

EDITORIAL



Editorial

The year 2017 has been an interesting and instructive year not least for the two new members of the editorial group Mette Svart Kristiansen, Aarhus University, and Rune Iversen, University of Copenhagen, who both joined *Danish Journal of Archaeology (DJA)* in December 2016. It is an intriguing task to facilitate the publication of so much good, diversified, and solid research. As new members of the editorial group, we are impressed by the general high quality of the submitted manuscripts. Additional to their quality, the manuscripts show rich diversity of subject areas spanning cross-disciplinary areas such as ancient DNA studies, isotopic analyses, osteology, macrofossil analyses, and of course solid archaeological subjects including chronology, typology, excavation methodology, and theory. Chronologically, volume 6(1+2) spans a lengthy period from the early Mesolithic through the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Viking Age, and to the early Middle Ages.

The format has slightly changed, as we have extended the word limits for research articles to 8000 words. At the same time, we would like to encourage brief communications as well and to let *DJA* facilitate prompt online dissemination of exciting news from excavations, museum collections, and archives, as well as ongoing methodological and theoretical debates or new discoveries to our international readers. It is our ambition the journal reflects the ongoing and diverse archaeological research in Scandinavia, and we therefore welcome contributions on new discoveries from all periods, from the early Palaeolithic to present-day society.

An essential part of the editorial work is to find the perfect reviewers for the incoming manuscripts. This is not always an easy task, in particular not if manuscripts include a variety of disciplines. However, we have experienced willingness, helpfulness, and high standards from all of our anonymous reviewers for which we are very delighted. As new members of the editorial team, we would also like to thank the people at Taylor & Francis Group for their

support and guidance on the more technical matters of the peer-review and manuscript managing process.

Fortunately, the total number of full-text downloads keeps rising, and in 2016 we surpassed more than 13,000 downloads, thus more than doubling the amount compared to 2015. For the first three quarters of 2017, we are at 8500, which is also very promising, and we surely hope to continue on these positive notes and perhaps again improve the scope of our outreach for the coming volumes.

Law and Archaeology

As a new initiative, we have arranged our issue 2 of vol. 6 as a *Special Issue*, which focuses on the different interrelationships between the history of law and archaeology. The background for this particular Special Issue was the international conference *Law and Archaeology in the Early and High Middle Ages, AD 400–1200*, which took place at the Carlsberg Academy in Copenhagen 7–8 December 2010. The conference was organised as a co-operation between the National Museum, Moesgaard Museum and the Law Faculty at the University of Copenhagen by Prof. Lars Jørgensen and the Associate Professors Helle Vogt and Mads Kähler-Holst. The Carlsberg Foundation and the involved institutions funded the conference. The purpose with the conference was to bring archeologist and legal historians together in order to illuminate the ‘legal mentality’ of the period AD 400–1200. The hope was to development new questions and new approaches to both the archaeological material and the written culture and thereby generate new answers and interpretations of the inheritance and kinship structures behind family burial patterns, the marking of property and related transactions, the control of natural resources, etc.

Already during the conference itself, it became clear that the many important questions and examples presented would be interesting to introduce to a

broader audience as well as to provide the authors with the opportunity to present more pervasive analyses. Therefore, a publication of the individual presentations was agreed upon. Conference proceedings work in mysterious ways and via the attentive eyes of Lars Jørgensen, the coupling with *DJA* was established in 2016, and Helle Vogt was instated as guest editor. The result is a Special Issue with six contributions from four different countries covering as diverse subjects matters as óðal and runestones, Carolingian *pfalzen*, watermills, Norwegian commons lands or manor houses, as well as private property in medieval Denmark.

As of now, there are no plans for making the Special Issues a recurring feature in every volume, but rather an editorial enterprise to be put together when the opportunity arises. This also entails that should you have any suggestion for a theme, we would very much

like to hear from you, and as is the case with *Law and Archaeology* and Helle Vogt, the possibility of acting as guest editor is certainly open.

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