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Årbog for Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab

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Soren H. Andersen, Norsminde 1974. – Foto: Henrik Thrane.

Søren H. Andersen 60 år 1934-2024

Af JAN SKAMBY MADSEN

Der har altid været fart over Søren H. Andersen, hvad enten han holdt forelæsning for studerende, arbejdede i felten eller var på vej over Moesgårds gårdsplads. Det er forskningen i den ældre stenalder – jægerstenalderen – der har nydt godt af hans store energi og arbejdsindsats, og blandt andet gennem årene har gjort ham til den flittigste bidragsyder med artikler til nærværende årbog.

Efter debutartiklen, sammen med C. Malmros, *Norslund. En kystboplads fra ældre stenalder* i Kuml 1965, er det blevet til mere end 50 videnskabelige artikler i dansk og international sammenhæng, og Søren Andersen har som indbudt gæsteforelæser delagtiggjort kolleger og studerende ved universiteter verden over i sin forskning og omfattende viden om den længste periode af Danmarks forhistorie.

Den ældre stenalder har fået nyt liv, er blevet uddybet og nuanceret gennem Søren Andersens snart 40-årige virke, hvilket bl.a. fremgår af den nye udgave af Sesams Danmarkshistorie bd. 1 om Jægerstenalderen, hvor han samler trådene. Lokalteter som Norsminde, Brovst, Ringkloster og Tybrind Vig er nogle af Søren Andersens store undersøgelser, der allerede er blevet klassikere i forskningen af den ældre stenalder.

Vi er en generation af arkæologer, der mere eller mindre er oplært i arkæologien af Søren, både gennem hans engagerede forelæsninger og ikke mindst som deltagere i nogle af hans altid talrige udgravninger rundt om i landet. Med stor generøsitet er de arkæologistuderende blevet indbudt til at gøre deres første erfaringer i det arkæologiske feltarbejde på hans udgravninger, hvor der altid er højt humør og en fast arbejdsdisciplin.

I bogen Århus Arkæologi, der udkom for et par år siden, skriver Søren Andersen, at han som dreng kun havde to ting i hovedet: "enten at blive pilot i flyvevåbnet eller at studere arkæologi". Det er dansk arkæologis gevinst, at han valgte det sidste. I dag er han centerleder ved Nationalmuseets Marinarkæologiske Forskningscenter i Roskilde og forskningschef ved Nationalmuseet, to stillinger der hver for sig kræver fuld tid, og herudover sidder han blandt meget andet i Statens Humanistiske Forskningsråd. Men han holder kadencen og afser stadig tid til at besøge Moesgård, gerne mandag morgen på vej fra hjemmet i Skanderborg og til Sjælland. Moesgård var hans arbejdsplads fra 1967. De første par år var han ansat som museumsinspektør og blev derefter tilknyttet Aarhus Universi-

tet som amanuensis og lektor frem til 1997, hvor han tiltrådte stillingen som seniorforsker ved Nationalmuseets Marinarkæologiske Forskningscenter.

Søren H. Andersen var fra starten i høj grad med til at præge udviklingen på Moesgård, både hvad angår universitetsdelen og museumsarbejdet. Hans pædagogiske evner kom ikke kun de arkæologistuderende til gode, men var også drivkraften bag opbygningen af udstillingerne om Danmarks ældre stenalder på museet. Hans samarbejde med amatørarkæologer landet over er legendarisk, og ikke mindst Folkeuniversitetet har haft glæde af hans ildsjæl og fortællerglæde.

Trods de mange arbejdsbyrder har Søren altid tid til at hjælpe – med et forord til et udstillingskatalog eller en diskussion af fremtidige udstillinger – og han er fortsat aktiv i styrelsen for Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab.

Søren H. Andersen reaches 60

Søren H. Andersen has always been full of go, whether he was lecturing the students, working in the field, or crossing the museum yard. It is the research of the early Stone Age that has benefited from his great energy and effort, which also made him the most frequent contributor of articles to this yearbook.

Since his first article in *Kuml* 1965, *Norslund. A coastal settlement from the early Iron Age*, written together with C. Malmros, he has given us more than fifty scholarly articles in both a Danish and international contexts. As a guest professor and guest lecturer at universities all over the world, Søren Andersen has been invited to share his research and comprehensive knowledge of the longest prehistoric period in Denmark with students and colleagues.

The early Stone Age was revived, clarified, and differentiated through Søren Andersen's almost forty years of work, as it clearly emerges from the new edition of *Sesam's Danmarks-historie, volume 1*, about the early Stone Age, in which he gathers the threads. Localities such as Norsminde, Brovst, Ringkloster, and Tybrind Vig are some of Søren Andersen's large-scale investigations, which have already become early Stone Age research classics.

A cohort of students has been trained in archaeology by Søren through his engaged lectures and as participants in some of his numerous excavations throughout the country. With great generosity he invited archaeology students to have their first field archaeology experiences on his excavations, which were always characterized by high spirits and a firm work discipline.

In the book *Århus Arkæologi*, which was published a couple of years ago, Søren Andersen writes that as a boy, he had only two things in his head: "either to become an air

force pilot, or to study archaeology". It was a major gain to Danish archaeology that he chose the latter. Today he is leading The National Museum's Centre for Maritime Archaeology in Roskilde, and is also the research chief at the National Museum – both jobs that demands a full-time commitment – and among other things a member of the Danish Research Council for the Humanities. However, he keeps up the speed and still finds time to visit Moesgård, preferably on Monday mornings on the way from his home in Skanderborg to his jobs on Zealand. Moesgård was his place of work from 1967. The first couple of years he was employed as a museum keeper. He was then attached as an assistant lecturer and later as a lecturer at the University of Aarhus until 1997, when he took up his office as a senior researcher at the Centre for Maritime Archaeology.

From the beginning, Søren Andersen made his influence felt on the development at Moesgård, on the university part as well as the museum. Not only archaeology students, but also the public enjoyed his teaching abilities, as he was the driving force behind the museum's exhibition on the early Danish Stone Age. His cooperation with amateur archaeologists across the country is legendary, and the Open University has enjoyed his fiery soul and narrative skills.

In spite of the many work burdens, Søren is always ready to lend a hand – writing the preface of an exhibition catalogue or discussing future exhibition plans – and he is still an active member of the board of Jutland Archaeological Society.

Jan Skamby Madsen
Moesgård Museum

Translated by Annette Lerche Trolle