

current around the Baltic Sea, but female fashion was more conservative. Throughout the Viking Age and later, women continued to wear the traditional mantle-dress resembling the Greek *peplos*, and only their jewellery and the amount of spiral decoration changed throughout that period (cat. no. 200, 220).

As in Scandinavia, Finnish women wore three brooches as dress fasteners, but they never adopted the Scandinavian oval brooches. Round brooches came into fashion in Finland at the end of the eighth century, and this continued to be the dominant shape throughout the Viking Age. The most popular purely ornamental objects were bead necklaces and finger-rings. The abundant use of ring ornaments and spiral decoration on clothing was a feature which the Finns had in common with their southern neighbours (cat. no. 249–50), and is a fashion which distinguishes them from the Scandinavians. Small bronze wire spirals were sewn onto garments almost everywhere where Finno-Ugrians lived, including Latvia.

This fashion came to Finland at the beginning of the Viking Age. At first the ornaments were small and rather simple, but in the tenth century men's cloaks, waistbands and garters were decorated with complicated interlaced ornaments, and at the beginning of the eleventh century the hems of women's aprons were decorated with large spiral appliqués. But it was not until the late eleventh century that women's cloaks with rich spiral decorations came into fashion in western Finland. These cloaks, with their spiral borders and applied roundels, stars, and crosses, seem to have been copied from the cloaks worn by the Madonna in Byzantine art. Perhaps some of the icons of the Eastern Church had fascinated Finnish travellers who then described them at home, their verbal images being skilfully transformed into ornament.

Traits indicative of contacts with continental fashion can also be seen. In the twelfth century the women wore a circular silver brooch, at the neck of their tunic, as depicted in contemporary manuscript illumination. The circular silver brooch became an essential part of female costume in eastern Finland, but it was often imported from Gotland or the Swedish mainland.

The abundant grave-goods also include many Iron Age tools (cat. no. 204–11). Knives and agricultural implements such as sickles, scythes and shears, are the commonest; but carpenters' and smiths' tools are also found, although not as frequently as in Norway.

Finns were not buried with their horses, but some graves contain bridle-bits, which might reflect a belief that there would be horses in the next world, and that they could then be mounted. Many men were buried with their dogs.



*Fig. 5. Female clothing reconstructed on the basis of the finds from a grave in Luistari, Eura, Finland (cat. no. 200). It represents Finnish fashion at the beginning of the 11th cent. All the articles of clothing are of wool and the details are copied from the finds in one grave. The reconstructed dress is as similar as possible to the original; for example, the yarn was spun as the original and dyed with vegetable dyes. The basic design of the garment was the same throughout the Finnish area. The archaic dress, known as the Greek *peplos*, was used in both west and east Finland. The chain-decorations with round brooches and spiral-ornamented apron are also important elements which distinguish the Viking Age Finnish female dress from the Scandinavian.*