

As a whole, this material is connected to the first introduction of urban life to the Arctic area.² This situation gives us an opportunity to study early urbanization in a cultural and economic setting very different from the general European situation. Another interesting line of approach is that Vágur is at one end of one of the major medieval trade systems, the stockfish/grain connection between England and the Continent and the North Atlantic areas.³ Until now, only the southern branches of this system have been investigated archaeologically.

Not least interesting is the study of the growth and change of Vágur as part of the cultural and economic development of the Arctic coastal settlement of Norway. At least in the High Middle Ages, it must have functioned as a centre for this region. The problems of the transition from the Viking period to the medieval and from the medieval to the post-medieval are of major importance.⁴

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NOTES

¹ R. Bertelsen, 'Farm mounds in North Norway, a review of recent research', *Norwegian Archaeol. Rev.*, 12 no. 1 (1979), 48–56; I. M. Holm-Olsen, 'Gårdhaugene og gårdene', *Foreningen til Norske Fortidsminnesmerkers Bevaring. Årbok 1983* (1984), 37–46.

² R. Bertelsen, 'The medieval Vågan, an Arctic urban experiment?', *Archaeology and Environment*, 4 (1985), 49–63.

³ N. Bjørge, 'Kontakten mellom Bergen og Nord-Norge i mellomalderen', 41–53 in I. Øye (ed.), *Kjøpstad og rikssentrum* (Bergen, Bryggens Museum, 1986); P. Urbańczyk, 'The influence of Hansa's economic policy on the development and fall of Arctic trade centre Vågan' (Paper read at the international archaeological conference, Elblag, 1986; publication forthcoming).

⁴ R. Bertelsen, *Lofoten og Vesterålens historie bd 1* (Svolvær, Felleshistorien for Lofoten og Vesterålens, 1985).

THE LUND CONFERENCE 1987

The 30th Annual Conference of the Society was held in Lund, Sweden from 10–15 September 1987 on the theme of 'Southern Sweden in the Middle Ages'. The Society was welcomed on the first evening by Erik Cinthio, formerly Professor of Medieval Archaeology in the University of Lund, who gave a short address on medieval archaeology in Sweden and contacts between the Institute of Archaeology in Lund and the Society for Medieval Archaeology. The following lectures were given on Friday 11 September: 'Scania's role in medieval Denmark' (Olaf Olsen), 'South Scandinavia in the Viking age and its external relations' (David Wilson), 'Recent research on Viking-age Scania' (Johan Callmer), 'A new find of a Viking-age hoard in Scania' (Birgitta Hårdh), 'Excavations of medieval rural settlements in the past ten years' (Ingmar Billberg), 'Castles and earthworks' (Anders Odman), 'Church archaeology in Scania' (Barbro Sandnér), and 'Medieval towns in Scania' (Anders Andrén). There were two excursions: on Saturday to SE. Scania including the royal church of Dalby and the castle of Glimmingehus, and on Monday to NE. Scania when the medieval towns of Vå and Åhus and the church of Lyngsjö were visited. On Sunday there was a tour of the cathedral and museums in Lund.

The Society is extremely grateful to the Institute of Archaeology, University of Lund, for providing accommodation for the conference and for organizing the lectures and excursions. Lund City Museum (Kulturen) also kindly provided lunch and dinner for the members of the conference on the Sunday, and the final evening reception and dinner were given by the Dean and Chapter of Lund Cathedral.

HELEN CLARKE

THE CHICHESTER CONFERENCE 1988

The 31st Annual Conference of the Society was held in Chichester from 15–18 April 1988 on the theme of 'Medieval Sussex', and was based in Bishop Otter College. The opening lecture