



## EDITORIAL NOTE



*Thyre Dannebod grundlægger Dannevirke* (Thyra Dannebod establishes the Danevirke), Lorenz Frølich, 1855. Color illustration for the fourth edition of the 1914 book *Illustreret Danmarkshistorie for Folket* (Illustrated history of Denmark for the people, original black and white).

*Johnni Langer*<sup>1</sup>

Editor-in-Chief

In 2023, Queen Thyra once again became the focal point of Viking Age researchers. An ongoing interdisciplinary investigation has unveiled several novel insights into the renowned queen, particularly in relation to the Jelling II runestone (DR 42, 10th century AD) and other runestones. Runologist Lisbeth Imer, in collaboration with archaeologists Kitzler Åhfeldt and Henrik Zedig, employed 3D typology research to ascertain that the master carver of the Jelling runestones, as well as those from Læborg and Bække in southern Jutland, was Ravnunge-Tue. The identification of the individual responsible for the inscriptions was achieved through a

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comparative analysis of the shape, depth, and language of various runestones. Additionally, the presence of the name "Thyra" in the latter two runestones solidified her identity as the wife of King Gorm, the father of Harald Bluetooth—the inaugural unifier and principal Christianizer of Denmark. These research findings were officially published in October 2023 (Imer; Åhfeldt; Zedig, 2023, pp. 1262-1278).

Queen Thyra attained significant renown during the 19th century, emerging as a central figure in Denmark's historical narrative. In this period, marked by conflicts with the German Confederation over border disputes, she played a pivotal role. Drawing from Saxo Grammaticus, Thyra was credited as the organizer and planner of the Danevirke fortification—a structure crucial in segregating Danean populations from the Germans during the Viking Age. Despite the archaeological revelations of the 20th century challenging the myth of Thyra as the initiator of Danevirke, recent studies on runestones have underscored her involvement in shaping the Danish state during the tenth century. Notably, the artistic representations of Queen Thyra during the two Slesvig wars (1848-1864), particularly Lorenz Frølich's illustration, depict her as the nation's savior and nurturing mother (Adriansen; Jenvold, 1998, p. 10).

Although archaeological research from the 20th century debunked the notion of Thyra as the sole initiator of Danevirke, it concurrently highlighted her role in the formation of the tenth-century Danish state—a narrative further substantiated by recent runestone studies. This dynamic relationship between History and Archaeology underscores an ongoing process of research, discoveries, deconstructions, and new perspectives. Lisbeth Imer, a key contributor to the research on Queen Thyra, is also involved in a groundbreaking study on bracteates in 2023.

The publication of the analysis results of bracteate IK 738, discovered in 2020 in the Vindelev region, Jutland, has altered the trajectory set by Klaus Hauck in the 1970s. Dating back to 450-490 AD, the bracteate contains the earliest written reference to the main Germanic god and refers to a person named Jagaz, possibly a king or warlord, who received divine legitimacy from Odin. This finding suggests that Jagaz may have been the principal cult leader of his community (Imer & Vasshus, 2023, pp. 60-99).

In this collaborative spirit among the sciences studying Scandinavia, we present the new edition, featuring seven articles and eight reviews spanning diverse fields of Norse studies,

available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. An interview with Professor Terry Gunnell from the University of Iceland is included, and we express our gratitude for his collaboration.

We also announce the forthcoming seventh edition of the journal in 2024, which will showcase a thematic dossier on *Viking Age Archaeology*, while continuing to publish free articles within the Scandinavian theme and scope. Our sincere thanks to everyone supporting studies and research in Latin America and Brazil.

**Bibliographic references:**

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