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Eds:  
Mats Burström & Anders Carlsson

The Swedish Archaeological Society

# Current Swedish Archaeology

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# Contents

Ulf Erik Hagberg: The Swedish Archaeological Society.....	4
Mats Burström & Anders Carlsson: Editors' Preface.....	5
Kristina Berggren: Spindle Whorls: Their Symbolism in the Villanovan Cemetery of Quattro Fontanili, Veii.....	7
Otto Blehr: On the Need for Scientific Method in Archaeology: Nämforsen Reconsidered.....	25
Mats Burström: Silver as Bridewealth. An Interpretation of Viking Age Silver Hoards on Gotland, Sweden.....	33
David Damell: About Royal Manors from the Late Iron Age in Middle Sweden.....	39
Kåre Fagerström: Wealth Destruction as a Sign of Iron Age Political Strife; the Greek Example.....	49
Jan-Henrik Fallgren: The Concept of the Village in Swedish Archaeology.....	59
Leif Gren: The Three Sisyphean Tasks of Archaeology.....	87
Leif Gren: Profiles of Archaeology in the United Science.....	93
Hans Göransson: Elm, Lime and Middle Neolithic Cultivation – an Interesting Problem.....	117
Åke Hyenstrand: Archaeology in a Stockholm Perspective – a Personal Reflection.....	119
Lars G. Johansson: Source Criticism or Dilettanti? Some Thoughts on "Scandinavia's Oldest House" in Tingby near Kalmar, Småland.....	121
Lennart Lind: The Monetary Reforms of the Romans and the Finds of Roman <i>Denarii</i> in Eastern and Northern Europe.....	135
Mats P. Malmer: On Theoretical Realism in Archaeology.....	145
Bo Petré: Male and Female Finds and Symbols in Germanic Iron Age Graves.....	149
Eva Weiler: Who's Who? The Invisible Cultural Landscape or Some Aspects of Source Criticism.....	155
Stig Welinder: Pots, Females and Food.....	165
Inger Zachrisson: A Review of Archaeological Research on Saami Prehistory in Sweden.....	171
Key map.....	183

# The Swedish Archaeological Society

The Swedish Archaeological Society was founded in 1947, partly on the initiative of Mårten Stenberger, as "a forum, in which all branches of archaeology might be represented". The Society consists of Swedish archaeologists and colleagues of neighbouring fields such as medieval history, art history, numismatics, quaternary geology, osteology, etc.

Therefore, the area of interest of the Society comprises all aspects of archaeology and associated subjects, both native and foreign. The Society is in fact the only common body for Swedish archaeologists, independent of their posts at different departments and institutions.

In 1947 it counted about 60 members with the China expert Bernhard Karlgren as the first president. Today more than 500 scholars belong to the Society. It reflects the growth of archaeology as a profession.

The Society can therefore act as spokesman for Swedish archaeological opinion on matters of national and international importance.

*Ulf Erik Hagberg*

President

The Swedish Archaeological Society

# Editors' Preface

All archaeological problems are in a sense universal. This means that the archaeological debate cannot be restricted by national borders. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance that Swedish archaeology is fully integrated in international debate. It is also important to make Swedish archaeology available to a non-Scandinavian public.

From 1951 to 1978 the Swedish Archaeological Society presented six volumes of *Swedish Archaeological Bibliography*, reviewing archaeological research published during the period 1939–1975. However, after the appearance in 1974 of *Nordic Archaeological Abstracts* (published annually), the need for these brief reviews diminished. Instead, the Society published two volumes of *Swedish Archaeology*, each containing somewhat more exhaustive comments on research published in a five-year period (1976–80 and 1981–85).

Many Swedish archaeologists have expressed a need for a more regularly published journal in which they can debate and present results for an international public. The idea that this was a task for the Swedish Archaeological Society was first put forward by Mats P. Malmer some 10 years ago. This is the background for *Current Swedish Archaeology* (CSA), which is now presented and which will be published on an annual basis. Every fifth year the volume is planned to include a retrospective analysis of research published within a five-year period. The first volume of this kind will be CSA, Vol. 3, 1995, dealing with the period 1986–1990.

CSA intends to reflect the diversity in

contemporary Swedish archaeology. This diversity has several faces. One of these is a theoretical pluralism in the post-processual meaning of the word. This means that archaeological problems are discussed from several theoretical perspectives. Another face of the diversity is a basic difference in opinion regarding the role of theory vis-à-vis the source material in archaeology. In our opinion the artificial distinction between theory and practice should not be accepted, nor the belief that the perception of the archaeological source material can be separated from interpretation. Many Swedish archaeologists, however, have only to a very limited degree, or not at all, taken interest in the intensive theoretical debate during the last decade. This lack of interest is to a certain extent related to the difficulties in combining full-time work with an active following of the theoretical debate.

CSA has the ambition to create a forum for discussion, that hopefully will include all aspects of Swedish archaeology, the word "Swedish" being understood in the broadest sense. "Swedish" can be read as archaeology performed *in* Sweden, or as archaeology performed *by* Swedish archaeologists all over the world, or as archaeology performed by non-Swedes but *of interest to* Swedish archaeology. This later category includes all general debate on archaeological interpretation.

Our hope is that many different perspectives and opinions will be articulated in CSA.

*Mats Burström & Anders Carlsson*

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