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Nordic Middle Ages – Artefacts, Landscapes and Society.
Essays in Honour of Ingvild Øye on her 70th Birthday

Irene Baug, Janicke Larsen and Sigrid Samset Mygland (Eds.)



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University of Bergen,
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Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion
P.O. Box 7800
NO-5020 Bergen
NORWAY

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Editors of this book

Irene Baug, Janicke Larsen and Sigrid Samset Mygland

Editors of the series UBAS

Nils Anfinset
Knut Andreas Bergsvik
Søren Diinhoff
Alf Tore Hommedal

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Christian Bakke, Communication division, University of Bergen
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Ingrid Aye

Preface

On the 26th of August, 2015, Ingvild Øye celebrates her 70th birthday and retires from her position as Professor of Medieval Archaeology at the University of Bergen. This calls for a *Festschrift* in her honour, represented by the present volume containing a broad range of recent archaeological and historical research into the Nordic Middle Ages (c. 1050-1536).

Ingvild has played a prominent role within medieval archaeology after finishing her master's degree in history in 1971 and obtaining her PhD in medieval archaeology 17 years later. Not least in relation to Bryggens Museum, on which her late husband, Professor Knut Helle, elaborates in his article. Until she left her position as Director in 1998, Ingvild was always heavily involved in the development of this museum as a centre and showcase for medieval archaeology at different levels – among other things through exhibitions, publication series and lectures.

Her work took a new direction in 1994, when she became the first Norwegian professor of medieval archaeology, at the University of Bergen. Under Ingvild's management, a large and vibrant medieval archaeological community with permanent close bonds to Bryggens Museum came into being. Indeed, Ingvild has supervised more than 60 graduated Master's students in the fields of Medieval and Late Iron Age archaeology during her academic career, in addition to eight completed PhDs. Throughout, she has also taken on many positions of responsibility within the museum sphere, research administration, and Bergen's cultural life in general.

Ingvild's work has gained both national and international recognition, and the writers of this book were encouraged to choose a topic related to her diverse research areas. A highly versatile researcher, Ingvild has worked with an extensive range of aspects and perspectives related to the Middle Ages. Both the rural and the urban landscape represent important foci, exemplified by her commitment to research groups such as *Ruralia* and *Lübecker Kolloquium zur Stadtarchäologie im Hanseraum*. Ingvild generally stresses a contextual approach; the material and immaterial landscape needs to be studied in relation to temporal/historical development as well as to the activities that may have affected it, including social, religious and political factors. Material culture in general, and archaeological artefacts from Bryggen, is an area to which she has devoted much of her attention. And another research subject close to Ingvild's heart is that of women and gender, as reflected in several of her works on textile-production equipment from the Viking Age and the Middle Ages in Norway.

The process towards a completed *festschrift* has involved many people and institutions. We would like to thank the UBAS editors, Knut Andreas Bergsvik, Nils Anfinset, Søren Diinhoff and Alf Tore Hommedal, for allowing us to publish this volume in UBAS. We are also immensely grateful for the grants to the publication from the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion at the University of Bergen, to the University of Bergen, University Museum, Department of Cultural History, to Stiftelsen Bryggens Museum, and to Inger R. Haldorsen's trust. Last, but by no means least, many thanks go to the 24 writers who have contributed with their knowledge and research and made this *festschrift* possible.

All three editors of this book are previous students and PhD fellows under Ingvild's supervision. We – like so many others, whether student or colleague – have experienced and benefitted from her 'little grey cells', academic dedication, efficiency, professionalism and enormous work capacity. With this anthology, we wish to pay tribute to Ingvild and thank her for her ceaseless dedication to medieval archaeology – at both a national and international level.

We all join in wishing you a very happy birthday, Ingvild – and a highly productive retirement!

Bergen, 3 July 2015

Irene Baug

Janicke Larsen

Sigrid Samset Mygland

Tabula Gratulatoria

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