

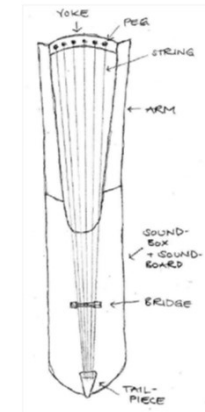
Introduction to the Germanic Anglo/Saxon Lyre

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What is it?

- 5-7 Stringed Lyre
- Rigid yoke
- Tuning pegs in yoke
- Hollowed body with soundboard
- Bridge on soundboard
- Strings parallel to soundboard
- No fretboard
- May have tailpiece



Oberflacht Lyre drawing
From: Hilleberg, 2015

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Where do we find the

- Extant Examples
 - Pieces from archeological digs
 - Grave goods
 - Kravik Lyre
- Illustrations from Period

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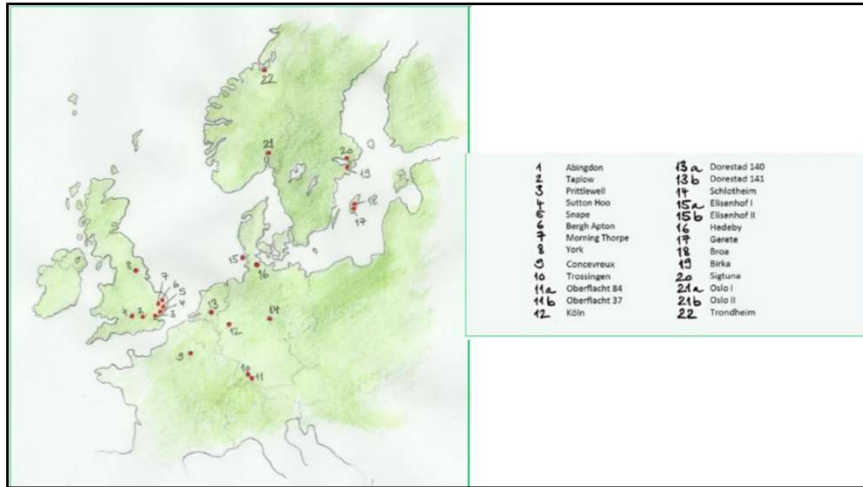
Archaeological Finds

Site	Country	Date
Abingdon	England	5th century
Trossingen	Germany	580
Oberflacht (84)	Germany	6th century
Schlotheim	Germany	late 6th/early 7th century
Bergh Apton	England	6th - 7th century
Prittlewell	England	6th - 7th century
Oberflacht (37)	Germany	early 7th century
Morning Thorpe	England	early Anglo-Saxon
Taplow	England	620-640
Sutton Hoo	England	7th century
Snape	England	Anglo-Saxon
Köln	Germany	late 7th/early 8th century
Dorestad (140)	Netherlands	8th century

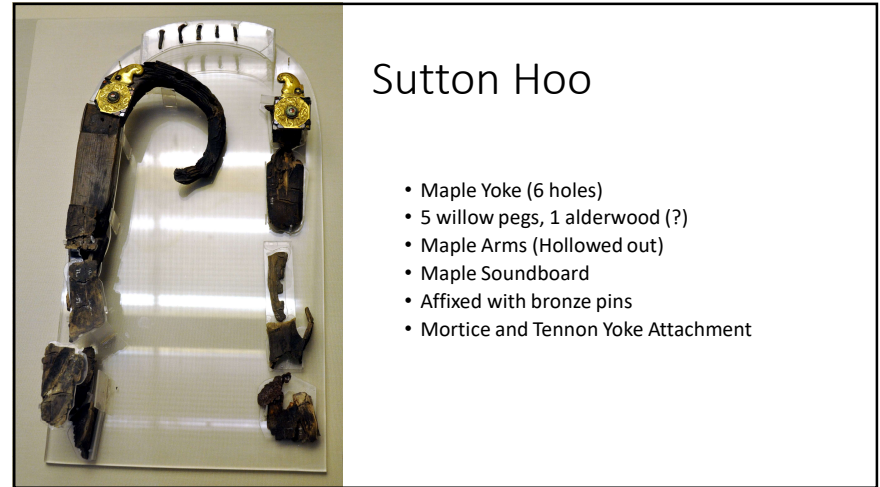
Site	Country	Date
Dorestad (141)	Netherlands	8th century
Elisenhof I	Germany	8th century
Elisenhof II	Germany	8th century
Birka	Sweden	Viking Age
Broa	Sweden	9th century
York	England	10th century
Hedeby	Denmark	10th - 11th century
Gerete	Sweden	11th century
Sigtuna	Sweden	1100
Trondheim	Norway	early 13th century
Oslo I	Norway	early 13th century
Oslo II	Norway	mid-13th century
Concevreux	France	(Frankish)

From: Hilleberg, 2015

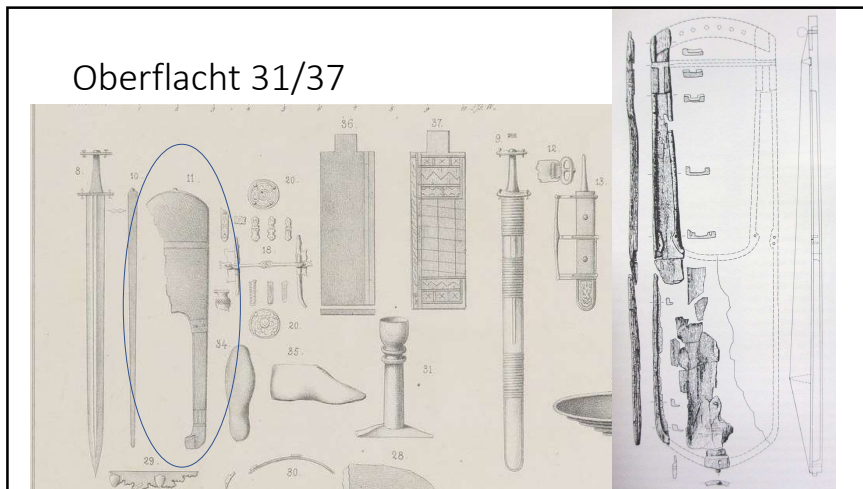
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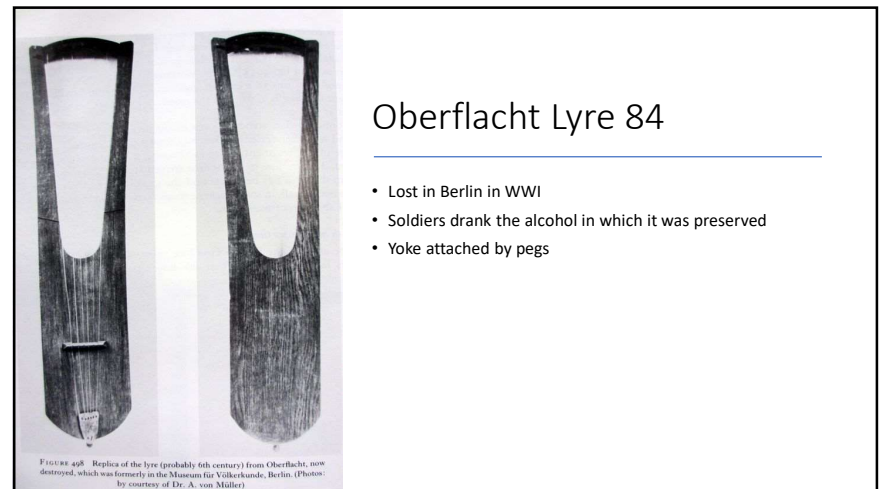
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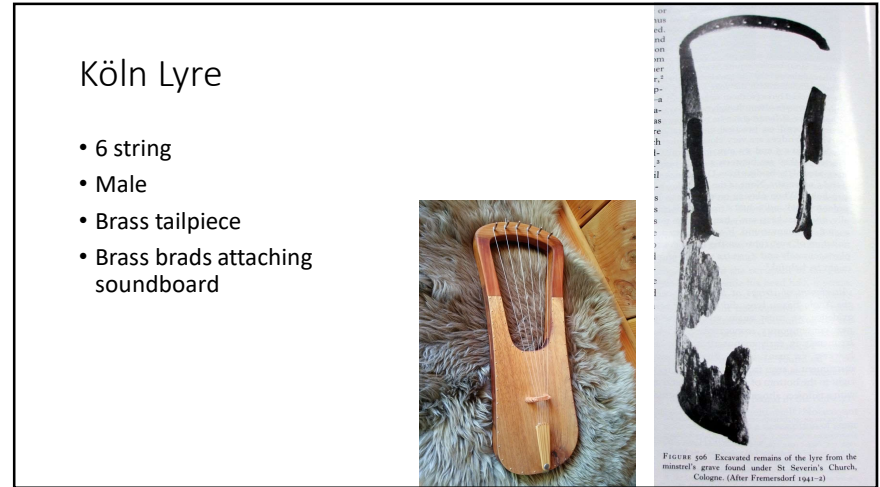
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Trossingen Lyre

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Most Complete | 6 Strings |
| Maple body and soundboard | Willow Bridge |
| Solid Yoke | Willow and ash Pegs |
| Heavily Decorated | |

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Köln Lyre

- 6 string
- Male
- Brass tailpiece
- Brass brads attaching soundboard

FIGURE 306. Excavated remains of the lyre from the minaret's grave found under St Severin's Church, Cologne. (After Fremersdorf 1941-2)

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Bridges

- Variety of Bridges survive
- 5-7 string slots
- Amber
- Wood
 - Willow
 - Pine
 - unspecified
- Antler
- Bronze

Dorestad Bridge Images: Jan van Capelle

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Kravik Lyre

- "Found" in Kravik, Norway farmhouse on wall (only lyre not from an archaeological dig)
- 14th-16th century
- 7 string
- Pine

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Materials

- Maple
- Oak
- Pegs:
 - Willow
 - Alder

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Graphic Depictions

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Portable altar of Eilbertus from
the Guelph Treasure
ca. 1150



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Representations of David in
Psalters



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Gotland Lyre
Stone
Carving

Lund, 1984

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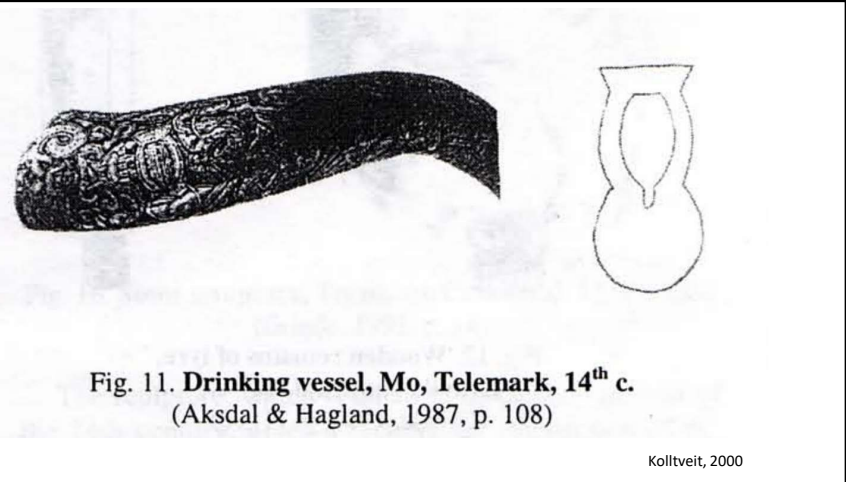


Fig. 11. Drinking vessel, Mo, Telemark, 14th c.
(Aksdal & Hagland, 1987, p. 108)

Kolltveit, 2000

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Tunings

Possible tunings used are

- Diatonic
 - Hextonic Major (hexachord mentioned by Hucbald as "the way you tune your lyre")
 - e.g. C D E F G A
 - G A B C D E
 - A B C# D E F#
- Major Pentatonic
 - E.g. C D E G A C
 - G A B D E G

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Useful tool

- <http://crosby.nz/~tom/lyretools/index.html>
- Tuning options by:
 - Starting note and interval
 - Starting note and scale type
- Transposition
- Chord map

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Playing Methods (Demonstration)

- Plucking Tunes
- Plucking Diads and/or Chords
- Block and Strum
 - Single Notes
 - Single Notes and Drones
 - Chords

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Build Your Own?

- Resources:
- Jan Van Cappelle
 - <https://thedutchluthier.wordpress.com/author/thedutchluthier/>
- Michael J King
 - <https://www.michaeljking.com/index.htm>
- David Friedman (aka Duke Cariadoc)
 - <http://davidfriedman.com/Medieval/Articles/lyre/To%20Make%20a%20Lyre.htm>
- Dofinn-Hallr Morrisson and Thóra Sharptooth
 - <https://www.cs.vassar.edu/~priestdo/lyre.html>

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Purchase?

- A number of makers make Anglo Saxon/Germanic Lyres
- Costs range from ~\$200 (USD) to >\$2000+
 - Differences
 - Faithfulness to period designs
 - Construction (hollowed vs assembled)
 - Peg type – zither pin or wooden
 - Lyre Materials
 - Bridge Material
 - Ornamentation
 - String material
 - Steel
 - Nylon
 - Nylgut
 - Gut

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