

Editorial

This issue of *Jonas* is published under a new editor and I am proud to present thirteen articles encompassing a broad chronological spectrum and a wide range of topics, starting in the Neolithic and ending in the Early Medieval period.

As you may notice, there is an emphasis on the Neolithic period, and more specifically on ritual monuments from this period. The reason for this emphasis is a collaborative project, Millennium to millennium, carried out jointly by Kalmar University, Stockholm University and the University of Sheffield, headed by Mats Larsson (Kalmar University) and Marek Zvelebil (University of Sheffield) and financed by STINT (the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education). This project enables us to exchange students and researchers and to carry out joint work at different levels over a period of four years. The papers by M. Larsson, K. Brink, N. H. Andersen, L. Larsson, P. O. Nielsen and M. Parker Pearson and colleagues were all presented at a conference held in Kalmar in May 2003 that was part of this collaboration. Unfortunately, we have not been able to include all papers presented at the conference in this issue, but we will publish the rest in the forthcoming issue of *Jonas* (vol. 15), which is due later this year.

The personal commentary and contribution by J. Coles on rock carvings reminds us of important aspects of the debate over the protection of these monuments. The multidisciplinary focus favoured by *Jonas* is represented in this issue by T. Oestigaard, who discusses archaeology and its relation to material culture. The human impact on landscapes in prehistoric times is discussed both by M. Hellqvist, in a study on beetles, and by G. Pettersson and colleagues, who consider soil chemistry and pollen analysis. Viking Age metallurgy is studied from different viewpoints by I. Martens, who has looked at weapons in Norway, and A. Söderberg, in a study of metallurgic ceramics. We end the issue with a new section, "Short notes" (up to four pages), where original research can be published. Here K. Persson discusses the orientation of the church in Vendel, based on the terrestrial magnetic field.

Finally I would like to thank the Advisory Editors and the Editorial Board for their excellent cooperation, and NOP-HS (the Nordic Board for Periodicals in the Humanities and Social Sciences) for financial support.

Kerstin Lidén
Editor