The Viking Age is alluded to as the Age of Silver since silver dominated in Viking Age society and economy. The objects of gold are rare in Scandinavia as well as in Western and Eastern countries where northern influence is regarded as considerable. The present paper comprises approximately 40 genuine Scandinavian ornaments of gold that have been found in the cultural layers, graves and hoards from the major towns of the Old Russian kingdom including Kiev, Chernigov, Polock, Suzdal and Gnezdovo. We should annex about 40 Byzantine solidi, 1 gold dinar from Arabic Spain and 10 gold coins minted by Russian Prince Vladimir (980-1015) to complete the list of gold items found in Old Rus’ dated c 950-1050.

The set of the Russian gold jewels is monotonous. There are mostly plain penannular or annular arm-rings formed from a rod of circular section and annular arm-rings and neck-rings formed from 3 or 4 tapering rods twisted together. Apart from the massive gold items there were small ring-pendant formed from the glass beads threaded on the beaded wire with the twisted terminals. The weights of the gold arm-rings are distributed from 24 up to 200 gram. They were possibly adjusted by weight to the Scandinavian mark or to the Russian pound. Gold arm-rings are abundant in Kiev, which was a residence of the Grand Prince of the Russian kingdom. Prestigious jewels seem fit well for the gift-giving relations between the Kiev Prince and his retainers. We must also stress a well-documented symbolic significance of the gold rings.

In contrast to the homogenous group from Kiev the gold round/rectangular pendants and a big disk-shaped brooch from the early-urban site Gnezdovo are much more various belonging to the so-called Terslev and Hiddensee styles. They were manufactured from hammered sheet gold with filigree and granulation. The known gold items decorated in Terslev and Hiddensee styles and metalworking evidence for their production are concentrated mostly to south-western Scandinavia and Northern Germany. These jewels are the products of the highly specialised goldsmiths working for the Danish kings during the late 10th century. In spite of infrequent occurrence of such a high status objects (c 40 gold items from 326 pieces of Terslev and Hidensee arts) they were spread over the Viking World from Iceland to Russia by the member of the Jellinge Court nobility and their followers.

The gold Byzantine coins are often regarded as the raw materials for the Late Viking Period jewellery. However there are only 2 Byzantine gold coins in the Norse (Gotland). The gold coins have not been found in Northern-Western Russia. They are much more frequent in the Southern Russia mostly in the Kiev hoards. Possibly a restricted amount of gold coins
reached the Kiev by the direct contacts with Byzantium during the second part of the 10th – the first part of the 11th centuries. The Greek gold was used for the first modest issue of the Russian coins and perhaps for the gold-rings production in Kiev. During this particular period Scandinavia obtained gold from the West. We can suggest the Migration and Vendel periods’ precious metal stock reworking as well as placer gold from the Eastern Alps or Bohemia.