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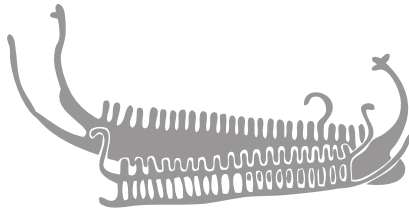
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Editors: Anders Högberg & Anna Källén

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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, and every second year the Society holds a thematic meeting for Swedish archaeologists.

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 eleven members from universities, museums and archaeological institutions in various parts of Sweden. Björn Magnusson Staaf, from the Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences at Lunds University, is the present chairman.

EDITORIAL

It has been a year of political (re)awakening for archaeology and heritage management in Sweden. The end of 2010 was a time of general political reflection when the extreme right-wing nationalist party SD took seats in Parliament. SD's strong claims to protect and value an essential Swedish heritage immediately meant an unexpected, and for many also unwelcome, support to archaeology and cultural heritage management. When Norway on 22 July 2011 was hit by the deeds of a self-proclaimed crusader of Viking descent, the potential consequences of organized extreme right-wing uses of national heritage were revealed in the most horrific way.

The keynote of this volume is devoted to a discussion of the Swedish political situation. The authors of the keynote article, Anders Gustafsson and Håkan Karlsson, have long experience in research and teaching of the politics of archaeology and heritage management in Sweden. Our keynote discussants bring insights from Sweden as well as three other national contexts, Denmark, South Africa, and Australia, where discussions of politics in archaeology have not only been inevitable but also intellectually productive. We are pleased to present you with an interesting and important discussion on an urgent and acute issue for archaeology and heritage management, in Sweden and elsewhere.

The articles in this volume reflect the great variation in themes and topics that we see in current Swedish archaeology. Scientific methods reveal new interesting facts about the people buried in a dolmen during the Neolithic. Also regarding the Neolithic, new excavations at Stensborg have revealed a Funnel Beaker ritual site. On a different note, new interpretations of crosses on rune-stones show that there might be reason to see them differently depending on the contexts they are used in. Three articles present critical views on archaeological practices and interpreta-

tions, on Gotland, in development-led archaeology at Motala Ström, and in the interpretation of European house urns. Another article calls for a wider global framework for interpretation in historical archaeology.

We wish you a pleasant and inspirational read with the latest in Swedish archaeology. Do not forget to submit manuscripts for next year's volume before the end of March, and keep posted on our web site for the latest news on the open access publication of previous volumes. This volume will be the last for Anna in her role as editor, and we are very pleased to welcome Anna Lihammer as the new editor for the next volume.

Anders Högberg & Anna Källén, editors