The Ornamented Sword

Forefather

[extract from Beowulf]

"The ornamented sword, forged on the anvil, The razor sharp blade stained with blood, Shears through the boar-crested helmets of the enemy. We shielded our heads in the fight., When soldiers clashed on foot, slashed at boar-crests. And his head was guarded by the gleaming helmet Which was to explore the churning waters, stir their depths; Gold decorated it, and it was hung around with chains As the weapon-smith had wrought it long before, Wondrously shaped it and beset it with boar images, So that afterwards no battle-blade could do it damage"