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Mats Burström & Anders Carlsson

The Swedish Archaeological Society

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## Vol. 7. 1999

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### INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

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# The Swedish Archaeological Society

The Swedish Archaeological Society was founded in 1947 and the area of interest comprises all aspects of archaeology, both native and foreign. The Society is the only common body for professional Swedish archaeologist, independent of their posts at different departments and institutions. In 1947 it counted about 60 members and today more than 500 scholars belong to the Society. The Society can therefore act as spokesman for Swedish archaeological opinion on matters of national and international importance.

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 Archaeo-*

*logical 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). This tradition was continued in *Current Swedish Archaeology*, Vol. 3, 1995 where a retrospective analysis of the period 1986-1990 was presented.

This journal, *Current Swedish Archaeology*, was started in 1993, and is an important part of the work that the Society is engaged in. The Society also organizes seminars and excursions. Formal matters are dealt with at the annual general meeting. Every second year the Society also holds a thematic meeting for Swedish archaeologists.

# Editors' Preface

For Swedish archaeology 1998 was a year of large meetings. In March the Swedish Archaeological Society arranged the Third General Meeting for Swedish Archaeologists. The meeting was held in Lund in cooperation with the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Lund. The extensive rescue excavations in the province of Skåne was a central topic at the meeting. These excavations are brought about by the building of a bridge over the Sound connecting Sweden and Denmark, and the construction of a new railway along the Swedish west coast. The excavations have generated many exciting new finds. At the meeting, the question of the relation between the archaeological costs and the amount of new knowledge was once again raised. It seems obvious that it is necessary for Swedish archaeology to find ways to devote more time to the interpreting of new finds and to relating them to a more general framework. We believe that the general public will find such interpretations highly interesting and an altogether convincing argument for rescue archaeology.

In August the Department of Archaeology at Umeå University arranged the Twentieth Nordic Congress for Archaeologists. These meetings have been held approximately every fourth year since 1916. They were started by the Danish scholar Sophus Müller as a way to unite Nordic archaeologists during the First World War. The archaeological research interests within the Nordic countries are today as varied as in the rest of the world. However, the history of Nordic archaeology and the geographical setting present a common ground for discussion.

In September the Department of Archaeology at Göteborg University arranged the

Fourth Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists. The meeting succeeded with its aim to contribute to the continuing discussion about the numerous identities and contexts of European archaeology. A positive aspect in Göteborg, as well as in Umeå, was the large amount of younger archaeologists taking active part in the meeting.

Another important event during 1998 was a parliamentary resolution to reform the higher education in Sweden. According to the new system, all postgraduate students must have financial support that makes it possible for them to finish their doctoral thesis within four years of full-time study. No one is to be accepted as a postgraduate student until they have demonstrated that they are fully financed. Hitherto, the majority of postgraduate students have financed their studies by working inside or outside their special field of research. Since the number of available jobs as a postgraduate student in the Humanities is in no way proportional to the interest in postgraduate studies, the new system will have far-reaching consequences.

One noticeable change within Swedish archaeology during the last couple of years is the considerable amount of work that is now invested in applying for grants for large-scale research projects from different funds. This may indeed help to solve the financial situation for a number of postgraduate students. It is, however, more uncertain how this development generally affects archaeological research. All too often, money rather than archaeology seems to be in focus.

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