

Guests in the House

Cultural Transmission between Slavs
and Scandinavians 900 to 1300 A.D.

By

Mats Roslund

Translated from Swedish by Alan Crozier



BRILL

LEIDEN • BOSTON

2007

CONTENTS

Preface and Acknowledgements	xi
List of Illustrations	xv
Chapter One The Power of the Past	1
Introduction	3
Perspective and method—the itinerary of an archaeologist	8
For a self-critical contextual archaeology	10
The hidden ties	17
The Slavs	18
Alliances and wars in the south	22
The outlook on the Slavs in the <i>Ostsiedlung</i>	29
From cultural integration to conflicts of interest in the east	34
A people with smokehouses and kvass	39
From ‘subhumans’ to a part of Scandinavia’s history	42
Ur-Slavs and the Pan-Slavic aspiration for a Slavic identity	43
To arms! Slavic archaeology in hot and cold wars	48
“The poor Slavic culture...”. The view of the Slavs in Scandinavian archaeological and historical research	61
Conclusions	73
Chapter Two The Encounter	77
Cultural identity and material culture	78
Ethnic categorization in the Middle Ages	78
Race, tribe, and ethnic identity	86
From essentialism to subjectivism—a historical reorientation	91
Cultural and ethnic identity—anthropological renewal	97
Four questions for archaeologists	102
Conspicuous signals and low-key communication	120

Cultural transfer	128
Style and cultural transfer	128
Pottery and cultural identity	139
Conclusions	151
Chapter Three Preparing the Gift	155
The Ideological Potter's Wheel Models to Explain	
Changes to Early and Middle Slavic Pottery	156
From the Danube to the Baltic	159
From the Black Sea to Ladoga	174
Pottery, change, and ideology	187
Late Slavic Pottery in the Homelands	198
The tribes in the west	201
Pomerania and the Great Poland of the Piasts	223
Rus'	245
Conclusions	258
Chapter Four Scandinavian reception	261
Baltic Ware—a Definition	264
Eastern Denmark	279
Lund	279
Lund between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic	
traditions	284
Conclusion	305
Rural Skåne	307
Rural Skåne between Slavic and Scandinavian	
ceramic traditions	308
The countryside and Lund	319
Conclusion	322
Rural Halland	323
Rural Halland between Slavic and Scandinavian	
ceramic traditions	324
Conclusion	329
Rural Blekinge	330
Rural Blekinge between Slavic and Scandinavian	
ceramic traditions	330
Conclusion	333

Gotland	334
Visby	334
Visby between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	337
Conclusion	344
Rural Gotland	344
Rural Gotland between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	345
Conclusion	353
Götaaland	353
Småland and Öland	353
Köpingsvik and Kalmar	354
Rural Småland and Öland	358
Baltic ware from Berga and Eketorp	358
Småland and Öland between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	361
Conclusion	363
Västergötland	363
Skara	363
Skara between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	365
Conclusion	374
Lödöse	375
Lödöse between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	376
Conclusion	380
Rural Västergötland	381
Rural Västergötland between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	381
Conclusion	385
Östergötland	385
Skänninge, Linköping and Söderköping	385
Skänninge, Linköping, and Söderköping between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	391
Conclusion	394
Rural Östergötland	395

Rural Östergötland between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	395
Conclusion	400
The Mälaren valley	400
Between west and east—black earthenware in Birka	402
Sigtuna	406
Sigtuna between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	409
Conclusion	434
Nyköping, Södertälje, and Strängnäs	449
The towns around Mälaren between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	437
Conclusion	448
Rural sites in the Mälaren valley	449
The rural Mälaren valley between Slavic and Scandinavian ceramic traditions	452
The countryside and towns of the Mälaren valley	463
Conclusion	467
Chapter Five Slavic Guests in the Scandinavian House	469
Contacts and Baltic ware—what the potsherds tell us	472
Arrival—the time before 1000	472
Consolidation—the first half of the eleventh century	473
Separate paths—the second half of the eleventh century	476
Maximum—the first half of the twelfth century	480
The watershed—the second half of the twelfth century	484
The beginning of the end—the thirteenth century	489
Shades of black-regional consumption patterns	491
People and Baltic ware—the potter's tale	495
The memory of hands, the receptivity of humans	496
The guests who arrived—Slavic contacts	505
Slaves and guests	505
Idiosyncratic assimilation	514
Broken ties, firm handshakes	516
Farewell and welcome	521

CONTENTS

ix

Baltic ware and Slavic identity	525
The power of the present over the past	527
Literature	531
Index	551