

# Introduction

*By Hans Krongaard Kristensen & Per Kristian Madsen*

Between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May 1992 an international conference was held in Ribe on town archaeolo-

gy, with 78 delegates attending. This international conference was planned to mark the fact that the an-



*The participants in the conference pictured with Ribe Cathedral in the background.*

nual meeting on Danish town archaeology in Ribe was now held for the 5<sup>th</sup> time.

The conference concentrated on the topography of medieval towns, with the themes: 1) The Roots of Towns; 2) Town Planning; 3) Changes in Structure and Function. The geographical framework of the conference was the Scandinavian and Baltic countries.

During the conference 27 papers were presented by participants from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, and Estonia. The languages used for the conference were English and German. The summing up was led by professor Peter Sawyer with a critical and provocative evalua-

tion of the papers which were read to the conference.

During the evaluation of the conference the desire was expressed that the papers should be published promptly. This task was given to the organization committee with participants from Sweden, Norway, Germany, and Denmark ensuring publication of the various contributions which were covered by their particular interests.

Nine of the papers are presented here. The editorial staff believe that the articles provide a useful and important contribution to the discussions on medieval town history and town archaeology.