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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 Archaeological 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

This fourth volume of *Current Swedish Archaeology* (CSA) contains a collection of papers presenting interpretations and discussing archaeological problems. The authors constitute a blend of well-established archaeologists and representatives for a new generation of researchers; many of the latter are in the final phase of their doctoral studies. This editorial policy is intended to promote a broad debate and make CSA a forum where different kinds of voices can be heard.

One of the papers in this volume – Elísabeth Rudebeck’s paper concerning “Expectations on Swedish Rescue Archaeology” – was originally presented as a lecture at the First General Meeting for Swedish Archaeologists (Sw. Det första svenska arkeologmötet) in Göteborg in 1994. These meetings are arranged by the Swedish Archaeological Society and are to be held every second year.

The second General Meeting takes place in Stockholm in 1996. The theme for this meeting is "Use and Misuse of Archaeology". The frequent references to the past – including the ancient past – in the public debate on problems of modern society makes this a topical issue. What responsibility do we as archaeologists have for how archaeology and archaeological interpretations are used outside the discipline? Is it possible to escape the problems by ignoring them? These questions are in no respect new; some may even think they are all too familiar. We believe, however, that their presence on the agenda is a vital aspect of archaeological ethics.

As a link in the establishing of CSA as a journal of high international standard, a number of leading Scandinavian archaeologists have been contracted to function as editorial advisors. We are very pleased indeed to announce the following group of advisors: Dr. Anders Andrén, Lund; Dr. Lotte Hedegaer, Lund; Dr. Kristina Jennbert, Lund; Professor Jarl Nordbladh, Göteborg; Professor Eva Rystedt, Lund; Professor Stig Welinder, Östersund. This group of editorial advisors will start their work as of vol 5, 1997.

We welcome new contributors to coming volumes. Instructions to authors are found on the inside of the back cover. Next year, in May 1997, the Swedish Archaeological Society celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. We hope you will follow the Society’s next half-century as a reader of CSA!

*Mats Burström & Anders Carlsson*

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