



Inv. no. C 513 & C 250

SAMANID COINS

GOLD DINAR: ABU NASR AHMAD II IBN ISMAIL (907-914). IRAN, NISHAPUR; 298 H = 910-911

SILVER DIRHAM: ABU IBRAHIM ISMAIL I IBN AHMAD (892-907). CENTRAL ASIA, TASHKENT; 291 H = 904

DIAM: 2.40 CM (GOLD DINAR)

DIAM: 2.75 CM (SILVER DIRHAM)

Coins of the type shown here – from the Middle East, especially Samanid Iran – have been found in Denmark and Sweden and testify to the close commercial ties between Scandinavia and the Islamic world in the Viking Age. Some 7,000 coins with Arabic inscriptions have been found in Denmark alone. Nearly all of them are silver and can be dated to the 8th-10th century.

Silver by weight was a common means of payment among the Scandinavian Vikings. As long as its weight matched that of the amount to be paid, any kind of silver could be used, including Islamic coins.

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Baldwin's: *Islamic coin auction*: 12, 25/4-2007, lot 3361;