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221 05 Lund

info@nordicacademicpress.com

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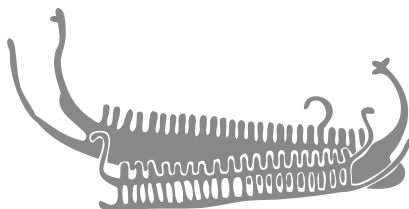
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Editors:
Fredrik Fahlander & Anders Högberg

CONTENTS

Fredrik Fahlander & Anders Högberg	
Editorial	8
KEYNOTE	
Liv Nilsson Stutz	
Building Bridges Between Burial Archaeology and the Archaeology of Death – Where Is the Archaeological Study of the Dead Going?	13
Richard Bradley	
Selective Representations and the Archaeology of the Other Dead	37
Chris Fowler	
Keep Asking Questions	43
Alison Klevnäs	
Deaths Matter	49
Christopher J. Knüsel	
The Two Cultures – An Unfinished Synthesis	57
Terje Oestigaard	
Prehistoric Ethics	65
Liv Nilsson Stutz	
Cautiously Optimistic – A Reply	71

ARTICLES

Göran Gruber, Tom Carlsson & Alexander Gill

Crops, Cattle and Human DNA – The Motala Site and the
Mesolithic-Neolithic Transition in Östergötland, Southern Sweden 81

Astrid J. Nyland

Rock Procurement in the Early Neolithic in Southern Norway
– Significance by Association with People and Places? 107

Fredrik Fahlander

The Materiality of the Ancient Dead – Post-burial Practices
and Ontologies of Death in Southern Sweden AD 800–1200 137

Magnus Ljunge

Picturing the Meaning of Scandinavian Rock Art – Graphic
Representations, Archaeological Interpretations and Material Alterations ... 163

REVIEW

Martin Rundqvist

Review: Cecilia Ljung. *Under runristad häll – Tidigkristna
gravmonument i 1000-talets Sverige* 193

THE SWEDISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

In 1947 the statutory meeting for the Swedish Archaeological Society took place at the Museum of National Antiquities. The Society is a common body for professional Swedish archaeologists, regardless of specialty. 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 shall especially take care of the vocational interest of the archaeologists. This task shall be carried out by taking part in the public debate, by influencing the public opinion, and by being a body to which proposed measures are submitted for consideration. The Society arranges discussions and seminars on different archaeological topics.

In 1993 the annual journal *Current Swedish Archaeology* began to be issued. The journal has since then contained articles mirroring current archaeological research and theoretical trends. The Society's board has sixteen members from universities, museums and archaeological institutions in various parts of Sweden. Joakim Wehlin from Dalarna museum, is the present chairman.

EDITORIAL

In our editorials in the last couple of years, we have reported on the suggested withdrawal of funding for the publication of scientific journals within the field of humanities and social sciences, announced by the Swedish Research Council in 2014. Last year we informed about the criticisms voiced against the proposal during 2015, leading to the positive development that the Swedish Research Council decided not to implement the suggested cut in funding. Late this year, the Council announced that the support for publications of peer-review journals will be re-established in spring 2017. This is positive news for all journals in Sweden, and of course also for *Current Swedish Archaeology*. However, the first suggestion from the Swedish Research Council defining the criteria for evaluating which journals to support, has some unclear formulations. The Council plans to require gold open access for all journals it funds. In principle we support this suggestion, but also see that if it is implemented, the Council will need to compensate the journals for lost income from cancelled subscriptions that full open access will result in. The Council also suggests a more in-depth qualitative evaluation of journals applying for funding. Here too, while in principle supporting high standards of quality in Swedish science journals, we also see that having a government authority controlling quality in journals might risk infringing the quality check that journals already have in place with an established peer-review system and editorial board. In short, we are happy to see that the Swedish Research Council is announcing that funding for journal publication will be up next year. At the same time, we see that the suggestion for how this is going to happen needs more discussion.

THIS YEAR'S VOLUME

This year's keynote is by Liv Nilsson-Stutz and concerns methodological, practical, ethical and theoretical developments in contemporary burial archaeology. Mortuary archaeology has undergone several changes in recent decades. The increasing use of natural scientific methods such as aDNA and isotopes has made global headlines in the media and added new and sometimes controversial information about the dead. In addition, it is now common in contemporary Swedish contract archaeology to include wood and soil analyses, archaeobotany, spectrometry, ceramic analyses of clay and heat, osteological analyses beyond sex and age etc. when excavating burials. We thus extract more information from the burials than before, but the potential and use of this data and how it affects the way we excavate and document is seldom discussed in depth.

There have also been a number of theoretical developments. Intersectional theory and life-cycle perspectives have proven helpful to avoid static views of the buried individual based on general categories such as sex, age and status. Ethical aspects of handling human remains have also been increasingly emphasized – in relation to both prehistoric and contemporary dead. The recent turn to materialist standpoints has criticized the anthropocentric bias in the way human remains are the central focus of burials at the expense of e.g. animal remains and other natural materialities. The concepts of grave and burial have always eluded any clear-cut definitions, and this question has been revitalized and questioned from a realist and relational point of view of becomings. From this perspective, all aspects (human and non-human) of the burial as it “presents itself” are traced over time and space and thus expand the context for interpretation.

These and other theoretical developments have questioned the traditional idea of the burial monument as a closed context – a construction for one individual buried on one occasion. How the changed forms of excavation and the increasing information gained from burials correspond to current theoretical strands is thus a challenge for contemporary archaeology to address. The keynote discusses these and other aspects of the wide field of burial archaeology and is commented upon by Richard Bradley, Chris Fowler, Alison Klevnäs, Christopher Knüsel and Terje Østigård.

This year's volume also contains four research articles and one review. Göran Gruber, Tom Carlsson and Alexander Gill discuss archaeological and palaeogenetic research on the transition to agriculture in the province of Östergötland in southern Sweden. Instead of polarizing the two approaches, they suggest that even though biomolecular data

indicates migrations from farming populations, it does not necessarily contradict the archaeological interpretation that local groups of hunter-gatherers initiated a transition to agriculture in the area. Astrid Nyland is likewise concerned with the Neolithization process in her article. She discusses lithic procurement in Early Neolithic Norway in terms of objectified expressions of cultural identity and socio-political strategies, which, she argues, resulted in two parallel processes of Neolithization in the western and eastern regions of southern Norway. In the next article, Fredrik Fahlander discusses reuse of graves during the 9th–12th centuries AD in Sweden. He emphasizes material and ontological aspects of the mortal remains and suggests that post-burial actions generally constituted ways of relating to a specific type of materiality, the bones of the ancient dead, rather than being social strategies to negotiate power, status and identity. Magnus Ljunge examines the archaeological practice of graphical representation of Bronze Age rock art in Scandinavia. He argues that the materiality of the rock is a fundamental property of the imagery, and that significant visual aspects are lost or transformed during the translation from stone to paper or digital media. Finally, Martin Rundqvist contributes a review of Cecilia Ljung's thesis *Under runristad häll: Tidigkristna gravmonument i 1000-talets Sverige* (Resting under rune-inscribed stones: Early Christian grave monuments in eleventh-century Sweden).

We hope that you will find this year's issue interesting and stimulating. Do not forget to submit manuscripts for the next issue before the end of March.

Fredrik Fahlander & Anders Högberg, editors

