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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. Tore Artelius, from the Department for Archaeological Excavations at the Swedish National Heritage Board, is the present chairman.
Editorial

The eighteenth volume of *Current Swedish Archaeology* has landed! In this volume we retain the tripartite contents introduced in the last volume and begin with a keynote debate on the concept of quality in development-led archaeology. A complement to the more theoretical discussion on cultural evolution in the last volume, this debate concerns the everyday reality of many archaeologists working within development-led archaeology in Sweden today. The question of how to define and measure quality in this type of archaeology has been a hot issue for the National Heritage Board and the county administrative boards in Sweden over the last couple of years, and it was addressed at a special conference in Stockholm in 2009. The keynote article demonstrates that this is an issue of some complexity, and the replies from our four guest commentators show that the discussion has much to gain from the experiences of other national contexts such as Norway and France as well as other academic disciplines such as philosophy. With respect to the larger picture, we think this proves the point we wanted to make by promoting this discussion here: that issues that mainly appear to be relevant for public authorities and heritage administration can also be relevant for the larger field of archaeological research and can benefit from being discussed in academic journals such as CSA.

The nine articles in the second part of the volume reflect the great diversity of themes and approaches in current Swedish archaeology. These articles fit the overall description of CSA and focus on the interpretation of the archaeological record and archaeology as social practice, but at the same time they are very different from each other. Some general themes and trends can, however, be discerned. Two articles (Magnell and Iregren, and Heimer) present new and original materials that offer new interpretational approaches to important themes and
questions in Scandinavian archaeology. Otherwise it is the presentation of new ‘glasses’ through which to look at previously known materials that dominates this volume. The six articles that fit this description discuss materials ranging in time from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, and geographically from the north to the south. As a final complement to all these new glasses, Jensen gives us a Swedish historical perspective on the valuation of heritage, in the only paper in this volume to deal specifically with archaeology as social practice.

We are glad to be able to present such a wide variety of current Swedish archaeology, and wish you a pleasant read. Visit our web site (www.arkeologiskasamfundet.se/csa) for news about the ongoing digitalisation of past volumes, and for deadlines and submission guidelines for coming volumes.

This volume will be the last for Martin, who moves on to other important tasks, and we are therefore pleased to welcome Anders Högberg as the new editor who will work together with Anna on the next volume.

Martin Hansson & Anna Källén, editors