

Editorial

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The editorial team is happy to present the 2021 volume of *Danish Journal of Archaeology*.

Thanks to generous funding from Elisabeth Munksgaard Fonden and Farumgaard-Fonden in 2020, we have been able to acquire the rights to the back issues of the journal from the previous publisher Taylor & Francis. We are therefore able to provide our readers free access to all volumes of *Danish Journal of Archaeology* (2012 and forward).

We have also acquired the rights to the *Journal of Danish Archaeology* published 1982 to 1991 and in the following years, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 2006. JDA will have its own website on tidsskrift.dk and we are currently in the process of preparing it for publication. JDA will also be open access. We will, of course, place a link to JDA on our website for easy access as soon as we're ready, so be sure to return to the site soon.

This year we have also been preparing the journal for increased readership and scientific impact by applying for membership at DOAJ, the Directory of Open Access Journals. DOAJ is a non-profit, worldwide, community-curated index of quality, peer-reviewed open access journals. Starting from next year's volume (11), articles in DJA will be licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-SA), which amongst other things, means that third parties are free to use the material on condition that appropriate credits are given, it is not used for commercial purposes and any subsequent licensing is not stricter. The editorial board may accept other Creative Commons licenses for individual articles, if required by funding bodies, for example.

This volume contains 13 impressive articles, which are presented here in chronological order.

In the research article section, Frei and Klingenberg present the first strontium isotope analyses from one of Northern Europe's richest Early Roman Iron Age graves, the princely burial at Hoby on Lolland. The Hoby grave was discovered in 1920 and contained a stunning collection of Roman luxury goods, from a time when the Roman Empire

increased its political and diplomatic relationships with Northern Europe. The grave and the nearby settlement that has been excavated in recent decades indicate that the Hoby area played a central role in these relations.

The phenomenon of primary and secondary animals is investigated by Bangsgaard and Pantmann, who examine depositional practices involving animal bones in the Iron Age. Using Salpetermosen in northern Zealand as a basis, and comparing the remains from here with depositions in other parts of Denmark, they demonstrate a hitherto unseen pattern: one animal species stands out compared to others in terms of the quantities of bones present, for which they use the terms primary and secondary animals.

Borake presents a unique female figurine from Boeslunde. It is made of gilded silver and probably dates to the Late Germanic Iron Age/Early Viking Age. It is argued that the figure functioned as an amulet. As the necklace is apparently an important attribute, it is discussed whether it could represent Freyja and Brisningamen. Differences in the size and shape of her eyes also seem to be significant, and point towards wisdom and foresight.

'Reconstructing the Gerdrup Grave' is an article by Kastholm and Margaryan, who discuss the interpretation of the 9th century burial, thus demonstrating the importance of genetic analysis. The initial interpretation proposed this was a master and slave burial, in which the woman was buried first followed by the man, who was killed before being buried. New genetic analysis, however, shows that the burial was actually a mother and son, therefore posing new questions regarding why these two family members were joined together in the afterlife.

Jessen and Majland present a Late Viking Age chair pendant from the elite settlement at Gudme. Context, distribution and association with the sovereign seeress are discussed. A new overall interpretation of 'triangulated reference' is proposed, linking the king, Odin and the seeress with the concept of *seiðr*, the act of performance and the privilege of being seated.

This volume contains four articles constituting the publication of the excavations in 2016-2018 at Borgring, near Køge in East Zealand. One article provides an overview, whilst the other three all investigate specific issues concerning Borgring.

In 'Borgring. Uncovering the strategy for a Viking Age ring fortress in Denmark', Christensen et al. describe the setting and remains/finds from Borgring. Situated on the northern bank of the Køge river valley, the ring fortress corresponds in its dimensions with the other known ring fortresses. The excavations confirmed that the wall was interrupted by four gateways, but no internal buildings could be identified. It is concluded that the fort was never completed. Three of the gates showed signs of fire, but finds within the eastern gateway pointed towards secondary use. The authors conclude that Borgring was part of the network of fortresses established under Harald Bluetooth.

In 'The coldest case of all' by Ljungkvist et al., the excavators enter into a collaboration with the National Forensic Services of the Danish Police, applying modern fire investigation methods to the examination of the eastern gateway. The fire investigation is aimed at determining how the fire developed. The construction of the gate building itself in the eastern gateway is determined.

Jessen et al. take a look at the lost landscape of Borgring, using geoarchaeological investigations to help reconstruct the landscape and surroundings, as well as the Borgring fortress, during the Viking Age. One of the aims was to examine the navigability of the stream running just to south of the fortress, in order to see whether naval access could have been important to its the location.

In the final Borgring article, 'Turfs and timbers', Mortensen et al. reconstruct the amount of building material used to construct the circumvallation. They also estimate the area that would have been required to provide the right amount of turfs and timbers. For this, they use REVEALS pollen data modelling to quantify the regional oak land cover, thereby demonstrating how much land was needed to provide the builders with the material to construct the Borgring fortress.

In his debate article, Price comments on the recent reactions to and ongoing discussions about the credibility of interpretations of strontium isotope proveniencing in Denmark. Price argues that

the strontium isotope method is still very useful for identifying non-local individuals, despite the identification of small geographical areas in Denmark with higher strontium isotope values, as well as the challenges involved in using surface water for baseline information.

In the brief communication section, Bennike et al. present and discuss a Mid-Holocene reindeer antler. The piece of antler has been radiocarbon dated to 4700 cal. BC, when no reindeer lived on Zealand, which was characterised by dense Mid-Holocene forest. The reindeer antler from Regstrup instead suggests contact networks existed with hunter-gatherer societies in Norway or Sweden, which exchanged reindeer antler for high quality flint.

In 'The Aldersro wetland-settlement complex', Roborg and Løvschal discuss the deposition and mortuary practices in Eastern Jutland. In this brief communication, they present the excavations at Aldersro in 2002-2003. The remains included both settlement features and a wetland area. The numerous finds also included human remains of more than eight individuals, which were deposited mixed together with typical debris, providing important new insights into mortuary practices in the Early Iron Age.

Peter Pentz compares one of the most high-status genres of the Old Norse poetry, the so-called shield poems, with the archaeological evidence for decorated shields. As no such decorated shields are preserved, the best source for shield decoration are the numerous miniature shield amulets, which have been recovered from excavations and collected as stray finds. The combination of written sources and archaeological finds thus provide new insights into the decorative aspects of the Viking Age.

In previous years, we have solely published research articles, but are pleased to see our call for other formats has been successful in this volume, which is made up of research articles, debate articles and brief communications. A series of papers are in progress for the next volume 11, 2022. They will be published when ready, so keep an eye out for upcoming publications in 2022, about new projects and discoveries from the field, laboratories, libraries and researchers at their desks.

We hope you will enjoy this volume!
The editorial team