



# **Roman Reflections: Iron Age to Viking Age in Northern Europe (Debates in Archaeology)**

*Klavs Randsborg*

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*Roman Reflections* uses a series of detailed and deeply researched case studies to explore how Roman society connected with and influenced Northern Europe during the Iron and Viking Ages. In an original way, the book brings late prehistoric Denmark – best known for its so-called 'bog bodies' – into a world dominated by textual histories, principally that of Tacitus.

The studies include a new examination of the bog-bodies of the late first millennium BC, a classical archaeological puzzle: men, women and children murdered yet respected in death and adorned with items of fine clothing. A second essay challenges traditionally held ideas about the Cimbri by exploring the textual and archaeological evidence, including the startling and famous European artefact, the Gundestrup silver cauldron. The other studies comprise an archaeologically founded modernist discussion of the ethnography of Tacitus' Germania, in particular considering the character of ancient Germanic Bronze and Iron Age societies; a linguistic exploration of the Latin inheritance in northern European names and places, much of which seems to have been invented by the Romans; and an analysis of the origins of the Danes.

Throughout, traditional sources and history are presented in conjunction with new archaeological observations and interpretations. In an accessible way, *Roman Reflections* assesses Denmark's part on a larger stage, showing how foundations were laid for its zenith in Viking times.

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