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### ***Limoges statue of Virgin Mary found in Denmark***

A Limoges statue of the Virgin Mary dating from the 13th century has been found during renovations of a small church in the eastern Jutland town of Soby, Denmark. Archaeologist Hans Mikkelsen from the National Museum and a local craftsman were sifting through the soil under the church floor when they made the find. There have been Limoges figures found in Denmark before, but likenesses of the Virgin Mary are quite rare and this is the first of the figures found in Denmark that has a halo. The icon would have probably sat atop a crucifix that was used in a church processional.

Limoges figurines were produced in the French town of the same name from 1200 to 1225. Mikkelsen feared that the figurine would have been much damaged by the passage of so many centuries, but a careful and thorough cleaning by National Museum conservator Signe Nygaard restored it beyond all expectations. "I could see the colors - the red in the halo and the beautiful blue-green nuances in the clothing," Nygaard told Jyllands-Posten newspaper. "It is absolutely fantastic." Nygaard said that it is "unbelievable" that such a rare figure was found in such a small church. "How the heck did it wind up here?" she exclaimed.



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