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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. Anita Synnestvedt, from the Department of Historical Studies at Gothenburg University, is the present chairman.
2012 has been a year of anniversaries for theoretical archaeology. It is 50 years since the publication of *Archaeology as Anthropology*, 30 years since that of *Symbols in Action* and 25 years since *Re-constructing Archaeology: Theory and Practice* was published – all of them theoretical texts which have made a huge impact and difference to the discipline. From a Scandinavian perspective it is also 15 years since *Fra ting til tekst* was published.

But 2012 was also an anniversary for *Current Swedish Archaeology* itself: 20 years ago the first volume was published. From the very start the journal has made an important contribution in introducing new theoretical perspectives in Swedish archaeology and therefore it has been almost natural to make these anniversaries the topic for the keynote of the 2012 issue. The central theme for the keynote discussion has been:

> Where does the theoretical archaeology of Sweden and in a wider perspective Scandinavia stand today in relation to these anniversaries?

Bjørnar Olsen was kind and brave enough to take up the challenge of writing a keynote on this far-from-easy subject. In the keynote he presents his personal reflection on where theoretical archaeology stands today. We are also glad to present eight detailed comments on the text – by Elisabeth Arwill-Nordbladh, Mats Burström, Yannis Hamilakis, Cornelius Holtorf, Anna Källén, Brit Solli, Julian Thomas and Jes Wiernberg – bringing in perspectives from a Scandinavian standpoint as well as from other parts of the world. We are pleased to present you with an interesting, dynamic and not always consensual discussion that in many ways shows both problems and possibilities as regards where the theoretical archaeology in a wider perspective stand today. Let us hope
that this exchange will inspire further discussion on this subject or even start a new theoretical debate.

The three other articles in the volume reflect the variety of themes we see in Swedish archaeology. Fredrik Fahlander discusses the significance of the postmodern perspective in archaeology and where we stand today. Anders Högberg’s article touches on how heritage management communicates knowledge and perspectives using signs as media. Gustav Wollentz argues that the reuse of Neolithic monuments as well as reuse in other archaeological contexts should not be studied in isolation but as part of contemporary society.

We wish you a pleasant read and hope that you find it to some extent provocative. Do not forget to submit manuscripts for next year’s volume before the end of March.

With this volume Anna Lihammer leaves her position as editor. We are pleased to welcome Fredrik Fahlander as new editor.

Anders Högberg & Anna Lihammer, editors