

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NEW STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

NEW STUDIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Series editors

Colin Renfrew, *University of Cambridge*

Jeremy Sabloff, *University of Pittsburgh*

Other titles in the series

Ian Hodder and Clive Orton: *Spatial Analysis in Archaeology*

Keith Muckelroy: *Maritime Archaeology*

Graham Connah: *Three Thousand Years in Africa*

Richard E. Blanton, Stephen A. Kowalewski, Gary Feinman and Jill Appel: *Ancient
Mesoamerica*

Stephen Plog: *Stylistic Variation in Prehistoric Ceramics*

Peter Wells: *Culture Contact and Culture Change*

Ian Hodder: *Symbols in Action*

Patrick Vinton Kirch: *Evolution of the Polynesian Chiefdoms*

Dean Arnold: *Ceramic Theory and Cultural Process*

Geoffrey W. Conrad and Arthur A. Demarest: *Religion and Empire: The Dynamics of
Aztec and Inca Expansionism*

Graeme Barker: *Prehistoric Farming in Europe*

Daniel Miller: *Artefacts as Categories*

Robin Torrence: *Production and Exchange of Stone Tools*

Rosalind Hunter-Anderson: *Prehistoric Adaptation in the American Southwest*

Michael Shanks and Christopher Tilley: *Re-Constructing Archaeology: Theory and Practice*

Ian Morris: *Burial and Ancient Society: The Rise of the Greek City State*

John Fox: *Maya Postclassic State Formation*

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

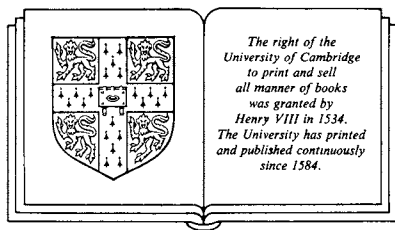
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BO GRÄSLUND

The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology

Dating methods and dating systems
in nineteenth-century Scandinavian archaeology



Cambridge University Press

Cambridge

New York New Rochelle Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521103886

© Cambridge University Press 1987

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,
no reproduction of any part may take place without the written
permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1987

This digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Graslund, Bo.

The birth of prehistoric chronology

(New studies in archaeology)

Bibliography.

Includes index.

1. Archaeological dating – Scandinavia – History – 19th century.
2. Scandinavia – Antiquities.
3. Archaeology – Scandinavia – History – 19th century.
4. Anthropology, Prehistoric – Scandinavia – History – 19th century.

I. Title. II. Series.

CC78.G72 1987 936.3 87–665

ISBN 978-0-521-32249-2 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-10388-6 paperback

CONTENTS

List of figures and tables vii

Acknowledgements ix

- 1 Introduction** 1
- 2 The conceptual framework** 5
 - Conceptual basis 5
 - Grouping type-analogy 6
 - Grading type-analogy 6
 - The find-combination method 7
 - Stratigraphy 10
 - Quantitative methods 10
- 3 The museum background** 13
- 4 C. J. Thomsen and the Three-Age System** 17
 - Guide to Northern Archaeology 20
- 5 The works of Magnus Bruzelius** 31
- 6 The Stone Age: the division into two and three periods** 34
 - The kitchen middens 34
 - Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic 38
- 7 The Bronze Age: the division into two periods** 40
 - The appearance of descriptive typology 44
- 8 The Iron Age: the division into two and three periods** 48
 - The Roman Iron Age 48
 - The middle Iron Age 51
- 9 The pre-Roman Iron Age** 56
 - The early Iron Age on Bornholm 57
 - Descriptive typology again 59
- 10 The Roman Iron Age: the division into two periods** 62
- 11 Coins and Iron Age chronology** 66

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

vi

12 Dating in the Bronze Age with special reference to Scandinavia 70

The material used 71

Find-combination chronology 76

General evidence of the finds 76

Other evidence 80

Summary of dating evidence and method 81

13 Montelius' own account of his chronological method 86

14 The origin of typology as chronological method 91

The early typological works of Hildebrand and Montelius 91

The originator of classical typology 96

Two terms 'type' and 'typology' 97

Typology and numismatics 99

Typology and Darwinism 101

The typological language 107

15 General aspects 113

Biographical notes 118

References 121

Index 132

FIGURES AND TABLES

Figures

- 1 Schematic figure of finds with different type content 7
- 2 Groups of finds with different type contents 7
- 3 Curves showing the production and consumption of subsequent types 8
- 4 Find combinations with overlapping type contents 9
- 5 Two groups of find combinations, establishing a chronological sequence 9
- 6 Frequency seriation illustrated by cumulative diagram 11
- 7 Frequency seriation illustrated by a battleship diagram 11
- 8 C. J. Thomsen. Drawing. Photograph, The National Museum, Copenhagen 13
- 9 F. Lisch. Drawing. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 18
- 10 L. Lindenschmit. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 19
- 11 F. Danneil. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 19
- 12 Title-page of the Danish edition of Thomsen's *Guide* 22
- 13 C. J. Thomsen demonstrating his museum. Drawing. Photograph, The National
Museum, Copenhagen 25
- 14 C. J. Thomsen. Drawing. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 26
- 15 S. Nilsson. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 28
- 16 J. J. A. Worsaae. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 35
- 17 J. Steenstrup. Drawing. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 37
- 18 N. G. Bruzelius. Photograph, University Library, Lund 41
- 19 V. Boye. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 42
- 20 J. J. A. Worsaae. Drawing. Photograph, The National Museum, Copenhagen 45
- 21 C. F. Herbst. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 50
- 22–23 Objects from the bog finds from Torsbjerg and Vimose 52–3
- 24 C. Engelhardt. Painting. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 54
- 25 E. Vedel. Drawing. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 58
- 26 S. Müller. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 63
- 27 B. E. Hildebrand. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 67
- 28 O. Montelius. Photograph, University Library, Uppsala 70

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Figures and tables*

viii

- 29 S. Müller. Photograph, The Royal Library, Copenhagen 72
- 30 Grid diagrams for periods 2 and 5 of the Bronze Age 75
- 31 Chronologically mixed finds 78
- 32 Occurrence diagram of mixed finds 79
- 33 Artefact types of periods 2 and 5 of the Bronze Age 82
- 34 H. Hildebrand. Photograph, University Library, Uppsala 92
- 35 O. Montelius. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 95
- 36 H. Hildebrand. Photograph, Royal Academy of Letters History and Antiquities,
Stockholm 104

Tables

- 1 Items attributed to the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age, in C. J. Thomsen's
Guide 21
- 2 Number of types and find combinations in each of the Bronze Age periods, according to
Montelius' *Dating in the Bronze Age* 73
- 3 Number of find combinations per type in each of the Bronze Age periods, according to
Montelius' *Dating in the Bronze Age* 73

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-10388-6 - The Birth of Prehistoric Chronology: Dating Methods and Dating Systems in
Nineteenth-Century Scandinavian Archaeology

Bo Graslund

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all those who have helped me during the writing and production of this book.

Most of the translation was carried out by Neil Tomkinson, and parts of it by Jacqueline Taffinder. The Berit Wallenberg Foundation has generously given financial support for the translation work. Drawings were redrawn by Alicja Grenberger and Britta Eriksson.

I dedicate this book with admiration to those early scholars in many countries who first laid the basis of prehistoric archaeology as a discipline.