

The Ornamented Sword

Forefather

[extract from Beowulf]

"The ornamented sword, forged on the anvil,
The razor sharp blade stained with blood,
Shears through the boar-crested helmets of the enemy.
We shielded our heads in the fight.,
When soldiers clashed on foot, slashed at boar-crests.
And his head was guarded by the gleaming helmet
Which was to explore the churning waters, stir their depths;
Gold decorated it, and it was hung around with chains
As the weapon-smith had wrought it long before,
Wondrously shaped it and beset it with boar images,
So that afterwards no battle-blade could do it damage"