er nødvendige her og nu. Landbrugets aktiviteter med store maskiner og plove har allerede ødelagt mange gravfelter.

Denne dag i slutningen af september har

de lokale muligheder for at bese udgravningerne. Arkæologerne fortæller om fundene. Flere spændende fund er lagt frem for de interesserede gæster.

Oplevelsen gør mig lidt eftertænksom. Gravene er næsten to tusinde år gamle, og der er ingen relationer mellem de døde og den nuværende generation af mennesker i lokalområdet. Gravene bliver åbnet og tømt for alt af interesse for arkæologerne.

Det hele foregår i en frejdig atmosfære. Der synes ikke at være antydningen af en højtidelig og andægtig stemning hos arkæologerne og deres gæster. Måske skal det være sådan? Måske har også gravfrenden sin tid, og den er nu slut for den unge kvinde i jernaldergraven?

The woman in the grave

Probably, the woman was not quite old, when she was carried to her grave. Uncomfortably, her skeleton was laying on the bare soil in the grave. Perhaps she originally had been placed on a fine layer of beautiful flowers?

In the grave, the surviving relatives had placed a jar. It was traditional to place some food for the dead to her journey to the kingdom of the dead. Maybe her too young children were among the grieving around the grave?

Last year, an archaeology-interested man was lucky. He was allowed by a local farmer to search with a metal detector on a piece of land high above the adjacent large river valley.

The man succeeded. In a short time, he found more than two hundred small objects of metal such as metal buckles and ornaments.

He showed his finds to the professional archaeologists, and they acted quickly. In a short time, funding and resources were found to investigate the fields around the farm.

The archaeologists were astonished. Quickly, they found traces of a giant area of graves. The graves covered several hillsides in the landscape. Until now, all the graves are dated to the younger Roman Iron Age or older Germanic Iron Age from the years 200-500 A.D. The size of the fields of graves is more than 1.2 hectares. The archaeologists have estimated that there must be more than five hundred graves in the area.

The excavations are needed here and now. The agricultural activities with large machines and ploughs have already destroyed many grave fields.

This day at the end of September the

locals are invited to visit the area of excavation. The archaeologists tell about the findings. Several interesting finds are laid out for the interested guests.

The experience makes me a little thoughtful. The graves are almost two thousand years old, and there are no relationships between the dead and the present generation in the local area. The graves are opened and emptied for everything of interest to the archaeologists.

It all takes place in a free and easy atmosphere. There seems to be no hint of a solemn and devout atmosphere between the archaeologists and the locals. Well, this may be quite in order? Perhaps also the grave peace has its time, and now the peace is ended for the young woman in the iron-age grave?



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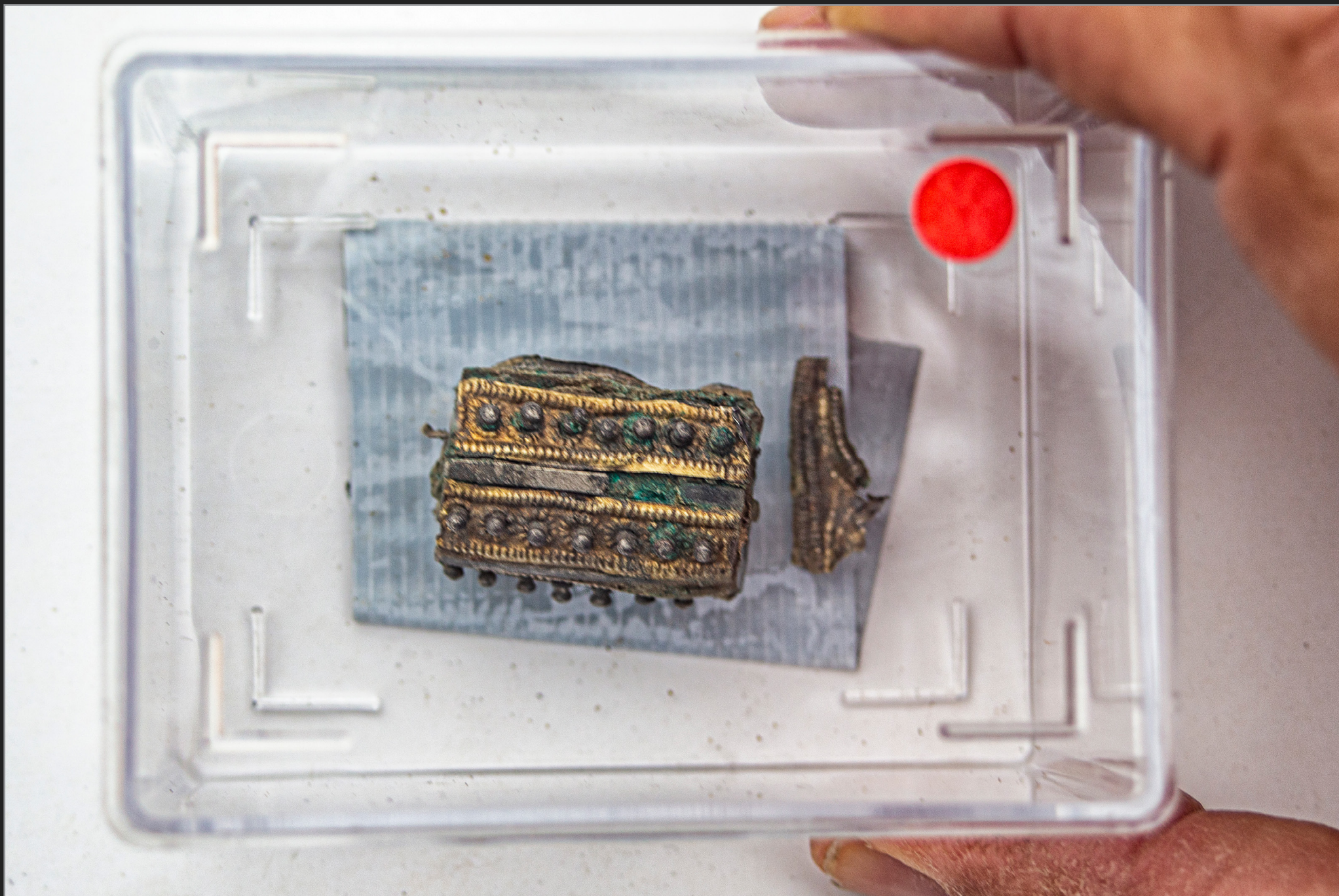
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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Kvinden i graven
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The woman in the grave
By Keld Jensen*

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