

# Giving the Past a Future

Essays in Archaeology and Rock Art  
Studies in Honour of

Dr. Phil. h.c. Gerhard Milstreu

Edited by

James Dodd & Ellen Meijer



Access Archaeology



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## Dedication

*In honour of our dear friend, teacher and colleague - Gerhard.*

*Thank you for making so much possible.*

*This is for you.*



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Cover illustration: Part of the panel from Bro Utmark (Tanum 192:1). Photo: Tanums Hällristningsmuseum Underslös

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## Editors Preface

This collection of works celebrates the work of Dr. fil. h.c. Gerhard Milstreu in connection with his 40th year as director of Tanum Museum of Rock Carving and Rock Art Research Centre, Underslös, Sweden. In 1978, Gerhard took over the directorship of Tanum Museum of Rock Art, Underslös and the associated Bohuslän Rock Art Research Archive from the Danish Artist, Fred Gudnitz, whom Gerhard has already worked with over many years following his education in Visual Arts at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts.



DR. PHIL H.C. GERHARD MILSTREU. PHOTO HENNING PRØHL

Under Gerhard's leadership, the role of prehistoric art and rock art within the spheres of both the academic world, and that of the general public, have been significantly advanced through the integration of this unique visual information in archaeological discourse. Gerhard started the annual working seminar and transformed the museum's dedicated journal on prehistoric art, *Adoranten* (which was initiated by Gudnitz). At the working seminar, archaeologists and members of the general public alike from around the world, can come to learn the ins and outs of rock art documentation. The seminar, which began in 1978, was the first of its kind in the world, and has established the framework that has been applied in many countries around the world. The workflow developed by Gerhard and the museum is now also becoming incorporated into archaeological teaching practices at both Masters and Undergraduate level in Sweden and Denmark. *Adoranten* has blossomed to become an internally acclaimed, peer reviewed journal, distributed to museums, universities and rock art experts in 26 countries.

Collaboration and dialogue at a local, national and international level has also been a keystone of Gerhard's strategy for the Museum. Time and again he has brought people and groups together, to share knowledge and encourage understanding, thereby assisting in the achievement of results that are far greater than the sum of their constituent parts. Perhaps key to this is his sense of the importance of inclusivity, his ability to listen and his respect for other people and their views.

A sign of the success of these attributes can partly be gauged by the level and amount of Underlsös Museum's activities on an international level. The Museum and Gerhard have been part of several major national and international collaborations, including several major projects part financed by The European Union. Partly because, and as a result of these efforts, Gerhard's network is enormous. Those that have been asked by the editors to contribute here represent merely the common nodes within our networks. Therefore, as the editors, we apologize to anyone not included in advance!

We believe that all the above-mentioned achievements are the direct result of 40 years of inspiration, dedication, hard work, love and engagement from Gerhard. All these achievements are especially noteworthy considering that everything at the museum is done completely voluntarily.

Here, a feast of scholarly contributions from across Europe, at all levels of study have been collected. Each and every one of the following works addresses aspects connected to the work Gerhard has done over the last 40 years. Through their words and images, these pay respect to and acknowledge Gerhard's achievements in the fields of rock art documentation, research, international collaboration and outreach.

Lastly, it is pertinent to give the reader an explanation of our choice of title for the volume. One of Gerhard's slogans, as well as the title of a project to document the rock art on the island of Møn, Denmark, is "give your past a future". To understand this saying, is to, at least partly, understand the philosophy and rationale behind Gerhard's life work. The images have a timeless, artistic quality. They are a unique and, thanks to natural and human degradation processes, disappearing source material. The knowledge thereof and the skills employed in the study of these representations from the past is not solely about the present. It is about the future. One aspect is what we leave behind for future generations to behold in the records. The other, as important, if not more important, is about involving and motivating the next generation to continue. Gerhard has given, and is still giving the youth the possibility and the means to preserve the past: both for the present and the future. Therefore, we entitle this work in his honour 'Giving The Past A Future'.

James Dodd & Ellen Meijer, Editors

Tanums Hällristningsmuseum Underslös

The Annual Celebration Saturday 28 July 2018

## Tabula Gratulatoria

There is only a small Tabula Gratulatoria in this book. Gerhard's network is so vast with so many colleagues and friends all over the world, that it was impossible for us to contact them all. Moreover, where do we draw the line? The connections are varied, from: colleagues to artists; to students; participants to the annual international workweeks and so on. We have therefore decided to concentrate on the actual content to produce a worthy tribute honouring Gerhard for decades of hard work. He has been, and hopefully will be for a long time to come, a pioneer and ambassador for the rock carvings, not just in Sweden, but worldwide.

This book comes with a heartfelt gratitude, admiration and best wishes from the board and all members of the Scandinavian Society for Prehistoric Art, friends, colleagues, students and all individuals that have enjoyed and / or supported the important work done by Gerhard from 1964 onwards to protect, document and promote the beauty of the images.

Henning Prøhl, Humlebæk  
James Dodd, Aarhus  
Inger Marie Aicher Olsrud, Moss  
Marijke Houwink, Sandhem  
Ann-Zofie Duvander, Stockholm  
Mette Johansen Rabitz, Copenhagen  
Stefan Nilsson, Malmö  
Ellen Meijer, Maassluis  
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Johan Ling, Gothenburg  
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Louise Felding, Velje  
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Knut Helskog, Tromsø  
Christian Horn, Gothenburg  
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Lisa-Elen Meyering, Durham  
Peter Skoglund, Kalmar  
Kalle Sognnes, Trondheim  
Magnus Tangen, Fredrikstad  
Alberto Marretta & Sara Rinetti, Capo di Ponte  
Umberto Sansoni, Capo di Ponte  
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