

Excursion, Northern worlds, the symposium “The border of farming – Shetland and Scandinavia”

North Zealand, September 20th, 2012.

Departure: The National Museum, Copenhagen, 9.30.

From Copenhagen we are going to the large Neolithic **passage tomb at Øm** near Roskilde. It ranks among the best preserved passage tombs of Denmark. The chamber is 7 m long, consisting of 15 almost rectangular orthostats and 4 capstones. Parts of the original dry-walling between the larger stones are still preserved. The chamber and passage were found in 1831, and the chamber was dry and free from soil. The Øm passage tomb has recently come into focus: Folded birch bark has been discovered between some of the slabs in the dry walling. This birch bark filling – which has also been found in other Danish passage tombs – gives excellent opportunities for carbon-14-dates directly related to the construction of the passage tombs – Øm: 3120-2910 BC. This in accordance with dates of bark in similar position from other Danish passage tombs, though Øm seems to be ‘at the late end’ of the sequence (Literature: Dehn, T. & Hansen, S.I., 2006: Birch bark in Danish passage graves. *Journal of Danish Archaeology* 14, 2006: p. 23-44).

From Øm we are passing Gamle Lejre, reaching the church of **Kirke Såby**. Here, in the outer wall of the church a large stone carries rock carvings: a 1 m long ship, 78 cup marks and four oval figures. The ship should probably be dated to the Late Bronze Age. (Literature: Litteratur: Glob, P.V., 1969: *Helleristninger i Danmark*, Jysk Arkæologisk Selskabs Skrifter Bind VII, København: p. 213).



Rock carving ship, Kirke Såby

From Kirke Såby northwards, towards the manor house of Ryegård. Close to Ryegård three large (Bronze Age) barrows, **Sakshøje** can be seen from the road.

From Sakshøje we will continue northwards, towards Jægerspris, through the landscape of Horns Herred. South of Jægerspris we visit **Museet Færggården** with its archaeological exhibitions, Mesolithic to Medieval period. Including Iron Age metal detector finds. Also the stones with a hand sign, rock carvings, Bronze Age, are worth mentioning. Four of these stones were found at cult building, Sandagergård, excavated in 1985. The stone built parts of the building are reconstructed in the museum garden, where also the associated menhirs can be seen (Litterature: Kaul, F., 1986: Sandagergård, a Late Bronze Age Cultic Building with Rock Engravings and Menhirs from Northern Zealand, Denmark. *Acta Archaeologica* vol. 56, 1985 (1986): p. 31-54). **Lunch at Færggården, Danish smørrebrød.**

After Lunch, a bit northwards, towards Jægerspris. A short walk through Jægerspris Slotshegn (part of the memorial park around Jægerspris Castle, with memorial stones commemorating important Danes, created in 1777-89 by Johannes Wiedewelt (Prince Frederik and Prime Minister O. Høegh-Guldberg)) leads us to the **Slotshegnet passage tomb**. The passage tomb was excavated in 1744 by the Crown Prince and E. Pontoppidan, and a memorial stone was erected. Inhumation graves were found in the chamber, cremation graves were found in the mound, thus being later than the inhumation graves. Recently a magnetometer survey have revealed yet another chamber hidden in the mound (Smekalova, T. & Voss, O., 2001: Magnetisk kortlægning af arkæologiske anlæg i Danmark 1992-2000. *Nationalmuseet Arbejdsmark* 2001: p. 148-161).



Slotshegnet, Jægerspris

Also close to Jægerspris Castle we shall visit the passage tomb, named **Julianehøj** (originally Monse's Høj).

After Monses Høj was excavated in 1776, the passage tomb was turned into a national monument in French geometrical garden style celebrating the Danish-Norwegian realm, the age and importance of the monarchy. Memorial stones were erected carrying the names of the first Danish kings, and on top of the mound a Norwegian Iron Age rune stone was placed, inscription: *Igojo's stone*.



Julianehøj, Jægerspris

The excavation was directed by the prime minister Ove Høegh Guldberg. The results were published as a newspaper article in *Kjøbenhavns allene Kongelig privilegerede Adresse-Contoirs med Posten forsendende Efterretninger*, 13th of August 1776. We are dealing with one of the first published excavations in Denmark, and we can read about early observations related to stratigraphy (See: Kaul, F., 2010: Erik Pontoppidans og Ove Høegh-Guldbergs udgravninger af jættestuer - Jægerspris 1744 og 1776. *Aarbøger for nordisk Oldkyndighed og Historie* 2007: p. 37-56.). Ove Høegh Guldberg was probably writing the article in *Prinsens Palais*, what should later become the National Museum of Denmark. Here he had his office and representation rooms. After Julianehøj **back to Copenhagen**, back to the National Museum, around 5.00. And the next day we shall continue our sessions in **Guldberg-salen**, the very office of Ove Høegh-Guldberg.

