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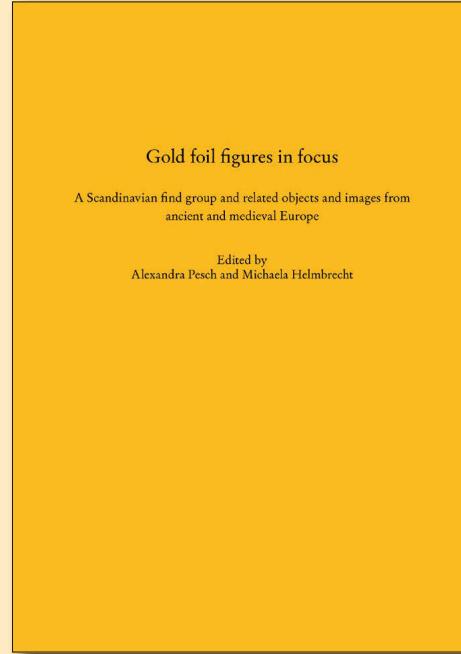
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**Gold foil figures in focus**  
Alexandra Pesch and Michaela Helmbrecht

A Seafarers' food group and related objective and subjective variables among seafarers working in Europe

Nearly four thousand tiny gold foil figures were found at significant archaeological sites in Scandinavia: a fascinating material from the 6th to 8th c. AD. They show anthropomorphic figures, both male and female and some with unclear gender, clothed and unclothed, singly or in pairs, very rarely animals. Some are elaborately designed, others are roughly cut. Despite copious research during the past decades, the function and meaning of the tiny foils is in many respects still an enigma. However, their decipherment is of key importance for the understanding of the northern European cultures of their time. This book contains state-of-the-art contributions from scholars in multiple fields of research, elucidating several different perspectives on these intriguing archaeological objects and searching for new approaches and new interpretations. All things considered, the concept, manufacture, and usage of gold foil figures must be regarded as a result of supra-regional crises. However, they also are evidence of cultural survival and social reorganisation.



# Gold foil figures in focus

## A Scandinavian find group and related objects and images from ancient and medieval Europe

Edited by

Alexandra Pesch and Michaela Helmbrecht



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# Gold foil figures in focus

A Scandinavian find group and related objects and images from ancient and medieval Europe

Advanced studies in ancient iconography.

Papers from an international and interdisciplinary workshop organized by the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology (ZBSA) in Schleswig, Schloss Gottorf, October 23rd–25th 2017

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## Setting the stage

Alexandra Pesch, Michaela Helmbrecht

The story of the gold foil figures, as beautiful as they are, is one of environmental catastrophe and socio-cultural decline, the loss of cultural memory, social marginalization, and the overwhelming impact of Viking Age iconography. This paper presents the results of the workshop ‘Gold foil figures in focus’ and the diverse high-medieval finds. This finding was one of the results of the workshop ‘How we have found them’.



# Gold foil figures in focus

## Contents

Foreword 7

Preface 9

Setting the stage (Alexandra Pesch, Michaela Helmbrecht) 11

Gold foil figures – fact and fiction? (Margrethe Watt) 35

## Scandinavian imagery

Gestural expressions in Norwegian Style I (Siv Kristoffersen) 73

Human images in the art of Scandinavia, 4th–6th centuries AD. A stylised abstraction of the human form in ritual disguise (Bente Magnus) 83

Scandinavian figurines – relatives of the gold foil figures, and a new find from Old Uppsala (Torun Zachrisson) 105

The gold foil figures within the imagery of the Vendel Period and the continuation of their motifs into the Viking Age (Michaela Helmbrecht) 131

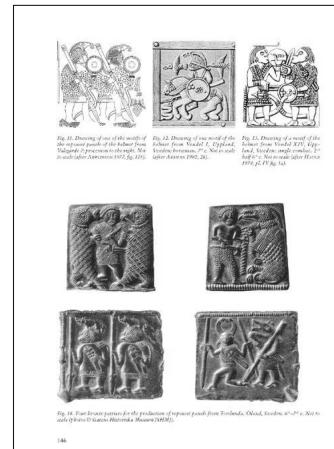
## Other imageries and image aspects

Framing matters (Charlotte Behr) 151

From Rome to the Viking Period: an overview of anthropomorphic imagery from the British Isles (Sonja Marzinkik) 171

Menschenbilder der Kelten – Anthropomorphe Darstellungen der Eisenzeit in Mittel- und Westeuropa (Jennifer M. Bagley) 205

Anmerkungen zum Verhältnis der skandinavischen Goldblechfiguren zur Kunst der Römischen Kaiserzeit (Manuel Flecker) 229



Gold, Geld, Glaube – Frühbyzantinische Goldobjekte und deren figürliche Darstellungen (Yvonne Petrina) 239

Late Roman Period gold foil pendants stamped with anthropomorphic and zoomorphic ornaments found in the Barbaricum (Kyrylo Myzgin) 255

Fingerspiele – (Mittelalterliche) Gesten und Goldblechfiguren (Axel Christoph Gampp) 279

## A world of warriors?

Continental figural repoussé works of the Merovingian Period (Michaela Helmbrecht) 291

Kaftan, Straffhaar und Stab. Ein Goldblechfiguren-Motiv und die Bilderwelt Europas im 6.–9. Jahrhundert (Egon Wamers) 313

Images of Roman and Byzantine imperial dress – inspiration for the Scandinavian gold foil figures? (Svante Fischer) 339

## Research history and special questions

Communicating with the gods via humanoid images – the meaning and function of the gold foil figures with pairs in the view of history of religions (Olof Sundqvist) 359

Karl Haucks Studien zu den skandinavischen Goldblechfiguren – Zusammenfassung, Kritik und neue Überlegungen (Sigmund Oehrl) 389

## Gold foil figures in focus: results of workshop I

Gold foil figures in focus: synthesis and results (Alexandra Pesch, Michaela Helmbrecht) 427

