

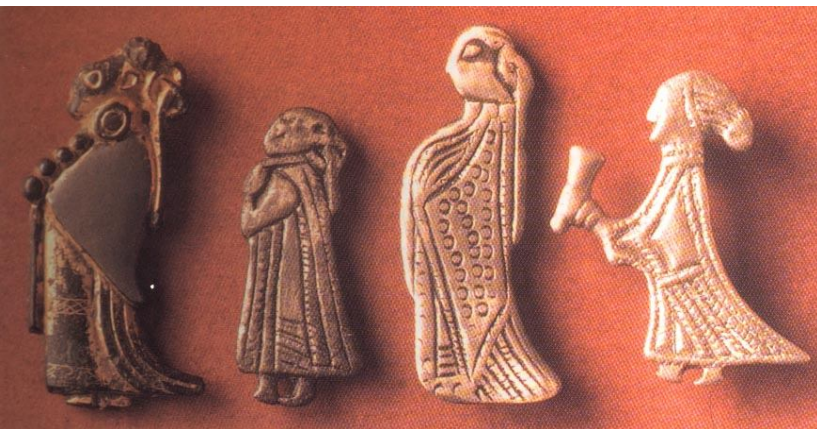
Casting



My goal was to learn casting, so I could use objects as tokens for competitions and as small favors. I started this project when I was pregnant, so I could not use a lead based pewter, as would have been done in period. I have used mostly modern methods to do my work because I was learning. Period casting has a success rate of less than 50% and I was unwilling to struggle with a new skill that had such a steep learning curve. For each step in modern casting there is a period equivalent. For example heating the metal in period would have been done over a charcoal fire with a crucible, I used a bullet pot. The end result was molten metal ready to pour

into my mold. I did not realize how hard it was to sculpt an object, which did not have any under cuts. If your object has undercuts it will not come out of the mold. I used sculpy to make my master instead of beeswax or clay.

I have learned a lot doing this project. The Thors hammer was my first piece. I think it turned out the best. Late period Vikings were mostly Christian, but a number of finds have had both Christian and Pagan religious symbols. (No point in insulting anybody's God in the afterlife.) My second piece was the Valkyrie. I do not think she was very successful, perhaps she has too much detail or I got the metal too hot when pouring. The last piece I did was the lucky ducks foot. I saw one at a Pennsic merchant, (hence the front and back pictures.) I feel that it was fairly successful, but it has been difficult to pour.



I plan on taking a period casting class this spring. I hope to learn another way to cast and sculpt.