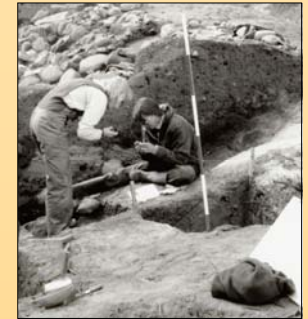


500 Years of Archaeological Practice in Sweden

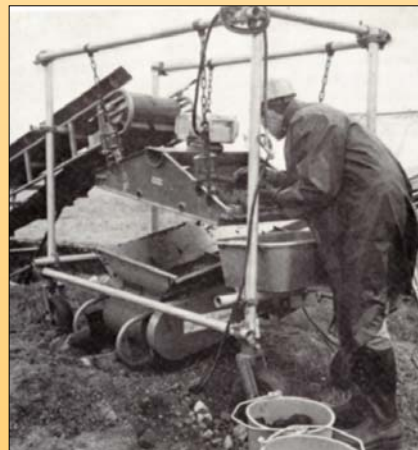
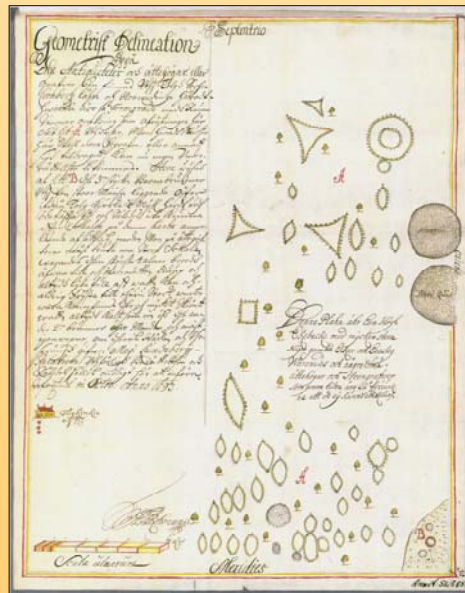
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Our project, *The history of archaeological practice in Sweden 1500-2000*, is financed by the Swedish Research Council and will run for 3 years starting January 2004.

Archaeological data are created through different archaeological methods and techniques, but despite this our discipline's practices are seldom the objects of historical studies.



For a long time, archaeologists did not do much digging themselves. An anonymous workforce handled shovels and spades. What difference did it make for results when a professional cadre acquired skills in practice? And did it make any difference when women engaged in the practice of the discipline?



Some technical innovations have had an enormous impact on archaeology, like photography or GIS. But did you know, that the 1960's saw a technical collaboration between archaeology and industry in Sweden? Compressed air-techniques, motordriven sieves and conveyor belts for the dump were tried - and largely dropped again. What factors influence the acceptance or rejection of new field techniques?

Antiquarian and archaeological practices have a long history in Sweden. The archival material bear witness of **surveying** and **documentation** of monuments from the 16th century onwards, and **excavations** have been recorded since the 17th century.

- what practices have existed in the last 500 years?
 - why have practices changed?
- why are certain practices accepted and others rejected?
 - what do the gender aspects of archaeological practices look like?
- how was fieldwork socially and hierarchically organised through sex, class and academic status?
- how have new methods and techniques created new archaeological categories?