**Medieval Masculinities and Violence: Weapon-Related Trauma in Skeletal Assemblages from Two Religious Houses in Iceland and Sweden**

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**Supplementary Material**

**S1: Brief Overview of Military Organisation and Weapons during the Nordic Late Middle Ages**

Military organisation in Sweden during the Middle Ages centred on *ledungen*, regional groups under royal control obligated to support the king with ships, men, and equipment (Varenius, 1999). With the growth of the aristocracy, heavy cavalry was introduced and regulations from the late 1200s show that the nobility was expected to provide the king with cavalry forces (Lindkvist & Sjöberg, 2010: 222–223). From the second half of the fifteenth century, however, the military importance of the nobility decreased. Continental military tactics, especially associated with Swiss mercenaries, motivated the reorganisation of the armed forces, and the infantry grew in importance (Lindkvist & Sjöberg, 2010: 222–223; Neuding Skoog, 2018). Nonetheless, military identity was closely associated with the nobility, who were the only persons allowed to carry weapons in public in peacetime (Neuding Skoog, 2018).

In Iceland, during its thirteenth-century civil war, the retinues of chieftains became professional armed forces. These professional retinues were still used in late medieval Iceland, and the size of the retinues of bishops, lawmen, and other officials was regulated. Simultaneously, the older system of soldiering, with peasants taking up arms under the command of their chieftains, continued into late medieval times, and armies gathered in this way could be in the hundreds or even more than a thousand (Júlíusson, 2007). In late medieval Iceland, the crown had limited power and no central monopoly on violence. This situation changed with the Reformation in the mid-sixteenth century, when the Danish crown strengthened its control over the realm. In the conflicts associated with the Reformation, fleets with hundreds of soldiers were sent to Iceland in 1541 and 1551 to enforce Danish rule (Cunningham, 2011).

Among the elite, the weapons of offence were swords, lances (if mounted) and battle hammers. The defensive garments of a knight could include plate armour. Peasant forces, according to Nordic medieval laws, used swords foremost and sometimes axes, spears, and bows (Sandstedt, 2002). From the mid-fifteenth century, peasants employed crossbows and pole weapons (Neuding Skoog, 2018). For protection, shields, mail, lamellar armour, and helmets (Swedish *järnhatt*) were used to varying degrees. Mercenaries, often from Germany, could be hired for larger military campaigns. Denmark, in particular, employed many mercenary troops and deployed them in campaigns in Sweden (Neuding Skoog, 2018). Mercenaries might carry swords of varying types, pikes or halberds, crossbows, and, in the late Middle Ages, hand-held firearms (Sandstedt, 2002).

Though swords were long considered to be the most prestigious weapon and, in the late Middle Ages, were primarily connected with mounted knights (Solberg, 1993), they were clearly also used by peasant forces (Sandstedt, 2002). The crossbow was, however, the most common weapon in the late medieval period, used by peasants, townspeople, and noblemen’s retinues (Neuding Skoog, 2018). In addition, peasants involved in longer conflicts became more experienced and could be regarded as semi-professionals. Under the provincial laws of Sweden, the lowest age of military service was 18−20 years, but by the early sixteenth century, 15 years old was mentioned as the minimum age (Neuding Skoog, 2018).

Weapons were present not only in secular society but also in monasteries. For example, crossbow bolts were recovered at the excavations of Skriðuklaustur (Kristjánsdóttir, 2012) and Västerås (Drakenberg, 1970). Armour such as helmets, hauberks, and metal collars for neck protection were listed in the inventories of Icelandic monasteries, such as Þykkvabæjarklaustur (1340), Munkaþverárklaustur and Möðruvallaklaustur (1525) (*Diplomatarium Islandicum*, 1909–1913: 192, 302, 319).

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**S2: List of Individuals with WRT**

*Abbreviations: M: male; F: female; ?: undetermined sex. Age groups: adolescents: 12–20 years old; young adults: 20–35 years old; middle adults: 35–50 years old; old adults: 50+ years old.*

*Skriðuklaustur*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grave** | **Sex** | **Age group** | **Type of injury** | **Bone(s) involved, side** |
| 4 | M | Middle adult | Fracture, antemortem | Left and right nasal bones |
| 50 | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Mandible, right side |
| 81 | F | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, perimortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| 145 | M | Old adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| 187 | F | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Mandible (maxilla?), central |
| 215 | ? | Adolescent | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Mandible, central |
| 238 | F | Old adults | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Mandible, left side |

*Västerås*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Grave** | **Sex** | **Age group** | **Type of injury** | **Bone(s) involved, side** |
| A 11, 130 II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side, and right parietal bone |
| A 24 I | M | Middle adult | Fracture, antemortem | Right maxilla |
| A 49 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Right scapula |
| A 52 II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| A 78 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, central |
| A 120 II | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
| A 147 II | M | Old adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| A 164 I | M | Old adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| A 173 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| A 250 I | M | Adolescent | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, central |
| A III II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Parietal bone, left side |
| B 8 II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| B 9 II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| B 16 I | M | Young adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| B 19 II | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, perimortem | Left parietal bone |
| B 27 II | M | Adolescent | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
| B 28 II | M | Young adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| B 39 I | M | Adolescent | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
| B 48, 49 II | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Right parietal bone |
| B 51 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| B 92/26 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| B 121 I | ? | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| B 147 I | M | Old adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| B 157 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
|  |  |  | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
| C 13 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| C 63 II | M | Young adult | Blunt-force trauma, perimortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| C 65 II | M | Old adult | Fracture, antemortem | Left and right nasal bones |
| D 9 II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
| E 11 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side, and left maxilla |
| E 16 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone |
| E 47 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Right parietal bone |
| E 48 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 49 II | M | Young adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem (healing) | Left parietal bone |
|  |  |  | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| E 50 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem (healing) | Frontal bone, left side |
| E 55 I | M | Young adult | Sharp-force trauma, perimortem | Cervical vertebrae C5–C6 |
| E 56 I | M | Middle adult | Penetrating trauma, metal object, antemortem | Sphenoid bone, left side |
|  |  |  | Fracture, antemortem | Right zygomatic bone |
|  |  |  | Sharp-force trauma, perimortem | Cervical vertebra C7 |
| E 57 I | M | Adolescent | Sharp-force trauma, perimortem | Cervical vertebrae C3–C4 |
| E 75 I | M | Middle adult | Fracture, antemortem | Left and right nasal bones |
| E 90 I | F | Adolescent | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, central |
| E 101, 176 II | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Right parietal bone |
| E 107 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| E 110, 112 II | M | Young adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 126 II | M | Adolescent | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 144 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| E 164 II | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, central |
| E 200 I | M | Middle adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Left parietal bone (two cuts) |
|  |  |  | Penetrating trauma, perimortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 201 II | M | Young adult | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 230, 297 II | F | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |
| E 232 I | M | Young adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 271 I | F | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 341 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side, and right parietal bone |
|  |  |  | Sharp-force trauma, perimortem | Occipital and left parietal bones |
| E 346 I | M | Old adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Left and right parietal bones |
| E 369 | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, perimortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 370 I | M | Middle adult | Blunt-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, right side |
| E 371 I | M | Adolescent | Sharp-force trauma, antemortem | Frontal bone, left side |