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Replica Jewelry: K. NORMAN Guldsmide AB. By: Liu, Robert K. Ornament. Summer99, Vol. 22 Issue 4, p32-33. 2p. 5 Color Photographs. Abstract: The article reports on the replica jewelry maker K. Norman Guldsmide AB. Norman provides museums and stores with replica jewelry primarily of Viking Age design. Their inventory includes Viking metal brooches, pendants, bracelets, loose beads, and strung necklaces. Glass beads for the jewelry are manufactured in India. (AN: 32631574)

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K. NORMAN Guldsmide AB

AUTHOR:Robert K. Liu

TITLE:K. NORMAN Guldsmide AB

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Scandinavia is a land rich in archaeological discoveries, especially of the Viking Age. Norse peoples, known for their fierce warriors and skilled seafaring, were also excellent traders and craftspeople. Thus there are many finds of their jewelry, consisting of both locally made and imported metal, stone and glass ornaments. Beads also constituted a large part of the find material. In 1980, a major exhibition on the Vikings was organized by the British Museum, and enabled Americans to see some of this jewelry. One could purchase replica Viking glass beads but these were made in Japan. After twenty years, another major show will debut in June 2000 at the Newfoundland Museum, emphasizing L'Anse aux Meadows, where Vikings

landed and interacted with Native Americans.

K. Norman Guldsmide AB, which consists of the principals Kenneth Norman and his wife Sa-ard, was founded in 1979 and primarily supplies museums and stores with replica jewelry, mostly Viking Age, but also later medieval. Because of the widespread influence and colonization of the Vikings, they sell to museums not only in Scandinavia (Sweden, Norway and Denmark), but also Finland and England. In addition, they run a retail shop, Guldriktet or Land of Gold, which sells to private customers. Whether wholesale or retail, their clients display an interest in Scandinavian history and culture. Each piece of jewelry is accompanied by a brochure that contains information about its background. Their inventory consists of replicas of Viking metal brooches, pendants, bracelets, loose beads, including antique ones, and strung necklaces. Some of the metal jewelry uses molds pulled from actual prototypes, such as those from Birka; for others, the masters are made by the Normans. The original Viking methods of manufacturing and tools are used; casting and fabrication predominate.

Since many of the stone beads and pendants originally used by the Vikings were probably trade goods made in India, it seems appropriate that the replicas are now made there. Khambhat, or Cambay, India, not only produces many stone beads for worldwide sale, but it is increasingly used by those who desire to have replicas made. Given the intense demand for archaeological material, this substitution of replicas has positive benefits by easing pressure, aided by the excellent quality of the copies.

Glass beads are now made by craftspeople in many Western and Asian countries, with India and Indonesia being among the most active. Those offered by the Normans are made by the Banares Bead company of India, which has made glass beads for many years. While some of the patterns of trailed beads used by the Vikings can be duplicated, it is very difficult to imitate the intricate mosaics and chequer patterns preferred from A.D. 800 to 1,000 by the Norse.

ADDED MATERIAL

Author Robert K. Liu is Coeditor of Ornament.

HAMMER OF THOR AMULETS, symbol of the Norse god of thunder and weather. Replicas made in Sweden by K. Norman Guldsmide AB, except for the carnelian, which is made in Cambay, India. Of sterling silver, eighteen karat gold or bronze, they are based on specimens found in archaeological sites. From left to right: Birka (1.1 centimeters wide); Eketorp, Horda, Herrestad (2.7 centimeters wide) and Stenby.

Photographs: Robert K. Liu/Ornament.

STONE BEADS AND AMULETS, made in Khambhat, or Cambay, India. The agate and stone beadmaking industry has existed for millennia in this country and neighboring Pakistan. Most of these carnelian, agate and rock crystal bead types are seen in Viking necklaces, except for the lenticular rhomboid bead. The carnelian hammer of Thor is based on a Viking prototype in amber; beads are 0.6-5.8 centimeters long.

STERLING SILVER BRACELETS, based on prototypes found at Spillings, on the island of Gotland, Sweden, circa A.D. 950 (left-hand) and Vullum, Norway, circa A.D. 850, 7.6-8.2 centimeters wide. These plain or twisted/plaited wire bracelets or armrings are similar in construction to Viking neckrings or torques, frequently made of gold wire.

REPLICA VIKING GLASS BEADS, made by the Banares Bead company of India, with whom the Normans have worked for years. These are either monochrome melons or have trailed or mosaic decorations; the prototypes are from Birka, Sweden, and Eidem, Norway. The chequer pattern was prominent on many Viking beads. Actual mosaic or millefiori beads possessed by the Vikings were among the most beautiful of this genre. Others in Scandinavia, such as Torben Sode, have also been engaged in replica beadmaking. Those shown are 1.2-3.9 centimeters high.

REPLICA VIKING METAL JEWELRY, based on prototypes found at the important trade center of Birka on the island of Björkö, Sweden. The Christian crosses reflect the number of converts to Christianity around A.D.

800. Much jewelry then was cast in molds, of fired terracotta or less frequently, of stone. These replicas are of sterling silver or bronze, but eighteen karat gold is also available; the brooch is 5.1 centimeters wide, while the heart pendant is 1.6 centimeters high.

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