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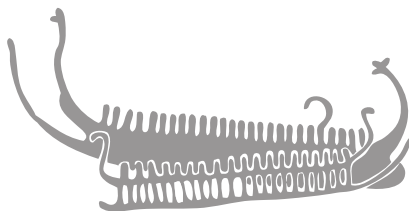
Box 148
221 00 Lund
Email: info@nordicacademicpress.com

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CURRENT SWEDISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Editors:
Sophie Bergerbrant
& Alison Klevnäs

The Swedish Archaeological Society

In 1947 the first meeting to establish the Swedish Archaeological Society was held at the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm. The Society is the common body for professional archaeologists in Sweden, regardless of specialism. According to the statutes the purpose of the Society is to further Swedish archaeological research and to support this research by granting scholarships. The Society is especially tasked with attending to the vocational interests of archaeologists. This task is to be carried out by taking part in public debate, by influencing public opinion, and by being a body to which proposed measures are submitted for consideration. The Society also arranges discussions and seminars on archaeological topics. The Society's board currently has fourteen members from universities, museums and archaeological institutions in various parts of Sweden. Ingrid Berg from Uppsala University is the present chair.

In 1993 the Society began issuing its annual journal *Current Swedish Archaeology*. Since then the journal has presented articles mirroring current archaeological research and theoretical trends.

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Editorial

This year for the first time *Current Swedish Archaeology* presents a themed section with a collection of peer-reviewed discussion papers on a shared topic, instead of a keynote article and commentaries. In the future we plan to vary the format between keynotes and themed sections – each time followed by individual research papers covering our usual breadth of subjects and periods. For 2019 the theme format enables us to bring you nine fully reviewed papers, along with commentary, reviews and notices. We are also pleased that, with our second volume in six months, CSA production is now back on schedule.

The use of natural science approaches in archaeology has long been discussed and debated. Kristian Kristiansen's keynote in CSA volume 22 re-sparked this debate and is one of our most downloaded papers. This year's theme comes from a workshop called *Can science accommodate multiple ontologies? The genetics revolution and archaeological theory*, held in the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research at the University of Cambridge in June 2018. Results from ancient DNA research often reach media headlines and hence huge audiences. How do interactions between genetic evidence and archaeological knowledge play out? The articles in this section reflect critically on relations between archaeogenetics and archaeology.

The theme is introduced by Alexandra Ion, who presents the background to the workshop and goes on to evaluate narratives of archaeogenetics in relation to different audiences. It continues with a paper by John Barrett, looking at current interpretations of aDNA data and how they have been used to question earlier models that argued for the uptake of farming by indigenous hunter-gatherer populations.

With the paper by Martin Furholt we stay within the sphere of the genetic interpretation of the spread of human populations, but this time in the

third millennium BC. The author argues that new genetic results have not had any meaningful impact on the way we view prehistory, despite the debate they create. He contends that aDNA results have been tacked onto some of the most outdated narratives in European prehistory, arguing instead for a practice-based approach to how new transregional objects and practices are integrated into local contexts.

Next come Anna Källén, Charlotte Mulcare, Andreas Nyblom & Daniel Strand, the team behind the project Code–Narrative–History, funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond. They analyse the public debate resulting from two archaeogenetics papers based on human remains from central Sweden, including the ‘Viking warrior woman’. The authors show that there is significant interlacing of scientific, political and media discourses in and around archaeogenetic papers, and argue that aDNA researchers need to give greater consideration to public impact when they communicate results.

Marko Marila argues for slow science in his paper. Using the discussions around slow science and the related idea that scientific importance is a matter of concern rather than fact, he proposes that archaeologists should start to cultivate methods of deceleration.

The last peer-reviewed paper in this section is written by Artur Ribeiro and makes the case that while the so-called Third Science Revolution has brought significant enhancement in terms of scientific methods and approaches, it risks transforming archaeology into a methodologically monistic discipline. Ribeiro contends that especially when it comes to Big Data analysis, there is a risk that archaeological evidence is reduced to those elements that are quantifiable.

Daniela Hofmann wraps up the theme with a commentary. She concludes that the papers clearly show the issues that trouble archaeologists when engaging with Big Data, in particular aDNA. The strongest message to emerge from the papers is that this is not about unlearning and relearning things we thought we knew about the prehistoric societies, but the need to defend different kinds of questions and approaches, and the idea that different ways of knowing are important.

Three general research articles follow. The first, by Anna Sörman, explores bronze casting in the Scandinavian Late Bronze Age. Her study shows that traces of bronze casting frequently occur in Late Bronze Age settlements in south-eastern Sweden. By using an empirical, bottom-up approach to the examination of spatial and social contexts of bronze casting, Sörman provides new insight into the social organization of metalworking. She shows that domestic arenas often hosted varied and complex remains of metalworking staged at various outdoor and indoor hearths, often located in the core areas of settlements. The author concludes that metalworking

was not organizationally conceptualized as levels, but that it was a multi-faceted, communicative and user-oriented practice.

We stay in the Bronze Age with the next paper by Fredrik Fahlander, who takes us from metalwork to boat motifs in rock carvings. He argues that rather than seeing the boat motif as representing real or symbolic boats in some form, we should see them as autonomous articulations, made to do something rather than to represent. Through this change of perspective we can understand the hybrid character of the boat motif as something which has no original elsewhere.

Cats – the roles of cats in Viking Age society – are the topic of the last research paper in this volume. Matthias Toplak uses literary and archaeological sources to understand cats from a human-animal relations perspective, arguing that the cat was a symbolically, functionally and probably also emotionally important companion for humans beyond the borders of sex or gender in Late Iron Age Scandinavia.

This year we expanded the CSA editorial team with two new members. Digital Editor Gustav Wollentz is working on moving the journal into the 2020s with a new digital platform for our Open Access model. Daniel Sahlén is the editor for reviews and notices. In this volume we have one review of a new book, a report from a recent conference, and two notices introducing fieldwork of international significance. In the future we hope to be able to present further short notices about current archaeological excavations, new exhibitions, and other events of interest to our national and international readerships, and we welcome contact from those responsible for relevant work.

The review is of Johannes Siapkas' 2018 *Antikvetenskapens teoretiska landskap II: Från Olympia till Leonidas* (The Theoretical Landscape of Classical Studies II: From Olympia to Leonidas), one of a series by the author mapping the theoretical underpinnings of knowledge production within classical studies.

Then comes a report from the conference *Sandby borg – New perspectives for Iron Age archaeology in the Baltic region*, which was held at Linnaeus university, Kalmar, in May 2019, as part of a research project on the Sandby borg ringfort and massacre site. Articles discussing Sandby borg have previously been published in CSA volume 25.

Next Christina Rosén describes the huge rescue excavation of Nya Lödöse, now part of Gothenburg. The excavation took place as part of extensive city development between 2013 and 2018. The resulting archaeological data cover periods from the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries AD and give significant new information about town-dwelling in late medieval and early modern Sweden.

The final notice in this volume is written by Magnus Djerfsten and introduces the ongoing and planned archaeological surveys and excavations in advance of the ‘Eastern Link’ – the new high speed railway which will require huge numbers of rescue excavations, particularly in the county of Östergötland. Up to 250 archaeologists will be employed during the years 2023 to 2025, with probably over 500 ancient monuments to be excavated. We look forward to many interesting results from these excavations in a region with a high density of archaeological remains.

In the last editorial we mentioned the planned #metoo-related conference organized by the Swedish Archaeological Society (*Svenska Arkeologiska Samfundet*) that was going to take place in November 2019 in Växsjö, in cooperation with the Department of Cultural Sciences at Linnaeus University. Due to unforeseen circumstances the conference has been moved to 2-4 April 2020, at the same venue. For more information, please see the webpage of the Swedish Archaeological Society. For those of you who cannot make it, a review of the conference will appear in the next volume.

Wishing you a great 2020. We hope it will be full of new funding opportunities for Sweden’s academic journals.

Sophie Bergerbrant & Alison Klevnäs
editors of *Current Swedish Archaeology*