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Mats Burström & Anders Carlsson

The Swedish Archaeological Society

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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 archaeologists, 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

Last year – 1997 – the Swedish Archaeological Society celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. For this reason the Society arranged a series of public lectures at the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm. These lectures were very well-visited and confirmed the great interest in archaeology that exists among the general public. An important future task for the Society is to help increase the accessibility of modern archaeological research. If the content of this research were more widely known, archaeology would no doubt attract even greater interest and, perhaps most important, attract the interest of new groups of people.

During the autumn of 1997 a proposal for the reorganization of the Bureau of Archaeological Excavations at the Central Board of National Antiquities was the subject of a lively debate, which received considerable attention in the media. The background to the proposal was a reduction of rescue archaeological projects as a result of the economic situation and the decline of building activity in Sweden. The proposal, however, raised questions concerning the future balance between economical efficiency and archaeological quality in excavation projects. The field archaeologists at the Central Board of National Antiquities as well as the archaeological university departments expressed strong concern regarding the matter of quality. It is obvious that these parties are united in a common effort to produce modern, interpretative archaeology beyond the strict positivistic documentation.

Every second year the Swedish Archaeo-

logical Society arranges a General Meeting for Swedish Archaeologists. One of the papers in this volume of *Current Swedish Archaeology* – Inga Lundström & Marja-Leena Pilvesmaa's paper concerning "Archaeological Exhibitions and Nationalism" – is based on a lecture held by Lundström at the Second General Meeting for Swedish Archaeologists in Stockholm in 1996.

The Third General Meeting will take place in Lund in March 1998. One of the themes for this meeting concerns aspects of centralization and decentralization within different fields of Swedish archaeology. An important question in this context is what role the size of an archaeological milieu plays in shaping and maintaining a creative and dynamic climate. Another theme relates to the accessibility and management of the archaeological source material. There will also be reports on current excavation and research projects and a discussion of the future role of the Society.

In 1998 Sweden will host a couple of international conferences. In late August the Department of Archaeology at Umeå University will arrange the Twentieth Nordic Congress for Archaeologists. In September the Department of Archaeology at Göteborg University will arrange the Fourth Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists. These conferences are important components of the integration of Swedish archaeology into the international debate.

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