

## Elisabeth Holmqvist-Sipilä & Kerkko Nordqvist FROM THE EDITORS

As we present the last volume of *Fennoscandia archaeologica* as co-editors-in-chief, we would like to take this opportunity to express our warmest thanks to the readers, writers, reviewers and friends of *FA* for their support and co-operation over the past years – Nordqvist joined the *FA* editorial team in 2011 and Holmqvist-Sipilä in 2014.

Editing *FA* has been a great pleasure and experience, and we have truly enjoyed learning about recent archaeological research developments in Finland and the neighbouring areas. The topics published under our editorship have had a wide chronological and thematic coverage, of an increasingly multi-disciplinary nature. We have also learned a great deal about editorial work, peer-reviewing processes, and publishing archaeological research in general. Editing this journal has been a great platform for networking in both national and international research communities. It has been a joy getting to know our authors, reviewers, and their fields of expertise in a deeper way, and we are sure that many of these contacts will prove to be mutually fruitful also in the future.

It has been a privilege overseeing the peer-review processes of the manuscripts submitted to us, and we want to thank all the authors and reviewers for their trust. We especially want to express our gratitude to the numerous anonymous reviewers who accepted our ‘Invite to Review’ over the years and offered their time and expertise without financial compensation or public acknowledgement of their efforts. The quality of a scientific journal such as *FA* depends on the goodwill of external experts, but finding willing reviewers for our ever-growing number of submissions was sometimes a daunting task, requiring numerous personal contacts being made per manuscript. However, we feel that

the increased number of international reviewers during our editorship has raised the standards of scientific reporting in *FA* and offered debut authors and young scholars guidance in developing their publication skills. We also want to express special thanks to Maija Holappa, MA, for the layout work, and particularly mention our appreciation for the *FA* editorial board. In this connection, we regret to announce the death of Professor E.N. Nosov (21 August 1949–25 February 2019), who was one of the first foreign members of the editorial board and a member since 1997.

*FA* has become more internationally acknowledged in recent years, as can be observed from the multi-national authorship of the most recent volumes. During our editorship, *FA* was granted the label for peer-reviewed scholarly publications of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, meaning that the research papers are subjected to a peer review conducted by at least two independent referees. Over the past few years, the embargo on *FA* contents has been reduced to six months and – mostly thanks to the publishing subsidy granted by the Ministry of Education and Culture – the journal has remained free of publication fees.

It has been a great pleasure serving as the editors-in-chief for *Fennoscandia archaeologica*, the only peer-reviewed, English-language, scientific archaeology journal published in Finland, but it has also been a vast responsibility and extremely time-consuming at times. As we ourselves are early-career researchers, editing *FA* has sometimes taken vast amounts of valuable working hours which we could have spent writing our own research and grant proposals. Therefore, with this thank you letter, it is time for us to retire and pursue our personal research endeavours.