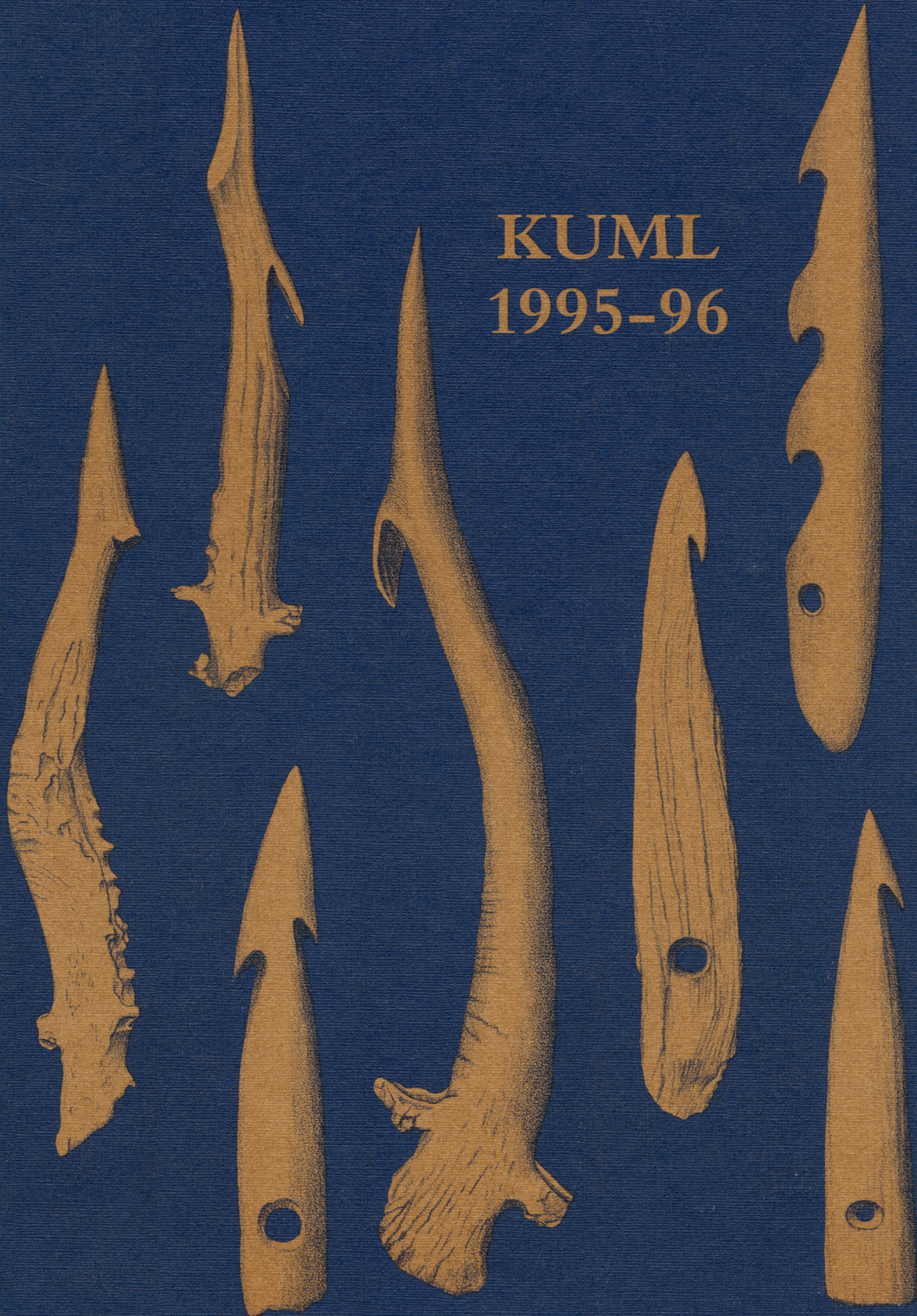


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Årbog for Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab

With summaries in English

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Poul Kjærum · Worsaae-medaillen

16. maj 1996

Af PALLE FRIIS

I 1959 udkom på Berlingske en lille bog om arkæologi med titlen “Fortiden til revision”. Bogen kostede 5,50. Det var mange penge for en værnepligtig ved ingeniørtropperne i Randers. Men jeg syntes, den var mere end pengene værd.

Soldaten var ellers – i bogstavelig forstand – født på et museum og flasket op med arkæologiske hasteudgravninger.

Når en landmand fandt noget mærkeligt med sin plov, gjaldt det om straks at redde, hvad reddes kunne, så landmanden kunne fortsætte sin pløjning, og far (der egentlig var tandlæge i byen) kunne komme tilbage til sine patienter, der havde siddet i venteværelset en time eller to.

Første kapitel i den lille bog fortalte, at der var mange andre kilder at øse af end landmandens plov: Luftrekognoscering fra flyvemaskine, kemiske analyser og elektriske målemetoder, som kan afsløre fundforholdene under pløjelaget, så man kan planlægge den bedste udgravningsform, før spaden sættes i jorden.

Der var også et spændende kapitel om datering – om snedige metoder for opbygning af en relativ kronologi og helt nye muligheder for eksakt datering ved hjælp af naturvidenskabelige målemetoder.

Men min største overraskelse fik jeg i kapitlet om tolkning. Hjemme fra var jeg flasket op med, at alt andet end lige netop løsfund bestemt havde noget at gøre med kult. Med en fantasifuld far som fortæller var det en spændende indfaldsvinkel til livet i Danmarks oldtid. I min drengefantasi foretog menneskene sig stort set ikke andet end at ofre til Thor og Odin, og – i gudernes navn – gik man nu og da heller ikke af vejen for lidt menneskeæderi.

Kapitlet i den lille bog gik den stik modsatte vej. Før kult og religion kunne komme ind i overvejelserne, skulle alle muligheder gennemgås for tolkning af fundene, som efterladenskaber fra en hverdagsagtig og verdslig handling, som håndværk, handel og husholdning eller jagt og fiskeri. Og minsandten om ikke disse tolkninger – små glimt af dagligdagen – viste sig at være dybt fascinerende.

Jeg tror alle ved eller har regnet ud, at forfatteren til den lille bog hed Poul Kjærøum. Eller rettere sagt hedder, for han er her heldigvis endnu – i god behold – næsten 40 år efter, bogen blev udgivet.

For 10 år siden udkom der en anden lille bog – “Arkæologiske krøniker”. Den er ikke skrevet af Kjærøum, men af en kreds af venner og kolleger – om Kjærøum og den museumsverden, som blev hans tilværelse.

Den bog er også spændende læsning. Et lille stykke museumshistorie, for Kjærøum var en af de første studenter, som gjorde dansk arkæologi helt fra begyndelsen.

Nu afdøde Mogens Ørsnes fortæller i bogen om den halve snes studenter, som begyndte studierne hos professor Brøndsted i 1945, i det han kalder “den gale sommer”. Ørsnes skriver videre: “Vi havde alle noget at glemme og meget at indhente: at lære, at læse, at leve blot for vores egen skyld. At rejse og opleve, at verden var andet end et landkort, hvor frontlinier blev tegnet ind. Alt det havde vi tilfælles foruden arkæologien.”

Og rejst blev der – til Vallhagar på Gotland til den første internationale udgravning efter krigen og senere på studieture ned i det sønderskudte Europa.

Jeg tror ingen af os, som kom efter, helt kan fatte, hvad dette første møde med verden og med udenlandske kolleger kom til at betyde for denne generation.

I sommeren 1950 gik studieturen nu ikke længere end til Mols Bjerge med den nybakte professor P.V. Glob som ekskursionsleder. Turen var ikke lang, men den fik afgørende betydning for Kjærøum.

Efter studierne søgte han og fik stilling som inspektør hos Glob på det gamle Forhistorisk Museum i Århus.

Stenalderens megalitmonumenter var Kjærøums speciale, men ret længe ad gangen fik han ikke lejlighed til uforstyrret at fordybe sig i de jyske dysser og jættestuer.

Snart var han tilbage igen i universitetsmiljøet, men nu som forelæser for de første jyske arkæologistuderende.

I “Arkæologiske krøniker” får han i denne forbindelse følgende skudsmål af Mette Iversen og Torsten Madsen: “Helt anderledes var det med Kjærøum. Han var altid parat til at skænke the op, tænde piben og snakke. Han lyttede til ens overvejelser og delte rundhåndet ud af sine egne tanker. Og man kunne være sikker på, at når han havde læst ens opgave, var den overmalet med kommentarer, og de var bestemt ikke altid rosende, omend de altid var velmente. Ser man tilbage på det idag, kan man godt undre sig over, at han overhovedet kunne overkomme at være så åben, imødekommende og hjælpsom (...)”

Globs og Bibbys ekspeditioner til Golfen var det også svært for Kjærøum at sige nej til. Han var med i Bahrain for første gang i 1957, og fra 1960 blev han “provinsguvernør” for ekspeditionerne til Kuwait til

øen Failaka, hvor han lagde grunden til en ekspertise på verdensplan som fortolker af dilmunkulturens små seglsten og deres forunderlige billedverden.

På ekspeditionerne til Failaka fortsatte Kjærum sine arkæologiske forelæsninger – nu ikke i et mørkt foredragslokale med lysbilleder – men i felten – og nu ikke for studenter, men for tre jyske og i arkæologisk forstand autodidakte museumsfolk.

Det var Ocar Marseen, som var inspektør på Aalborg Historiske Museum med en fortid som fabrikant, Peter Seeberg, der netop var blevet leder af Viborg Stiftsmuseum, som var forfatter og magister i litteratur og mig selv, der efter soldatertiden og en arkitektuddannelse var blevet leder af Vendsyssel historiske Museum.

At blive isoleret på en lille ø i månedsvis fører enten til, at man slår hinanden ihjel, eller også lægges grunden til varige venskaber.

Det blev til det sidste – til gavn for os nybagte, og hjemme igen i det nordjyske blev venskabet holdt vedlige gennem hyppige faglige kontakter. Det var nemt og trygt at ringe til Kjærum, når man havde fundet noget uforklarligt, og Kjærum kom beredvilligt på sin lille scooter, med murerske og gigt i knæene og hjalp os – tålmodigt og omhyggeligt – at udrede og tolke vores komplicerede fund.

Jeg er sikker på, at det heller ikke var vanskeligt for P.V. Glob at trække Kjærum med ind i foreningsarbejdet i Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab. I første omgang var det som leder af de årlige sommerture og inden længe også som medredaktør af Kuml.

I 1967 påtog han sig hele denne opgave alene. Det har han så gjort siden – næsten gennem en hel menneskealder. Samtidig har han også været redaktør for en mangfoldighed af store fornemme udgivelser i selskabets skriftserie. Og redaktørjobbet var ikke begrænset til at holde forfatterne i ørerne. Der skulle også rejses fondsmidler og føres alenlange forhandlinger om trykning og leveringsbetingelser.

Og Kjærum – nu bliver du nødt til at komme herop på skafottet!

Man kan godt sige, at din tid i Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab har udviklet sig i et helt naturligt forløb. Da Ole Klindt-Jensen afgang som selskabets generalsekretær, tog du opgaven på dig med selvfølgelighed, og da P.V. Glob trak sig i 1982, blev du – med selvfølgelighed – valgt til præsident.

Og nu holder du også op med at tage vare på Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab.

Din lille bog fra de unge år har følgende afslutning, som jeg ikke kan dy mig for at citere: “Meget er nået, men mere mangler. Trods oldsagernes mangfoldighed er de som en dråbe i havet mod, hvad der må være levnet, og alt hvad der for evigt er gået tabt. Nye fund vil i fremtiden stadig revidere vores viden om fortiden, og det samme vil nye hjælpemidler og nye forskningsmetoder. Siden renaissancens mennesker begyndte at

indsamle minder om vore forfædre, er den viden, vi har idag, gradvist blevet bygget op af alvorligt arbejdende forskeres arbejde. Hver generation har lagt sten til bygningsværket, som kommende generationer vil gøre det.”

Kære Poul! Det bliver ikke nemt for næste generation at erstatte din indsats med at “lægge sten til bygningsværket”, for nu at bruge dit eget billedsprog.

Som en af de første arkæologiske studenter er du også en af de sidste med et altfavnende kendskab til danske arkæologer gennem et halvt århundrede. Og ved din redaktørvirksomhed har du ajourført din viden om arkæologiens resultater i mere end en menneskealder.

Med disse to egenskaber som grundlag, har du, som redaktør, med ubegribelig tålmodighed og beundringsværdig solidaritet hjulpet alle os andre, når vores “bidrag til bygningsværket” ikke helt levede op til det faglige niveau, som du synes det burde.

Din karriere i Jysk Arkæologisk Selskab blev en naturlig konsekvens af din indsats. Når du nu holder op, er der en afslutning, som vi er enige om vil være lige så naturlig.

Nemlig – ved denne lejlighed at tildele dig selskabets fornemste hædersbevisning: Worsaaemedaljen.

Værsgo – varmt til lykke – og tak for din indsats.

SUMMARY

Poul Kjærum · Worsaae medal

In 1959 a little book appeared from the Berlingske Publishers with the title “The Past for Revision”. Its price of 5.50 kr was a lot for a conscript in the Engineer regiment in Randers, but I thought it was worth the money.

The soldier in question was born literally in a museum and nursed with archaeological rescue excavations. When a farmer found something unusual with his plough, what was rescuable had to be rescued at once so the farmer could get on with his work and my father, who was a dentist, with his patients, who had been sitting in his waiting room for an hour or so.

The first chapter in the little book explained that there were many other archaeological sources than the farmer’s plough.

There was aerial reconnaissance, chemical analyses and electrical methods of measurements that could reveal conditions underneath the plough layer making it possible to plan the best way of excavating before putting the spade in the ground.

There was also an exciting chapter on dating, with ingenious ways of building up a relative chronology, and completely new scientific methods of measuring age.

But my biggest surprise came in the chapter about interpretation. At home I had learned that everything except scattered finds was about cult, and when one’s father had a rich imagination this was an exciting approach to life in prehistoric Denmark. To my boy’s imagination they did little else in

those days than sacrifice to Thor and Odin, not even holding back from a little cannibalism in the name of the gods.

The chapter in the little book went in the opposite direction. Before cult and religion could come into consideration all other possible interpretations had to be considered, like remains of daily and worldly acts, crafts, economic activities, or hunting and fishing, and these interpretations – glimpses into daily life – became deeply fascinating.

I think most have now guessed that the author of the little book was Poul Kjærøum, or still is, for we are glad to say he is still present among us, nearly 40 years after his book appeared.

Ten years ago there appeared another little book called “Archaeological Chronicles”. It was not written by Kjærøum, but by a circle of his friends and colleagues about Kjærøum and the museum world that became his life.

Also this book is exciting reading – a little piece of museum history, for Kjærøum was one of the first students who did Danish archaeology from the very beginning.

In the book the late Mogens Ørnsnes writes about the half score students who began the subject with Professor Brøndsted in 1945, in what he describes as “the mad summer”. He continues, “We all had something to forget and plenty to catch up on: to learn, to read and to lie for our own sake only. To travel and experience that the world was more than a map with war fronts drawn on it. All this we had in common in addition to archaeology”.

And traveled there was – to Vallhagar on Gotland to the first international excavation after the war, and later on study tours into war-torn Europe. I think none of us, who came after can fully appreciate what that first encounter with the world and with foreign colleagues came to mean for that generation.

In the summer of 1950 the study trip only went to Mols Hills with the new Professor P.V. Glob as leader. The trip was a short one, but it was very important for Kjærøum.

After completing his studies he applied for and was appointed curator under Glob in the old Prehistoric Museum in Århus.

Megalithic monuments from the Stone Age were Kjærøum’s special field, but he was not able to devote himself for long at a time to the dolmens and passage graves of Jutland.

He was soon back in the university, but now as lecturer to the first archaeology students in Jutland. He gets the following broadside in “The Archaeological Chronicles” from Mette Iversen and Torsten Madsen. “Kjærøum was quite different. He was always ready to pour a cup of tea, light his pipe and talk. He listened to what one thought, and passed out his own thoughts generously. You could be sure that when he had read your essay it would be covered with comments, and they were certainly not always favourable, though they were always well intentioned. Looking back today one can be surprised that he could be so open, so obliging and helpful.”

Glob and Bibby’s expeditions to the Persian Gulf were difficult for Kjærøum to say no to. He was in Bahrain for the first time in 1957, and after 1960 became the Kuwait excavation’s “provincial governor” on the island of Failaka, where he laid the foundation of his international reputation as an interpreter of the small seals of the Dilmun Culture and their strange images.

Kjærøum continued his lectures during the expeditions to Failaka, now in the field instead of in a dark lecture room with slides, and not to students, but to three self-taught museum people from Jutland. These were Oscar Marseen, who was curator at Ålborg Historical Museum with a past as a manufacturer, Peter Seeberg, who had just become leader of Viborg Diocesan Museum, a writer and M.A. in literature, and myself, who after my time in the army and the study of architecture had become leader of Vendsyssel Historical Museum.

Being isolated on a little island for months means either homicidal tendencies, or that permanent friendships are founded. It became the latter, and back in north Jutland the friendships were kept alive by frequent professional contacts. It was easy and safe to call Kjærøum when one had found something one did not understand, and Kjærøum came gladly on his little scooter, with trowel and rheumatism in the knees, and helped us patiently and carefully to sort out and explain our complicated finds.

I am sure it was easy for P.V. Glob to draw Kjærøum into the work of the Jutland Archaeological Society. First it was as leader of the

annual summer excursions, and soon afterwards as ocoeditor of Kuml. In 1967 he took on the job alone, and has held it ever since for nearly a lifetime. At the same time he has been editor of many large scholarly works in the Society's monograph series. And being editor did not just mean holding author's to their promises. Money had to be raised from funds, and endless dealing had to be carried out about printing and terms of delivery.

And Kjærum – now you must come up on the podium. One can say thmat your time in the Jutland Archaeological Society passed as expected. When Ole Klindt Jensen retired as general secretary of the society, you took over the job as a matter of course, and when P.V. Glob retired in 1982 it was naturally you that was elected president. And now you are ceasing to look after the Jutland Archaeological Society yourself.

Your little book from early days ends with the following words, which I cannot restrain myself from citing.

“Much has been achieved, but more remains. Despite their number and variety, the archaeological finds are but a drop in the ocean compared with what there originally were and what is lost for ever. New discoveries will in the future continue to update our knowledge of the past, and the same will new techniques and new methods of research.

Since the people of the Renaissance began to gather memorials of our forbears the knowledge we now have has been accumulated gradually through the work of serious researchers. Each generation has added its stones to the building, as future generations will also do”.

Dear Poul, it will not be easy for the next generation to replace your contribution by adding stones to the building, to use your image.

As one of the first archaeology students you are also one of the last with a complete knowledge of Danish archaeologists during a half century, and by your work as editor you have steadily updated your knowledge of the results of archaeological research for more than a lifetime. On the basis of these two qualifications you as editor have with amazing patience and praiseworthy loyalty helped when our “contributions to the building” were not quite up to the standard you thought they ought to be.

Your career in the Jutland Archaeological Society was a natural consequence of your efforts. When you retire there is something we all find equally natural – to present you with the society's greatest mark of honour, the Worsaae Medal.

Here you are, heartiest congratulations, and thank you for all you have done!

Palle Friis
Vendsyssel historiske Museum

Oversættelse: David Liversage