

Editorial

Revitalising a renowned journal can be hard work, but once in a while hard work pays off. We are therefore very happy, and equally proud, to have been promoted to Level 2 of the Danish bibliometric research indicator, the highest possible (see <http://ufm.dk/forskning-og-innovation/statistik-og-analyser/den-bibliometriske-forskningsindikator/autoritetslister>). As of now we are the only archaeological journal of this ranking in Denmark, and appear amongst a select handful in Scandinavia. The reasoning behind this nomination has been both the diverse range of nationalities represented by the authors of *DJA* and the varied subject matters, which can be found in the three volumes. Furthermore, the high standard of the individual articles have undoubtedly supported the positive outcome of the evaluation, and we are very grateful for the authors to have invested the extra work needed to finalise their contributions with what can now officially be called an international standard. An often-overlooked means to this end is the large group of ‘invisible’ reviewers, who have put in considerable time and energy to make sure each article carries a solid and serious argumentation, and presents an updated and detailed understanding of the subject matter at hand. There has been much debate and critique of the peer-review system lately (e.g. Bohannon 2013). Despite its flaws, it remains the gold standard of scientific publishing (Smith 2006). Occasionally, journals might take for granted that the reviewers involve themselves in the peer-reviewing process, but we surely are very grateful for your support and willingness to accept the at times tedious labour this process involves. You know who you are and we much appreciate your sharp pen and incisive comments.

What has volume 4 to offer? Chronology and chorology are the cornerstones of classic archaeological research, and the current issue includes several articles, which debate precisely these concepts. Furthermore, they do so in such diverse periods and topics as the dating of the west Swedish Hensbacka culture, the distribution of horse-riding technology as witnessed in Bronze Age hoards, the chronology of large Iron Age cemeteries and even the spread of fashion into the material culture

repertoire of medieval Greenlanders. These articles also illustrate *DJA*’s eagerness to cater for shorter and longer articles, which is a configuration with which we try to accommodate the request from several authors to adopt the former journal’s willingness to publish longer and more encompassing articles. Evidently, when it comes to publication channels, one of the basic requirements for many of the museum-based authors have been the possibility of publishing in-depth and site-specific articles. These are a type of space-demanding articles we have hitherto overlooked, but now confidently incorporate into the *DJA* portfolio.

In the line of a more interpretive archaeology, we see a novel explanation of the possible use of the enigmatic gold foil figurines as they appear in the Germanic Iron Age. This article and its original take on the period’s use of emblems and identification markers have already seen a great deal of circulation on different online platforms (e.g. <http://videnskab.dk/kultur-samfund/guldfigurer-var-jernalderens-ros-kilde-armband-0>) and have spawned a renewed debate on the use of these figures. Also, a critical discussion of the concept of the Vikings, often placed awkwardly between resolutely popular ‘rape’n’pillage’ caricatures and more level-headed studies characterised by a pan-European and diversified understanding of the Viking phenomenon, can likewise be found in volume 4. As we currently witness massive investments in both heritage management and research into the Viking period, the timing of this article can hardly be more appropriate.

Another new article format we have chosen to introduce in the current issue is the *Invited Reviews*. With this type of reviews, we hope to present readers with a more comprehensive overview of the methods and theories presented in the books under review. As a start we focus on the larger, well-known *Opera Magna* often characterized by several volumes and of almost encyclopaedic character, whereby ‘hidden research trends’ can often be illustrated and made explicit. But these are just some of the highlights from *DJA*’s volume 4, a volume that once again

reflects the vigour of archaeological research in Denmark and on Danish archaeological material, as well as reflecting our diverse and international contingent of authors, reviewers and readers.

References

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- Smith, R., 2006. Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*, 99, 178–182. doi:[10.1258/jrsm.99.4.178](https://doi.org/10.1258/jrsm.99.4.178)

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