

# Debate

## Editors' Preface

*Debate* is a new feature to appear regularly in future volumes. It is open for contributions – both shorter and longer ones – although the editors will try to present a specific theme in each volume of *Journal of Danish Archaeology*.

The objective of *debate* is to stimulate research through discussion. The editors believe that an open debate has important heuristic functions as a corrective both to specific research and to more general trends in the archaeological environment. It also has important psychological functions by offering an official forum for debate rather than the unofficial closed circles of criticism and opinion which easily develop. Or to put it in a slightly polemic way: Discussion and criticism is too important to remain a monopoly of those few who educate the future generation of archaeologists at our universities or participate in seminars and conferences – two areas where the objectives and the standards of our discipline are often moulded.

In *debate* we hope to receive contributions from a broad spectrum of archaeologists. In our first presentation we have chosen *Danish Archaeology in the 1980's* as our feature theme. The manuscript by Kristian Kristiansen was circulated to a number of archaeologists who were asked to present their opinion on the subject. The first responses are published here, and we hope to bring a few more in the next volume.

Themes for debate in volumes to come will be “The Introduction of Agriculture in Southern Scandinavia” and “The Transition from Bronze to Iron Age in Northern Europe». But we also hope to receive more specific comments e.g. on previous articles in *JDA* or other periodicals, monographs, and research projects.