

Foreword

This issue of *Laborativ Arkeologi, Journal of Nordic Archaeological Science* is a double number and we have included more articles than usual. The reason for this is that we are behind our time schedule as a result of financial problems. The Swedish council for Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSFR) has reduced our grant to a minimum barely paying the actual printing costs, although we produce an offset original. This issue was made possible by the Swedish Tercentenary Foundation whose generous grant for the costs for language editing was awarded because we here publish a series of articles from the research project SIV, Svealand in the Vendel and Viking Periods, which the foundation sponsored. These articles were presented at the Älby symposium in June last year.

Another pair of articles discuss problems from Birka of which especial mention should be made of that using DNA-analyses to analyse the oldest known chamber-grave from the site. Finally we have also had the possibility to publish an article with a detailed analyse of the carving technique on Runic stones.

Altogether this issue gives a good insight in the way laboratory archaeology can now contribute to the general archaeological discussion, showing where methods such as DNA-analysis and advanced statistical and geophysical investigations have matured and can assist more traditional forms of study. It is just this potential which makes us insist on publishing the journal despite financial challenges and it is this which we feel is enlarging our circulation. The increase in the number of subscribers, even so far away as from Japan, make us hope for a prosperous future.

In this number Lena Lundberg undertook the technical editing and Timothy Anstey was responsible for the language editing and I hereby thank them for their good work.

Stockholm in July 1998
Birgit Arrhenius, editor