

Editorial

Velkommen til, or rather *welcome* to the first issue of the *Danish Journal of Archaeology*! After many months of behind-the-scenes negotiations and work, we are pleased and proud to be able to present the first of many exciting volumes on what is moving and shaking in the discipline in Denmark and beyond. We, the editors, are not the only ones who have noticed a distinct lack of English-language, peer-reviewed outlets for Danish archaeology. Luckily, the Danish Agency for Culture agreed with us, and with their generous pump-priming funding, we are able to launch this new publication.

Archaeology in Denmark is rooted locally but at the same time can be said to be a strong and global brand. Most, if not all, archaeologists around the world have learnt that the earliest antiquarian efforts by Danish scholars such as Thomsen and Worsaae laid the foundation for archaeology as a modern discipline. Texts about Danish archaeology feature on many a university reading list, and cultures or sites such as Ertebølle, Hjortspring, Trelleborg and Lejre are known – despite their occasionally awkward names seen from a non-Scandinavian perspective – by many. Yet, as a discovery – as well as a theory-driven discipline, archaeology is constantly evolving. In most European countries, legislation is such that developers must, in advance of building projects, see to the adequate investigation and documentation of archaeological remains in the construction area. Years of booming global economy have meant that the frequency and scale of archaeological field investigation have reached unprecedented heights. However, the period of reflection following the widespread economic downturn has led many governments – including Denmark’s – to realise that excavation and documentation alone simply are not enough. Now, the publication of findings is being given increasing priority. Coupled with the move towards a publication-based reward system for university departments, the eagerness, need and readiness of commercial units, museums and academic archaeologists to publish findings in article format have perhaps never been more marked.

In order to meet this demand, the *Danish Journal of Archaeology*, which builds on the legacy of the *Journal of Danish Archaeology*, will fill the niche for an up-to-date English-language journal for scholars conducting research in and around Denmark and provide a peer-reviewed publication with a strong web presence.

The *Danish Journal of Archaeology* is dedicated to the presentation, discussion and interpretation of the archaeological record of the Scandinavian, Baltic and North Atlantic

regions in their international, regional and local contexts covering all time periods and all kinds of archaeology that have relevance for the Scandinavian area or to the discipline as such. The journal’s aim is to provide an international platform for publication and debate for professionals from the museum and heritage sectors as well as from the universities. Our focus is on empirically-grounded studies and our aim to tap into the strong tradition of excellent empirical work carried out by Scandinavian archaeologists, while remaining receptive to theoretical and conceptual papers. Additionally, the *Danish Journal of Archaeology* will provide, we hope, the ideal publication platform for the presentation of new finds and outstanding discoveries from the field – and the Scandinavian area is rich in these! The geographic and institutional scope of the *Danish Journal of Archaeology* is wide: Southern Scandinavia and its universities, museums and research centres constitute the central element, while the Baltic and North Atlantic regions make up the broader sphere of contact and influence. It is our hope and aim that the journal, as was the case with its predecessor, will be drawn on in university courses across Northern Europe, at the very least.

The *Danish Journal of Archaeology* publishes two online issues and one printed volume annually. Thanks to our collaboration with Taylor & Francis all articles will appear online as soon as manuscripts are accepted in their final form, which will, we hope, offer opportunities for dynamic and rapid publication and of engaging debate about recent findings and current debates. The professionalism and international marketing experience brought to the journal by Taylor & Francis also means that the *Danish Journal of Archaeology* will be available at all the relevant international conference, and thereby further promote Danish archaeology as the globally excellent brand that it is. The *Danish Journal of Archaeology* includes original research articles, news and discoveries and discussion pieces with the intention of fostering open debate in print about the archaeological record of Southern Scandinavia in its broadest sense and the position of archaeology as a discipline in the modern world. A broad portfolio of formats for contributions is offered: *Research articles* (regular analytical, theoretical or methodological contributions), *Research reports* (longer research articles with a stronger empirical or descriptive aspect), *Brief communications* (find or field reports and short notes) and *Discussion articles* (comments on previously published work or on special topics and finds). For further details and guidelines, see <http://www.tandfonline.com/rdja>. The instructions for authors

can be found in the menu on the left-hand side stating ‘Authors and Submissions’. It is also there in the menu ‘Subscribe’ where you can find information on how to make sure that you receive every issue of the journal. Also, note that we have negotiated very favourable rates for many institutions, including museums!

The journal’s first issue attests to this deliberate diversity of contributions. This first batch of articles ranges widely both chronologically and in their approaches. We have made space not only for the presentation of important sites but also for shorter contributions and discussions. In addition, we are very happy to announce that every single back issue of our predecessor, the old *Journal of Danish Archaeology*, is now available online to subscribers. Needless to say, all articles (with the exception of the willingly ‘uncensored’ *Discussion articles*) are peer reviewed by at least two expert colleagues from Denmark or elsewhere. We now heartily thank our corps of reviewers for their very important contributions. We also thank the members of our international Editorial Board who provide vital support and backing to the kind of project that this journal is. Last but not least, we thank our authors who have chosen to support this new publication venture here in its infancy – thank you all. We look forward to many years of fruitful collaboration and collegial exchange across national and disciplinary boundaries with both our reviewers and the Editorial Board.

The *Danish Journal of Archaeology*’s first editorial team is made up of Felix Riede (Aarhus University), Eva Andersson Strand (Copenhagen University & The Danish National Research Foundation’s Centre for Textile Research) and Mads Dengsoe Jessen (National Museum of Denmark). We cordially welcome new and old readers and we would encourage you all to contribute to this important new platform for Danish archaeology – we look forward to receiving your manuscripts!

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