

## Foreword

In this issue of *Laborativ Arkeologi, Journal of Nordic Archaeological Science*, we have the pleasure to publish two papers dealing with the natural environment on the famous sites at Gamla Uppsala and Vendel.

Both sites have splendid burials from the Early Medieval period and at this time the analyses made show that agriculture is well established. In Gamla Uppsala agriculture seem to start already in the Preroman times whereas in Vendel the continuous development of agriculture first begins in the Early Medieval period. This information among many others found in the two papers from the quaternary laboratories in Stockholm's and Uppsala's universities shows how important laboratory analyses are in the archaeological science.

Other articles in our journal also illustrate this interdisciplinary work where Sven Isaksson presents the possibilities to find new archaeological evidences using IR-spectrofotometri. Rune Edberg presents Byzantine seals found in early Sigtuna. Highly corroded when found, the detailed analysis done with the lacer scanner at our laboratory was a necessity. Finally Erik Sperber gives us another paper demonstrating his great knowledge and fruitful methods analysing ancient weights.

For the next issue I can already now announce that we, among other papers to come, will get two articles dealing with new aspects of clothing and textile production.

In this number Lena Lundberg undertook the technical editing and Timothy Anstey was responsible for the language editing and I hereby thank them for their good work.

Stockholm in August 1999  
Birgit Arrhenius, editor