

FOREWORD

The majority of the articles in this issue (no.7) of *Laborativ Arkeologi*, centre around the theme of pre-historic cereal usage: Mats Regnell has, by availing of macrofossil analysis, been able to discover innovative cereal practices during the Early Bronze Age, and Karin Viklund has by combining macrofossil analyses with ethnological sources been able to show that the different regional bread traditions in modern Sweden, probably go back as far as the Iron Age. Ann-Marie Hansson has combined macro- and microfossil analyses with Classical and ethnological sources, to initiate an important discussion, namely the archaeological definition of our commonplace grain-paste, porridge and bread. Together with Sven Isaksson, Hansson has conducted various analyses to illustrate the scope of the problem, and presents a methodology for examination and interpretation of this enigmatic archaeological material.

A completely different problem-complex, namely the origin of bronze metallurgy in Eurasia, is treated by Helena Forshell. Frands Herschend presents a new statistical method for interpreting ¹⁴C-values in the dating of stratified archaeological cultural layers. Finally, Gertrud Grenander Nyberg re-examines the evidence for the earliest use of linen-weaving looms in northern Europe.

This issue has been somewhat delayed, owing to a change-over to new printing technology. With experiences now gained, however, we expect to be able to produce future issues more speedily, and we trust that our readers appreciate the improvement in quality. Gunilla Eriksson has designed this issue and carried out the technical editing, energetically nursing the articles through PageMaker to print. Uaininn O'Meadhra has been responsible for the English language editing.

We have dedicated this issue of *Laborativ Arkeologi* to docent Dr Hans-Åke Nordström, in celebration of his 60th birthday. Hans-Åke Nordström has, ever since the founding of the Archaeological Research Laboratory in 1976, been one of our strongest supporters, and has contributed to our lecture programmes with numerous stimulating seminars. Already in his doctoral dissertation, *Cultural Ecology and Ceramic Technology*, from 1972, he took an important step into the archaeological science. In that work, he presented several new methods for the analysis of ceramics, and his method for treating the different shapes of pottery vessels (shape modes), has become a classic inspiration to many. His dissertation resulted in his being appointed Reader (docent) in archaeological science – the first in that field in Uppsala.

For a long succession of years thereafter, Hans-Åke Nordström came to devote his main energies to the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm (SHM), where, in addition to other achievements, he was Director of the Bronze Age Section. As a result of his concern for archaeological laboratorial issues and technology, he took a lively interest in the work of the Technology and Conservation Department at that museum (now known as RIK), and he established a mini-laboratory in the visitors' research area, with microscopes and photographic equipment, for visiting scholars' exclusive use on the collections.

This past year, Hans-Åke Nordström has been granted the opportunity to apply himself full-time to his Nubian researches once more. We look forward to many fascinating seminars on that research project and wish him all the best in the future.

Stockholm, March 1994

Birgit Arrhenius
Editor-in-chief