

Foreword

Marko Marila & Liisa Kunnas

Much like the process that led to A.M. Tallgren's starting as Professor of Finnish and Nordic Archaeology at the University of Helsinki in December 1923, a chair that was founded two years prior, this book has been long in the making. The ambitious planning for a full two years of festivities – beginning with a kick-off event and a seminar series, and culminating in a final symposium and the publication of a celebratory volume – started already in autumn 2019. Due

to coronavirus-related lockdowns, the planning process quickly came to a halt in spring 2020. Two years of celebrations shrunk to one year instead, starting in January 2023 with an introductory lecture by Timo Salminen (organised in collaboration with the Helsinki Archaeology Seminar series) and the launch of an exhibit with a selection of curiosities drawn from the department's archives of historical documents and collections of old research instruments (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The exhibit '100 years of archaeology at the University of Helsinki' showcased the development of archaeological research and teaching at the department and was on show in the department corridor for a whole year during 2023. Photos: Kristin Ilves (2023).

In addition, the celebrations included a series of posts on social media that presented not only the history of the discipline at the University of Helsinki, but also current staff and their research. The concluding event of the centennial year will be the Jubilee Symposium, and the book launch for this volume, in December.

The most arduous element of the celebrations has been the preparation of this volume. The first open call for contributions was sent out in March 2020. The collection was originally planned for publication with a foreign press, but partly because of the high costs of international open-access publishing, negotiations were started with the Finnish Antiquarian Society (FAS) to have the volume published in a Finnish series. In summer 2022 it was agreed that the collection would be published as a volume of *Iskos*. As an institutional Festschrift, this collection is the first of its kind published in the *Iskos* series. For this opportunity, we would like to express our gratitude to FAS president Elina Räsänen, *Iskos* editor-in-chief Petro Pesonen, and FAS publishing secretary Teemu Väisänen.

The articles in this volume have been divided into five sections. Section one explores the foundations and formations of the discipline from the latter half of the 19th century until the early 1980s, and is mainly structured around biographies of those members of staff who were instrumental to the establishment of the department into a research institution independent from its historical ties with the Finnish Heritage Agency. Section two is focused on the increasing internationalisation of research, and looks into research projects and collaboration with researchers in areas outside of Finland, more specifically on the African continent, in South America, the Near East, and Russia. Section three

examines the specialisation of archaeology into subfields such as landscape archaeology, conflict archaeology, maritime archaeology, osteoarchaeology, and artefact studies. Section four is a collection of reflections of a more personal nature on those aspects of research that normally remain uncommunicated in publications, such as interpersonal relationships, professional growth, or just plain love for archaeology. Finally, section five provides two essays with a forward-looking perspective on the current state and future of archaeology at the University of Helsinki.

In addition to the authors of the present collection, we would like to express our gratitude to the anonymous peer-reviewers, as well as those listed in the tabula gratulatoria. The publication of this volume would not have been possible without their support. Naturally, we would also like to thank our fellow editors for their continued involvement and support in the preparation of this volume.

The publication of this book in December 2023 marks 100 years of uninterrupted disciplinary development in archaeological research at the University of Helsinki. During that time, archaeology as an academic field has changed a lot, but much remains the same. As exemplified by the writings in this volume, archaeological research carried out at the University of Helsinki is as international, relevant, multidisciplinary, and exciting as ever. There is no doubt that this will also be the case 100 years into the future.

In Linköping and Helsinki on 6 October 2023, the 116th birthday of C.F. Meinander.

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