

# English Summaries

## Trade, exchange and Danish archaeology

*By Marie Louise Stig Sørensen*

Theories of trade and exchange are reviewed and it is argued that these activities must be contextualised in order fully to appreciate their importance in prehistoric societies.

Trade and exchange have always had a prominent position in Danish archaeology, but recently these concerns have become even more pronounced and demonstrate the influence of neighbouring disciplines. The current debates illustrate our failure to unite theoretical ideas with archaeological thinking and data.

Recent studies of trade and exchange fall broadly within two different theoretical approaches. One is concerned with formal and technical aspects of trade: how trade was organised, who traded with whom and where the objects came from. The other direction, more directly inspired by substantivistic theories of trade and exchange, emphasises the social aspect of these activities. The basic problems within each approach are quite obvious. The main problem with the former approach is its neglect of the social dimension of trade; for the latter its tendency towards abstract generalisation and a neglect of the material evidence. The recognition of these problems can, however, direct our research towards a more complete understanding of the nature and importance of trade and exchange.

Critical reflection on these problems suggests that trade and exchange must be explored through their contextual importance. The theoretical and practical isolation of trade and exchange from the rest of society must be broken. The study of the transmission of objects and cultural contact must incorporate the entire cycle of production, circulation, and consumption. In particular, however, the importance of the *cultural consumption* of material objects is emphasised, since archaeological data is essentially the result of this phase of 'action', and it is through it that culture is continuously reproduced.

If we acknowledge that the manner in which local systems select, receive, copy, and reject foreign or external elements is meaningful and cultural specific, then a wealth of information about the *active* role of imports in their contexts can be extracted. It is argued furthermore, that this relationship between local and foreign is potentially dynamic and is always influential in the cultural development.

The study of trade and exchange provides us with a possibility of exploring mechanisms of adoption and of revealing the active and dynamic role of material culture. Yet these possibilities have hardly been explored. This paper argues that the possibilities exist and calls for future research to provide the archaeological contribution to the general knowledge about the importance of trade and exchange.

## Exotic fauna remains from the Kongemose and Ertebølle period – a result of exchange?

*By Peter Vang Petersen*

In Denmark there has been no archaeological proof that exchange of material items took place in the Mesolithic. Amphibolite axes (Schuhleistenbeile) of Central European origin were transmitted during the late Ertebølle, but this axe trade seems to be linked with the neolithisation process in southern Scandinavia and thus atypical of pure "mesolithic" societies.

Recent quarternary zoological studies have shown that large game species like aurochs, elk and bear disappeared from Zealand and other islands in eastern Denmark in the beginning of the Atlantic period. Despite this impoverishment of the mammal fauna artifacts like pendants and weapons made of bone, antler or tooth from the three extinct species mentioned above are found on Kongemose and Ertebølle sites in eastern Denmark.

Among these exotic pieces there is an ornamented hammer made of elk antler, and clubs made of elk and aurochs bones, slotted bone daggers of elk bone, pendants made of elk, aurochs or bear teeth. Two bone daggers should also be mentioned, made of ulnae of red deer, found at the Ertebølle site of Grisby on Bornholm, where red deer seems to vanish during the Maglemose period.

Both Jutland and Scania could be the source area of the foreign faunal materials found on the Danish islands, and though other ways of transport cannot be excluded, it seems that the existence of an exchange system among the late Mesolithic hunters and fishers provides the best explanation for the finds of such materials at late Mesolithic sites in southern Scandinavia.

## Production and Distribution of Late Neolithic Flint Daggers

*By Lisbeth Wincentz Rasmussen*

During the Danish Neolithic period communities all over Europe undergo changes reflected for instance in parts of the Bell Beaker assemblage and later in the Aunjetitz Culture. The common use of daggers in Europe, is reflected in southern Scandinavia in a large production of flint daggers lasting through the LN and into the first period of the Bronze Age. This paper deals with the change, that occur seen in the production and distribution of flint daggers as metal becomes more known and used in the area.

According to the distribution and the find context, flint daggers of type I-II have a simple down the line distribution, but in two separate areas. Subtype IA and B (C) are primarily produced in northern Jutland, as hoards are concentrated in the vicinity of the Limfjord, and the distribution from here is down the line. A similar pattern is seen for subtype ID and type II but with concentration and distribution from Southeast Denmark. The percentage of type I and II daggers in the context of graves, hoards and stray finds is largely the same, except for type IC, which is used especially for grave gifts.

This distribution pattern changes from the time of the type III daggers: Hoards are not concentrated in restricted areas, and the daggers are evenly spread over the country. The amount of daggers in hoards has clearly decreased.

Other categories of artefacts demonstrate that in the first part of LN Denmark has two cultural areas: Northern Jutland with production

of flint daggers of type IA-C and a Bell Beaker influenced culture. On the islands the dagger types ID-II are produced in an Aunjetitz influenced culture. This regional pattern disappears in the late part of LN as the daggers of type III come into production. The local centres for production of flint daggers disappear and Aunjetitz influenced culture is seen throughout the area. About the same time as the percentage of daggers in hoards decreases, the first larger hoards of bronze items are seen in southern Scandinavia. It is assumed, that the changes from early to late LN must be seen in this context.

## Communication and exchange in Early Bronze Age – illustrated by studies of regionally patterning in southwest Denmark

*By Pauline Asingh and Marianne Rasmussen*

It is assumed that exchange – here in the general sense of communication – in early bronze age Denmark operated as a complex system that consisted of several different levels. There is more to the picture of communication than the traditionally studied long-distance trade. Studies of regional patterning may be a way of uncovering other, perhaps internally operating networks of communication. The exchange and production must be seen as parts of a whole and both aspects must be studied as interrelated phenomena.

Based on the study of grave goods from Southwest Denmark (figs. 1 and 2) from Mont. II and III the existence of 7-8 structurally different local groups (figs. 4-7) can be demonstrated.

Important aspects of these local groups are differences in complexity, differences in patterns of distribution of single types and of grave goods combinations in comparison with the general distribution of graves (figs. 3a and b), as well as the character of the specific local development in relation to the more general development (figs. 8a and b).

It is claimed that the structure of the regional distribution pattern and its development largely reflects the systems of exchange and production and their development, and for that reason must be considered in a wider economic context. The long-distance imported bronze objects enter into the different contexts on equal terms and following the same patterns as the local products – an argument for the importance of the local tradition and organisation.

All aspects point to essential changes in the structure of regional patterning as well as in the organisation of systems of communication and perhaps in the structure of society as a whole from Mont. II to III. Chronologically these changes correspond with marked changes in the strategy of cultivation towards the end of the early bronze age as has been pointed out in recent pollen investigations.

## Long-distance trade in Roman Iron Age – from gift exchange to administrative trade

*By Ulla Lund Hansen*

The concept of trade, its content and interpretation within varying archaeological methods, is analysed within the Roman Iron Age (A.D. to approximately 400 A. D.).

Different types of exchange, their relation and possible dependence of the structure of society, has often been examined in recent research. (Section 1). This paper analyses the structure of the Roman society in the free Germania and the impact of Roman imports on this society – whether it is a question of status, relational factors between families, redistribution of objects within a local area, or goods which are being exchanged with more remote areas of Germania. Finally some objects must be regarded as supplies of raw material (section 2).

Recently several scientists have discussed the interpretation of the presence of Roman imports in the Early Roman Iron Age. Different views have been presented by E. Redlich (1980) and J. Kunow (1983) (section 4).

The author's view on the development of the exchange of goods and the fluctuations through time is stated on the basis of a sequence of observations of Roman artefacts dating of a sequence of observations of Roman artefacts dating from various phases of the Roman Iron Age. Roman import into free Germania is not limited to the numerous groups of bronze and silver vessels, glass and Terra Sigillata, beads, coins and weapons, but also consist of a limited number of small groups of finds such as fibulae from the provincial Roman area (section 7).

The conclusion of the paper traces the various types of change and their goods throughout the phases of the Roman Iron Age, the use of these artefacts in the free Germania, as well as the disbursement of this "trade" and the trade routes (section 8).

## On long-distance trade in South Scandinavia during the Germanic Iron Age and Viking Age

*By Ulf Näsman*

Using finds of glass vessels as example, the character of long-distance trade in South Scandinavia during the 5th-11th centuries A.D. is treated. It is emphasised that grave finds are not a reliable source for trade studies in the Late Iron Age, due to changes in burial rituals that excluded vessels from the graves in many areas. In fact, many new finds from recent settlement excavations indicate that imported luxuries were frequent in South Scandinavia regardless of their absence in contemporary graves.

The Early Germanic Iron Age (the Migration period) is a continuation of the exchange system of the Late Roman Iron Age, luxury import being dominant. Imports came from both eastern, central and western Europe, and the South Scandinavian area held a key position in the further distribution along the Norwegian coast and into the west Baltic regions. Exchange in the Roman and Early Germanic Iron Age was probably characterised by an exchange embedded into a Germanic social network. From the 4th-5th centuries a new phenomenon indicates, however, some change in the trade system: the first Scandinavian ports of trade, *i.e.* Dankirke in Jylland, Lundeborg on Fyn and Helgö in the Mälars Valley.

In the early 6th century the eastern imports ceased, probably because of the ethnic-political shift from a Germanic to a Slavic dominance south of the Baltic. The Germanic cultures of Scandinavia became exclusively dependent on supplies from western Europe. In the early phase of the Late Germanic Iron Age (middle Merovingian period) glass vessels came from England and the Frankish continent. The trade centres known are the same.

In the 8th-9th centuries new glass types occur among which English and Carolingian products can be distinguished. Many of the finds are made in a new generation of trading centres that might be termed proto-towns: 8th century Ribe in Jylland and Åhus in Skåne, and 9th century Hedeby in Schleswig and Birka in the Mälars Valley. This shift is accompanied by a new type of trade goods, whetstones and quernstones from the Rhineland, being indicative of a trade in basic commodities. Together with the introduction of a trade coin, the sceat, this indicates the activities of Frisian agents between the

Channel and the Sound. The sceattas inspired in the 9th century the first Nordic coinage.

In reality, the 8th century shift of trade system is the start of the economy of the Viking Age. Viking Age glass import is difficult to discuss due to the sparse finds. Nevertheless, imports can again be observed from both eastern and western Europe. The flow of Arabic silver into the Baltic hindered the development of a Nordic coinage and South Scandinavia became for more than two centuries the western part of a northeast European economic region, detached more or less from the west European monetary market. Not until the late 11th century did South Scandinavia definitively enter the west European market and the Scandinavian Middle Ages began.

## Viking Age trade in basic commodities

*By Stig Jensen*

A comprehensive study and a catalogue of the basic commodities imported into Denmark during the Viking Age is widely missed. As a substitute the subject is here illustrated within a small area round Ribe. Four groups of artefacts are treated: Quernstones of basalt lava, whetstones and Pingsdorf ceramic (Figs. 1-5). Close examination of this material has revealed a series of finds – to be exact 31. If these results can be applied to the rest of the country, the total will be several thousand finds.

Basic commodities appear in the Ribe area in the long-distance trade during the 8th century – approximately the same time as Ribe is established as a trading centre. Ribe seems to replace trading centres like Lundeborg and Dankirke, where imports were thought to be part of administrative trade. Whether or not Ribe marks a shift from this kind of trade cannot be decided. However, the growing import of non-luxury products indicates a gradual change of the trade relations.

The development of freight ships shows that the trade of basic commodities expands tremendously throughout the Viking Age (Fig. 10). At the end of the Viking Age, trade has reached such a level that the changes of the 8th century seem to be qualitative rather than quantitative.

## Trading Danish Antiquity. “A vagrant sent out by the National Museum”

– The Activities on behalf of the National Museum of the travelling salesman Peder Rasmussen 1898-1930

*By Birger Storgaard and Sven Thorsen*

A travelling salesman, Peder Rasmussen, born on 31st of May 1856, was accused of having attempted to intimidate an elderly farmer's widow into giving him her gold ring at the court of Vordingborg in 1907. The ring dated back to Antiquity or more precisely to the Roman Iron Age (0-400 A.D.), and according to the testimony of the widow, Rasmussen had claimed to be a representative of the National Museum.

Based on this case which was concluded in favour of Rasmussen, this article describes a rare aspect in the history of Danish archaeology around the turn of the century: the trade in antiquities.

Officially the director of the National Museum, Sophus Müller, denied that the museum bought antiquities from the many travelling salesmen going around the country peddling everything from spectacles to razors and whose sideline it often was to buy up antiquities. An examination of the files in the 1st Department of the National Museum shows, however, that the museum had in fact contact with the many travelling salesmen and often bought antiquities from them.

The museum's most important supplier of antiquities was Peder Rasmussen, who for 33 years – from 1898 to 1930 – sent in a total of 715 antiquities corresponding to a total turnover of Dkr. 4,374 or an average annual turnover of Dkr. 150.

Rasmussen was especially active in the south of Zealand and on Møn, but also in parts of western and northern Zealand. Through his trading activities he is our most important source of information about the prehistoric settlements in several parishes. Through the detailed knowledge of the routes of Rasmussen as they are described in his correspondence with Sophus Müller, we get unique information about the movements of a travelling salesman around the turn of the century.

Through his contact with Peder Rasmussen Sophus Müller furthermore reveals his great tactical talents. He fully understood to use both high and low, when the interests of the National Museum were at stake, and when it was a question of securing good antiquities for the museum, he showed great shrewdness.