

Jan Petersen

For Marobud group wrote Šimon Tesar



We often hear or read "... according to Petersen ..." or "... Petersen typology ...", but many people do not know, who this Petersen was. That's why I decided to write this article.

Jan Greve Thaulow Petersen was born on 20th October 1887 in Trondheim. He was the son of Hans Henrik Petersen (1827–1906), rector of the Trondheim Cathedral School (*Trondheim katedralskole*), and Elisabeth Cæcilie Thaulow (1845–1901). In 1917, he married Gerda Holtermann. Jan's older brother Theodor Petersen (1875–1952) was well-known Norwegian historian and archaeologist.



Jan followed his brother and became also historian and archaeologist. In 1914, he graduated from university. During his life, he worked as assistant of Cultural–Historical Department of *Stavanger Museum* (1914–1915), as curator of Museum of Cultural History in Oslo (*Kulturhistorisk museum*; 1915–1923) and as director of *Stavanger Museum* (1923–1958).

When he was working in Oslo, Jan documented artefacts discovered by G. Gustafson at burial ground in Store-Dal, Skjeberg. The results of his work were published in the book *Gravplassen fra Store-Dal i Skjeberg* (in series *Norske Oldfunn* in 1916). In 1919, Jan published his doctoral dissertation in archaeology *De Norske Vikingesverd*. This work contains comprehensive typologies of Viking swords and other weapons used during the Viking Age and the book remains an invaluable guide even today. Jan Petersen was not only interested in weapons, but also he published two books about Viking jewellery and tools.

As director of Stavanger Museum, Petersen tried to popularize archaeology and museum management to a wide audience. He succeeded. The number of members of museum associations increased by 1415.

He was also interested in research of Iron Age homesteads in Rogaland. During thirty years, he explored many of them in the whole district. The results of the first ten years were published in the book *Gamle gardsanlegg i Rogaland*. The rest finds were published in volumes of the yearbook *SMÅ (Stavanger Museums Årbok)*. He was very instrumental in conservation and renovation of the Utstein Abbey (*Utstein Kloster*).

For his notable merit, Jan Petersen became famous, well-known and respected historian and archaeologist. Since 1928, he was a member of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (*Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi*) and also a member of Swedish Association for Antiquity (*Svenska Forminnesföreningen*) since 1956. He was given The Royal Norwegian Order of Saint Olaf (Knight 1st Class) was in 1948. Jan Petersen died at the age of 79 on 3rd March 1967 in Oslo.



Jan Petersen is the second from the right side.



Bibliography:

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