

THE VIKINGS AND THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

The International Vinland-Seminar in Chicago, 15 – 17 OCTOBER 2010

Have you ever wondered about the events leading to the Viking discovery of what became known as Vinland in North America?

By the time of the Vinland-discovery in c. 1000 AD, Scandinavians had established a civilization that had become renowned all over the known world for its remarkable and often feared skills as warriors, poets and mariners. The Viking Ship had revolutionized ocean travel and maritime warfare. From fighting in the Byzantine army, protecting pilgrims in the Holy Land, founding Russian cities and most importantly, establishing the roots of modern Democracy, the Vikings left a vast legacy, often misconstrued through the lens of modern popular culture.

Together we will learn the facts, dispel myths and find broader understanding of the men and women –**the first Europeans to come to North America** – who discovered Vinland, and the Scandinavian Viking Age culture they represented.

Vinland and the Viking Age today

Most Americans are familiar with Leif Ericsson Day. But how much is really known about its origins? What was found at L'Anse Aux Meadows during Norwegian explorer Helge Ingstad and archaeologist Anne Stine Ingstad's expedition to the site believed to be the ancient Vinland? And is it possible to find real Viking DNA in the modern world?

For those attending The International Vinland seminar, all of these questions will be answered as some of the foremost experts on the Viking Age and the Vinland-sagas gather in Chicago for a one of a kind event celebrating this remarkable time in our history.

Guided tour

Not to be missed is the guided tour including visits to the **Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church**, the **Leif Ericsson statue** and the **1893 Viking ship** – a true Gokstad replica and one of Norway's official contributions to the Columbian World's Fair: Declared one of the 10 most endangered landmarks in Illinois, the "Viking" is one of the most notable artifacts in North America relating to our common Scandinavian heritage –as well as Viking ingenuity and seamanship. It's history will amaze you!

SPEAKERS:

Gísli Sigurðsson, Ph.D. (ICELAND) - "Vinland – as it was recalled in the Icelandic Sagas"

Birgitta Wallace, Ph.D. (CANADA) - "Vinland and L'Anse aux Meadows"

Torgrim Titlestad, Ph.D. (NORWAY) - "Who were the Vikings?"

Stephen Harding, Professor of Molecular Biology (UK) - "In Search of Viking DNA"

Ulfar Bragason, Ph.D. (ICELAND) - "Vinland and Rasmus B. Anderson, the originator of Leif Ericsson Day"

Jarle Rosseland (NORWAY) - The internationally acclaimed artist talks about his series of Vinland-artworks

Gary T. Johnson (USA), president of the Chicago History Museum.

For complete program and seminar registration, please visit: www.vinlandseminar.com or call the Center for Scandinavian Studies at (773) 244-5592

LOCATION: Hamming Hall at North Park University, 3225 West Foster Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625-4895

The event is sponsored by

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