

## 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"