

NORWAYS HISTORY FROM 1500 B.C. TO 500 A.D.

Norway and its history disappear in darkness before 800 A.D. Earlier glimpses from the area and surrounding oceans can be found by antique writers. A basic element in the development of Norway in the past was the high quality iron ore deposits in the mountain bogs high above sea level.

Danes, Rugians and Gauls.

Norway was the north-eastern corner of the Eurasian continent. 1500 B.C. Danes, expelled from Egypt as Hyksos, settled in Skåne in Sweden, in Denmark and north to Karmøy in Norway. They were a fraction of the Hyksos who in a period of more than 100 years had been masters of Egypt. The Danes site in Karmøy was *Aballos Neso*, Island of Apollo, today *Avaldsnes*. They started extraction of Tin and Copper in the Ryfylke area. Other Danes from Jutland started iron-production west of lake Mjösa 1400 B.C.. Pure Iron was reduced from bog ore in reducing crucibles of clay, with hydrogen, H₂, as reducing agent. Description of the process, p. 27 ff, examination of a pure iron bar p. 59. The Danes were behind the Scandinavian Bronze-age. They may have participated in the raid of the Sea people to the Mediterranean 1200 B.C. where they tried to reconquer Egypt. After this their activities decreased. Avaldsnes was in Roman times an important harbour for ships to and from Britain, and a starting point for ships sailing along the coast of Norway to the north.

From 1200 B.C. or shortly afterwards the Rugians, a Venetic people, migrated in different directions from the southern shore of the Baltic. Some settled on the southwestern coast of Norway. By Pliny and Pytheas their name is Guiones. Their full name in Greek was Rugiones. They increased the Tin-production in Ryfylke. After the visit of Pytheas from Massalia who brought the Phoenicians in on the driver side about 330 B.C., the Tin production increased once more. Forsandmoen was then a large industrial site. The ships loaded Tin on the island of Idse, which Pliny named Itis □ The Tin Island. About 250 furnaces and burnt stone on Forsandmoen remains to this day of the Tin production. It ceased about 500 AD, but cassiterite is still found there.

In the last millennium B.C. Gauls in the Möse-valley who were exposed to yearly plunder by Germans from the east and Celts from south and west sailed out and settled along the coast of western Norway up to Trøndelag. Other Gaul farmers moved over land up to lake Mjösa in eastern Norway and settled where the conditions for farming were good.

Quality steel and pure iron for the Roman empire.

Lowcarbon steel had made its entrance in Europe in the last millennium BC., and was used for tools and weapons. Some of the first steelmakers came from the area south of Merv in today's Turkmenistan and settled in Anatolia. They are named Hittites and produced carbon steel with a direct process using CO as reducing agent. Their process was a secret but when their reign collapsed 1200 B.C. the process was brought around by migrating Hittites, to southeastern and central Gaul, later to Carinthia in today's Austria where the Noric kingdom sold steel to the Romans. Phoenicians brought the process to Norway 300 B.C..

At year 0 the world was dominated by three great powers, China, the Kushan empire and the Roman empire. Of those Rome at that time was without an own production of quality steel. They bought seric steel, Chinese steel, which was transported by ships from India, or through Partia by caravans to the Roman area. The transport was expensive and exposed to plundering bands and sea robbers. Emperor Augustus and Rome's aim was to produce high

quality steel in an own area with safe transport to the Roman markets. The same ore as the Seres, Chinese, used were found in the Norwegian mountain bogs. It was practically free from Sulphur and Phosfor.

Year 123 B.C. the Phoceans of Massalia had joined the Roman empire. The Romans from that time had sailors and entrepreneurs who knew the ironore and sailing routes to Norway. From emperor Augustus time Norway was part of a Roman strategic plan for steelproduction. Ironproducing Hadui from Bibracte were by year 10 B.C. setteled in Norway. Augustus also wanted to secure the sailingroutes from the Rhine-mouth along the northwest German cost to Norway. He built the Drusus canal from Rhine to the North Sea and concoured the northwest German tribes. The Germans responded 3 years later in the Varus fight. Tree Roman legiones were defeted. Augustus abandoned the steel-project. The import of seric steel via India increased, to a high cost. This was the situation in Tiberius time as emperor. Then a criple everybody could agree on was made emperor.

Year 43 A.D. emperor Claudius decided to solve the steel problem. After some concideration he decided to let the steeltransport from Norway follow the Tin-routes, west over the North Sea from Aballos Neso to Britain, then south along the British cost to the Rhinemouth and Gaul. For security reasons the eastern parts of Britain had to be concoured. Administration, processpeople and slaves were needed in Norway. The Noric king in Carinthia was deported together with experts used to Siderit-ore. These people were of the Hadui tribe who had moved to Carinthia from Gaul in the fourth centery B.C.. In Norway they joined the Hadui from Bibracte. Deported as slaves were Rhätians from the Alp valleys between northern Italy and the Donau border. Those people startet steelproduction in Norway with the Noric direct process. Noumerus slagheaps from their production have been found in the Norwegian forests near the bogs. These ironproducers got more slag than iron. Most of the iron in the ore was after their direct process found in the slag.

The steelproduction in Norway was in those years not satisfying for the Romans. The direct process gave variable quality and low quantity with the Norwegian bog ore. The Siderite ore in Carinthia contained 8–10 % CaO, while the bog ore had no CaO. Chemically the CaO takes the place of iron in liquid slag. Therefore more of the iron in the ore in Carinthia came out of the furnace in the iron lump, while in Norway, with no CaO in the ore, most of the iron in the ore came out of the furnace in the slag as vast material. Rome was not satisfied, some ment the Romans should concour India. Perhaps this was in emperor Trajans mind when he set out for the Persian gulf with his army. Here he realised that to concour India or to secure the transport routes from Central Asia to Rome was impossible. But he also realized something else, and saw the possibility for a new and better solution.

He met with Vanir/Greeks and got to know their situation and the possible future of their stealexport from the Kushan empire. The Bactrian Greeks had more than 200 years earlier in 130 BC. made an agreement with the Yueh Chih = Tocharians, and had since then cooperated with them in Bactria. Among the To-chariens, the Great Army, were also Äser who knew the chinese indirect process and produced the seric iron delivered to Rome. The situation changed drastically when the Kushans under Kujula Kadpises, conquered and subjugated them. The steelproduction were to be nationalized and the export were in danger. The Bactrian Greeks and the Äser were looking for a new land to govern. After tree weeks of negotiation an agreement was reached. Trajan decided to give Äsir and Vanir from Bactria a new future in Scandinavia where the iron ore they were used to lay in the bogs. Trajan gave them a new kingdom in Sweden. In return the Äser should participate in the production of the seric steel

Rome needed in Roman ironworks in Norway. The long lasting Roman steelproblem would in this way after some time be solved.

Shortly before Trajan died in Kilikia he got the message that the Äsir and Vanir had arrived at the Roman border by the Kaspian Sea, headed by the Bactrian Greek Jordanes. They were escorted to the land of the Roxolanes between the Danube and the Karpatian mountains. Äser in this migration brought the indirect process for steel to Scandinavia.

After Trajan's dead Hadrian made Wodan leader on the march of the immigrants from the Roxolan country to Scandinavia. He was born in Bactria between 55 and 60. As young he was sent to the Roxolanes as a future king. After the defeat of the Roxolanes by the Romans year 69 Wodan was sent as hostage to the Romans to seal an agreement. Such hostages were well educated by the Romans who used them as Roman friendly kings by concoured peoples. Trajan had installed Wodan as king in the land of the Semnones. Here he setteled migrating Sakas from Sakastan. Their land in Germany from that time got the name Saxony. At last he setteled the imigrants from Bactria in Scandinavia.

Wodan was a descendent of the old Äsir-kings in Magadha, and the Indogreek, or Vane-king Menander who ruled the Indo Greek kingdom until 130 B.C.. Äsir and Vanir arrived in Scandinavia between 118 and 120 A.D.. Wodans name in Scandinavia was Odin, Wodan is his German name.

By year 180 A.D. the steelimport from India closed down. Augustus and Romes goal, production of seric steel within the borders of the empire was fulfilled. Until 410 Rome got the seric steel they needed from their iron-works in Norway. The stay of many Roman emperor in York, Septimius Severus lived there the last years of his reign with his sons, until he died in 213 A.D., reminds us of the importance of the seric steelproduction for Rome in Norway.

Britain was one of the most militarised Roman Dioeceses. In Norway Legio IX Hispana had led the activities from year 50 on. In Britain 3 to 4 legiones were always present. This was the price Rome had to pay for a secure production and transport of their own seric steel.

In the excavations at *Dokkfløy* nearly 100 furnaces were recorded, with diameters from 0,8 to 1,6 meters. One such furnace might have produced 400 kg liquid raw-iron in 24 hours. After fining this could be 300 kg seric steel. If one furnace produced 100 days each year the output was 30 ton steel, sufficient for 15000 Norwegian farms in those days. If 30 such furnaces were running at the same time we understand that the seric steel they produced were ment for quite another and bigger market than the Norwegian.

About 2800 shaft furnaces are recorded in Norway to day. According to the archeologists the total number may exceed 10000.

About 50 graves of *Roman soldiers* have been found in Hadeland and Toten containing the weaponry of *Roman auxiliar soldiers*, with the *gaesum spear* head only used by *Räthian auxiliary soldiers* in Roman service. The funerary rites by the burying of the soldiers correspond to the rites used when Roman soldiers were buried in peace time. They belonged to a *Vexillatio gaesatorum Rhaetorum* serving in Norway. International historians remarks that more **Roman swords** has been found outside the empire than within its borders. It is striking how many Roman swords turns up in Norway.

According to *Notitia Dignitatum Noricii* were divided in two Roman provinces, *Maxima Caesariensis* and *Flavia Caesariensis*. They were parts of the *Dioecese Britannia*. *Caesariensis* in their names tells that they were organised direct under the emperor and governed by his *Equestrian Procuratores*. *Caesariensis* in the names indicates provinces that delivered most important raw material for the empire's defenceability and status. This is another strong indication for the Roman presence in Norway.

Ptolemy in his *Geography* from 150 A.D. describes the sailing routes used for the transport of steel and iron from Norway. It runs from *Ostia Locusta*, *Os-Lo*, around the coast of southern Norway to the Stavanger area. From there west to *Epidion acron* in Scotland and along the coast of England to the south. Another route went from *Tule*, *Trøndelag*, to Scotland. See map on the back of the cover.

Main sites of the immigrants who came to Norway.

The main god of the *Hadui* were *Gran*, *Apollo Grannus* by the Romans. In northeastern Gaul the fertility goddess and the main river was *Mös/Meuse*. *Gran's* main sanctuary in eastern Norway was at *Granavollen*, *Hadeland*, about 70 km. north of Oslo. *Mös* gave name to lake *Mösa/Mjøsa*. At *Granavollen* there are to day two Churches side by side, built in stone. Originally they were Temples of the *Hadui* God *Gran* and the *Noric* Goddess *Noreia*. The southern temple belonged to *Noreia*, mother goddess for the *Noric* iron producers, deported from *Carinthia*, who came here about year 50 AD.. The northern temple belonged to the God *Gran*, God of the *Hadui* deported from *Bibracte* and surrounding areas year 15 BC..

The Temples were taken over by the Christianity shortly after 1050 BC and changed into Churches to house Christian saints. A few 100 meters north from the churches is the so called "Stonehouse". Originally this was the temple of the *Rhätian* Goddess *Rautija*. She was Goddess for the *Rhätians* from the *Alp* valleys in *Switzerland* and *Northern Italy*. Her temple was not rebuilt to a Church but was used as accommodation for Bishops and others.

Northwest of Oslo is the district *Ringerike*. Here leaders of *Äser* and *Vaner* settled. Sitenames remind us of *Jordanes/Njård*, *Odin*, *Frøy* and *Gaia*. The name *Ringerike* are derived from *Rigni-rici*. *Rig* means God in their *Asian* language. *Ringerike* was the district of the godly people. *Iron* producing *Äser* were settled in *iron* producing areas. The *Hov* was the house for their local leaders and the place where their religious rites were practised. The *Hov*-names remind of the *Äser* and of the *Budhist* faith which had influenced them.

North east of Oslo are the district *Rome-rike* with center at *Jessheim*. The name *Jessheim* are derived from : *Yueh-Chih-hämum* → *Jö-Schö-heim* → *Jessheim*. This was the center of the Roman province *Maxima Caesariensis*. *Jordanes* 550 AD. writes *Rauma-rici*. The diphthong *au* was pronounced as latin *o*, *Raum* was pronounced exactly like *Rom*, that is *Råm* in *Norwegian*. From here the Romans were leading the day to day administration of the production of steel in eastern Norway and the transport out of the areas. Here were also the most important leaders of the *Äser* who cooperated with the Romans in the production settled. Some Romans left shortly after 410. The heirs of the *Yueh-Chih*, the *Eastern Gots*, together with other Roman citizens left eastern Norway around 525 for *Italy* where they were granted land by emperor *Theodorik*. Before leaving they built *Raknehaugen* as a stupa in memory of the 400 years they lived here. Under the mound deep in the ground are the grave in which the last king of the *Eastern Gots* who lived here is buried.

The runic script. Bona Dea, the goddess of the farmers, Bönder.

The origin of the runic script was in northern Italy and the *Rätian* *alp* valleys. The alphabet there was based on the first Greek alphabet. It had been taken over from the *Etruscans* who

had changed it to suit Etruscan language. Later it was taken over by the Rhätians and Venetians and followed them in their deportation to Scandinavia. The inscription on the *Einingstone* in Slidre, Norway, is written in the old language of *Engadin* in Graubünden. In English it is written: *look after the earthpatch (and) the hey*.

In the newly found runic stone from *Hogganvik* the string *naudagastir* is recognised by the experts as a personal name. If we divide it in the words: *Nau da gastir*, the meaning is: *Ship of the strangers*.

The old Norwegian word for Farmer is *Bonde*. To strengthen the production of food for the ironworkers the Romans moved farmers to Norway. The farmers goddess in the empire was *Gaia, Gea or Ge*. She was in the mind of the Romans connected with *Gesus, Jesus*. During the quarrels between the Romans and the Christians the name *av Gea* was forbidden to use. According to this the farmers changed the name of the goddess from *Gea* to *Bona Dea*. The word a farmer accordingly changed to *a Bona Dea*, or *Bon-de* in Norwegian. This is another indication of the Roman presence in Norway.

The Norse Mythology.

A spinoff of these events are a new understanding of the origin of the Norse Mythology, Odin's background and where he came from. Odin descended from the kings of the *Äser* who reigned the kingdom of Magadha in India from 550 to 411 B.C.. The Norse *Åsa-Tor* is the same man as king *Asa-Tru* in Magadha. He was also named *Ajat-Asa-Tru, Ram-Tor, Bukke-Tor* in Norwegian. *Udayin*, his son, was king of Magadha after having murdered his father. When *Odayin* later was murdered by the *Jotner* he in the belief of the *Äser*-people was made king in the realm of the dead warriors, *ksatrias*, who died in fighting.

A branch of the *Äser* did not accept the overlordship of the *Jotner* and moved to Gansu in China. There they became kings of the *Yueh Chih* confederacy. *Yueh Chih* means Moon-people in Chinese. They got this name because the *Äser* belonged to the Indian Moon-dynasty. After moving to Europa in the migration of the *Sarmatians* *Yueh-Chih* were transformed to *Ja-Zy-ges*. In Sweden the *Yueh Chih* was transformed to *Ø-schø-ter*, eastern Gots.

Another ancestor of the Scandinavian Odin was the Indo-Greek king *Mennon*. In India his name was *Milinda*, in western literature his name is *Menander*. He was a descendant of one of Alexander the Great's generals and reigned the Indo-Greek kingdom in northern India. He made the agreement with the *Äser* when they arrived from China led by his own son *Heraes* or *Tru*. As we understand, Odin's ancestors were experienced and trained rulers. For the Romans his descendancy from one of Alexander the Great's generals was most impressive and was regarded as a guarantee for a ruler with the very best qualifications.

Magadha was part of *Madhyadeza*, the Midland, *Midgard*. The struggle between *Äser* and *Jotner* was also a struggle about the control over the richest iron-ore fields in India, in today's Bihar and Ranchi.

Snorre Sturlason writes of Odin both as a man and as a god. And such was the status of the kings in India, the kingdom was godly. A man elected king got status as a god so that his decisions should be out of dispute. His descendants were also regarded as gods. This is the reason why Odin is both a god and a man of meat and blood by *Snorre*.

Odin had the *head of Mime* which he smeared with fat and asked questions in difficult matters. *Mime's* head was a book written by *Mimamsa*, containing the orthodox rules for a branch of Vedic philosophy, in the 2nd century BC. *Mime's* head was a poetic name for this book. The books at that time were written on leaves of leather. The leaves had to be smeared

with oil or fat from time to time to avoid cracking. Mimes Head described religious rituals of great importance in the vedic society. One of the most important rituals was the Asvamedha, the Horseblot. This became an important ritual in Scandinavia. For the later Christians it was a strong symbol of the old Asian faith. Therefore Scandinavians today don't eat horsemeat unless it is mixed up with other meat. Odin and Mimes Head still has influence on us. The Äser-warriors in India, the ksatrias, had to be killed by another warrior to be granted access to Udayin's warrior paradise. Therefore Asa-Tru killed his father Bimbisara, and Odayin killed his father Asa-Tru to get safe entrance. Odin in Scandinavia wounded himself with a spear before he died in Sigtuna. Mimes Head then granted access to the dead warriors paradise, Valhall, by the side of old Äser god Udayin.

Voluspå is the first poem in the *older Edda*. It contains glimpses of the history of the Äser from 600 BC to 80 AD. The last event is the *Ragnarok*, the 100 year lasting concouring war of the *Kushans*. The history is told with symbols. The wolf, symbol of the Kushans, at last swallows the Sun and the Moon. The Sun was the symbol of the Indian *Sun-dynasty*, the Moon was the symbol of the *Moon-dynasty* in Pataliputra. After this war Vanir, Äser and Jotner were ruled by the Kushans, who earlier had been subjects to the Äser east in the Iron-forest, as it is said in *Voluspå*. The *Iron-forest* was in *Gansu in China*.

Snorre Sturlason's crock with Norwegian schollars.

Snorre, who lived in Island in the 13.th century, wrote a narrative in the Snorre-Edda where he tells us that the ancestors of the old Norwegian kings and the Äser and Vaner were rich people coming from Asia in a migration to Scandinavia led by Odin. According to Snorre this was at a time when the Roman empire was expanding and Odin knew that they were granted new land here. The power that could grant and arrange for new land of this dimension seems to have been Rome.

Snorres narrative collides frontally with today's view of leading Norwegian historians. They have a vision of a Norse tribe that developed here with minor influence from outside. To suit this vision, the history of the Asians is understood as the mythology of the Norse Tribe. Äser, Vaner, Jotner and Odin were granted roles as Norse gods. The Runic alphabet that came with Rhätians and Venetians, were supposed invented by the Norse tribe. The soldiers with Roman weapons in the tombs of Hadeland and Toten were transformed from Roman soldiers to Norse warriors. To avoid the frontal crock with Snorres narrative, the migration from Asia was explained as a joke Snorre made to have some fun with us. A very scientific explanation. In this way the historians created forefathers we could be proud of. The story is fragile. New scientists and historians have the opportunity to do wider and deeper research, also beyond the Norwegian borders, and rewrite the Norwegian history of the Ironage.

DNA-analyses.

In recent years dna-analyses has developed into an important tool for tracing migration of ancient people. To day we know that 35-40 % of Norwegian men belong to haplogroup I1a. This is the haplogroup of Rätian men and is due to the Roman deportation of Rätian's from the *valleys of the Alps in Grau-bünden and Northern Italy* to Norway. About 30 % of Norwegian men belong to haplogroup R1b. Those are men whose ancestors moved to Norway from *North-eastern Gaul*, and the *valley of the river Meuse*.

Approximately 25 % of Norwegian men belong to haplogroup R1a. Their ancestors came to Norway in the migration of Äser and Vaner *from Bactria* led by the Bactrian greek Jordanes, and Odin who represented the Roman emperor. A minor haplogroup is N3 representing about 3 % of Norwegian men. It has significant numbers in Torpa and Snertingdal. This group

originates *from Gansu* in China and took part in the Yueh-Chih migration. The results of the dna-analyses supports the history I have scetched for you.

Roman defence strategy.

The Romans organized a defenceline along the eastern border of the empire to meet migration waves and attacks from people coming in from Asia. The first defence consisted of people whose origin was in Asia and had been setteled east of the border.

In the south, in to days Moldova and north eastern Romania, the *Roxolanes* lived between the Carpatian mountains and Danube. South of the border, from Danube to the Black Sea, Roman troops were on guard.

In eastern Hungary the *Ja-Zy-ges* ← *Yueh Chih* who had migrated from Gansu lived east of the Roman border. In upper and lower Saxony *Sakas* from Seistan defended the entrance to the Rhine. In Scandinavia the Vaner under Odin and Jordanes/Njård had setteled in Sweden and defended the Roman ironindustry in Norway from attacks from the southern shores of the Baltic.

Treats to the frontiers over time justified the siting of large roman army units on the Roman side of the frontier. In addition, in England 3 to 4 Legiones were constantly on guard and controlled Britain until year 410. Britain was one of the most militarized provinces.

In the early time of the empire the soldiers in the legiones were recruited from Italy and the Mediteranian provinces among men who were Roman citizens. The auxiliary units were recruited from less developed but central areas. After *Caracallas* reforms in 213 many troops were recruited from the frontier regiones where they served, and were often children of veteran soldiers. In times of crises their loyalty was to the regional army and their native provinces where they had their families and their land, and not to a distant wider empire. The rule by a senatorial aristocracy in Rome was more and more a fiction. This were also the case for the Roman soldiers of Rhätian origin in Norway. They became part of the society here, often with key positiones in the iron production and transport out of the area. They put down roots locally. In this way the Roman army over time evolved from an army of conquest under central control to an integrated part of the provincial societies in the frontier regiones.

Best regards

Sveinung G Raddum