

Interdisciplinary Research Project: The Bryggen Project

An interdisciplinary research project on the archaeological remains
from medieval Bergen, Norway

Abstract

The first medieval excavations in Bergen were undertaken already in the beginning of this century. As early as 1950 prof. Faegri was involved analyzing pollen and macrofossils from deposits of the early town. Systematic medieval excavations did however not start until after the disasterous fire in 1955. Botanist were not included in the team until after 1978. Some samples were however collected during the main excavations and are now at our disposal. The excavations reveal thick deposits, mainly organic, lying on the original seabed and a complicated stratigraphy proves that the town had expanded step by step out into the former harbour. Permanent anaerobic and waterlogged deposits provide ideal preservation of organic material, including food, meals and merchandise. Integrated botanical investigations of the deposits are carried out at the present in order to extract culture historical information often not available from other sources. Due to the richness of the deposits it is possible to get intimate glimpses into the daily life in the period, some of which will be presented.

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