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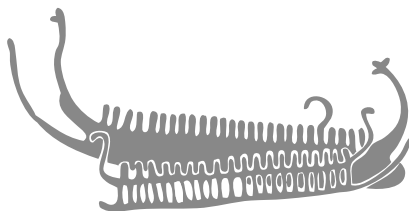
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Editors:
Fredrik Fahlander & Anders Högberg

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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

First of all, we are really happy for the interest aroused by last year's keynote discussion by Kristian Kristiansen, Elizabeth S. Chilton, Alfredo González-Ruibal, Isto Huvila, Stefan Larsson and Elisabeth Niklasson. Kristiansen's arguments that we face a revolution in archaeology due to the breakthrough of scientific analyses certainly spawned a lot of stimulating debate and will probably continue to do so for some time.

In the previous editorial we reported on the withdrawal of funding announced by the Swedish Research Council in 2014. The consequences would be fatal for a number of Swedish academic journals which depend on financial support, including *Current Swedish Archaeology*. The question of how journals in the humanities are to be financed has been a subject of critical discussion during 2015. As a direct response to the signals sent out by the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish Association for Scholarly Publishing was formed. Its purpose is to improve the conditions and visibility of scholarly publications. *Current Swedish Archaeology* is one of the twenty or so members.

The critical discussion has had an effect. In the autumn of 2015 we received news from the Swedish Research Council that they will reintroduce support for Swedish academic journals in the fields of humanities and social science. A renewed system for funding of Swedish journals will be launched and we are, of course, pleased that the question is moving in a positive direction. The general frames and details for the new journal support will be defined during the latter part of 2016 and the support is planned to be launched in 2017. We will continue to report on these matters in coming issues.

Matters regarding scholarly publication have also been discussed internationally during 2015. A hot topic is the price of subscriptions and the cost of Open Access publication. With the statement “Moving Forwards on Open Access” the League of European Research Universities (LERU) rhetorically declared: “Christmas is over – research funding should go to research, not to publishers.” LERU calls upon the European Commission to bring sensible solutions for how to handle Open Access publication in the future. Today it is too expensive. To get your article published in Gold Open Access can cost your research budget 2,000 euros. At the same time universities pay high fees to get access to important journals. And, according to LERU, the publishers have a profit margin of 35% or more on products for which the universities pay in that their researchers write the content and also manage the quality control through the peer-review system, without receiving any remuneration. These unquestionably unfair terms of contract have had the effect that more and more editors are breaking their contracts with established publishers.

Another topic of discussion is the consequences of English being the predominant language of scholarship. In an article in *Antiquity*, Koji Mizoguchi, President of the World Archaeological Congress and Professor at Kyushu University in Japan, writes about how this has led to an Anglo-Saxon dominance in theoretical discussion in archaeology. Scholars who do not have English as their first language have increasing difficulties in publishing internationally when journals have strict criteria for the quality of language while simultaneously lacking language editors. Texts are also reviewed by peers who are schooled in an English-language discourse, which increasingly forces research into a framework where only Anglo-Saxon researchers tend to be cited.

In the light of these discussions, we are proud that *Current Swedish Archaeology* allows authors to retain the copyright on their texts and that the articles are made available free of charge in Open Access, with only a six-month delay. The cost of subscription is low. A library can make our journal available at a negligible cost. Moreover, we provide language revision for all manuscripts free of charge. We are working hard to retain these terms for publication in *Current Swedish Archaeology*. Since we do not have a big publishing house behind us to cover the costs of publication, we are dependent on the support provided by the Swedish Research Council to maintain the quality of the journal.

THIS YEAR'S VOLUME

This year's keynote text is written by Gavin Lucas from the University of Iceland and concerns theory building in archaeology. The issue of theory building in archaeology has had a varying trajectory over the years. During the processual era, many archaeologists emphasized the importance of building theory, perhaps most notably in Binford's implementation of anthropological theory. With the introduction of post-processualism during the 1980s anthropology remained a key source of inspiration, but the search for theory gradually became increasingly directed towards sociology and philosophy. The post-processual era was indeed a period with great interest in theory, but not necessarily for theory building as such. It may be argued that some archaeologists seemed more keen to excavate the great body of philosophical thought than to interpret traces of the past. Despite the differences, the discussion in both processual and post-processual archaeologies nonetheless revolved around successful or unsuccessful implementation of theory borrowed from outside the discipline. This dependency on other disciplines for theoretical inspiration has been considered by some as a lack or inability, and recently it has been argued that archaeology should develop theories and methods more independently. For instance, the main theme at the Nordic TAG conference in Stockholm 2014 was "Archaeology as a Source of Theory", promoting such a development. Similar ideas are also frequent among scholars of the "material turn" who argue that archaeological theory should be built from (and with) the archaeological materials (see e.g. Olsen's keynote in CSA 2012).

Inherent in these recent calls for independent theory building is also a question of directionality. Should archaeology theorize top-down or bottom-up? The recent focus on materiality and relationality has in some respects renewed the interest in the small scale. Working from the bottom up is often considered to be empirical and "close to the material", letting archaeological data have greater impact in our analyses. However, as Lucas suggests, this is not necessarily always true; detailed and small-scale analysis may also be as reliant on general theory as studies on a grander scale. In his keynote he goes into depth in these questions and discusses how theory building may look like today and whether the directionality of the study or the origins of the theory matter or not. We are pleased to present a thought-provoking discussion on this subject with comments from the renowned scholars Joanna Brück, Per Cornell, Niels N. Johannsen, Matthew H. Johnson and Þóra Pétursdóttir.

In addition to the keynote discussion, this year's volume also contains four articles and one review, which all reflect current issues of Scandina-

vian archaeology. Irene Garcia-Rovira discusses trends and distinctions within research influenced by Object-Oriented philosophies. She identifies two strands of research in materialist-oriented archaeology, one of which leans towards a more descriptive approach to doing archaeology, whereas the other focuses on the study of social process. Christina Fredengren's article also proceeds from a materialist ontology, but her focus is on the uneasy distinction between nature and culture in heritage management. From a posthumanist perspective she argues that a less anthropocentric view of heritage could result in policies and strategies better adapted to a sustainable development. The next article by Kornelia Kajda, Tomasz Michalik and Dawid Kobiałka considers how archaeology can be more inclusive by studying how a group of young individuals with learning difficulties and cognitive problems appropriate the past. Their study shows that the participants in the project tend to relate past events to their personal lives rather than understanding the past as history. To understand how this works, they argue, is vital in order to make archaeology and heritage more inclusive for all. The last article, by Ing-Marie Back Danielsson, explores the significance of qualitative experiences (qualia) in a study of Scandinavian rune-stones. With a special focus on stones with *kuml* inscriptions, she demonstrates that the different material shapes *kuml* came in – rune-stones, uninscribed stone and graves – shared conceptual similarities although generating different qualitative experiences. Finally, Fredrik Svanberg contributes with a review of Annika Bünz's thesis *Upplevelser av förhistorier – Analyser av svenska arkeologiska museiutställningar* (Experiences of prehistories – Analyses of Swedish archaeological museum exhibitions).

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.

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Fredrik Fahlander & Anders Högberg, editors