

21 April 2017 - The Tune Viking ship

150 years have passed since the first Viking ship was excavated in Norway.



Archaeologist Oluf Rygh excavated the Tune ship in only 14 days from the ship burial mound in Tune. Archaeologist Even Ballangrud Andersen describes the ship: "The ship is made from clinkered oak planks, a style that was common to the Nordics. Its mast was placed just behind midship and both stern posts were raised. A special chamber had been built for the man interred in the ship and all of his burial gifts and weaponry."

By analysing the growth rings, the ship was dated to between 905 and 910 A. D. After the ship was excavated in 1867, it was placed on a barge and sent to Fredrikstad before continuing



on to Christiania (Oslo). After many years in poor storage, it was moved in 1930 to its permanent home at the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo.

Later research has concluded that the ship most likely had twelve strakes and was a fast warship used to quickly transport people. In terms of Norway's maritime history, the Tune ship was the first indication that the stories passed orally through the years were true.

Today the Viking ships on Bygdøy in Oslo stand as iconic witnesses to more than 1,000 years on the seven seas.