

# **I. FOUNDATIONS**

## OTTO AND THE CANDY FACTORY

Let's start by question no 1, which many times has been fired at me: "Mr Janse, where in the world did you get that queer idea to go in for archaeology?" Thank you, this is a good question. [...] To some extent my interest in art and archaeology is a family tradition as it often is in Europe, where I happened to be born and raised. [...] It was first thanks to an uncle of mine, who was head of the Swedish archaeological service and secretary of the Royal Academy, that I became acquainted with archaeology, and even fascinated by the mysteries of the past, which he tried to unwrap for me.<sup>22</sup>

In one of his last public performances, Olov Janse summarized his career for a curious audience at the American Association in Saigon. His archaeological life began, he said, when his uncle Otto inspired him to think about the mysteries of the past. Otto Theodor Janse (1867–1957) was the youngest brother of Olov's father Thure. He established from early on a warm and close relationship with his nephew that lasted until Otto died, only two years before the lecture in Saigon.

The two brothers Otto and Thure were born and raised in a large family, with their parents Johanna (born Johansdotter) and Erik Johan Janse, four more brothers (Carl, Gustaf, Erik, and Johan), and two sisters

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22. Olov Janse's handwritten notes for a lecture at the American Association in Saigon, Vietnam, on 14 January 1959 [the notes are incorrectly dated to 1958]. ATA: Enskilda arkiv 59. Olov Janse. Arbetspapper vol. 2.

(Theresia (married Karlholm), and Emma).<sup>23</sup> The family lived in Valdemarsvik, a small town on the southeastern coast of Sweden, where they owned and ran *Hotell Janse*. At the time, Valdemarsvik was an important trading port linking sea and rail transports, and was known for its animated social life with heavy drinking and more than occasional fist fights. Hotel Janse was right in the centre of action, on Storgatan near the harbour and the railway station. It was a three-storey hotel and social gathering point for the local community, with dinner dances, coffee receptions, and public performances.<sup>24</sup> The hotel also contained a restaurant (Swe: *schweizeri*) run by Erik Janse, and the family seems to have been in a comfortable situation in Valdemarsvik, both socially and financially.

The youngest son of the family, Otto Theodor, enrolled to study history at Uppsala University, which was one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Europe, and earned a Bachelor degree (Swe: *fil. kand.*)



Fig. 3. *Hotell Janse* in Valdemarsvik c. 1911.

23. Johan and Emma died as infants.

24. Malmberg & Malmberg 1943.

in 1893.<sup>25</sup> After a brief sojourn in Lund, which resulted in a Licentiate degree (Swe: *fil. lic.*) in 1900, he moved to Stockholm and became curator<sup>26</sup> at the Swedish History Museum in 1896.<sup>27</sup> Eleven years later, he was put in charge of the museum's medieval collections. There were only a few members of staff and all had rather voluminous responsibilities. Otto Janse's was not only to manage the medieval collections in the Swedish History Museum, but also to supervise the management of monuments and antiquities from medieval times across the entire country. Among these, the architecture and remains of older medieval churches were considered of primary interest, and it was a priority that suited Otto Janse well. He was passionate about the remains of medieval churches, which had been largely neglected because they were from a period of Catholic dominance (AD 1050–1527) and hence associated with the obscure (in nationalist terms) temporal space between the nation's prehistory (pre-1050), and its Protestant national history (post-1527). Thanks to Otto Janse's attention and persistence, the Swedish History Museum saw a considerable increase in the collection and display of medieval church objects in the first decades of the twentieth century.<sup>28</sup> Otto Janse has been described as a humble and very likeable person, devoted to the study of artefacts and historical material. Although he was not an archaeologist but a historian by training, and although he had no doctoral degree, he became an authority in Swedish (particularly medieval) archaeology. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Lund University in 1918, and was Acting Director of the National Heritage Board (Swe: *Tillförordnad Riksantikvarie*) between 1918 and 1923. He remained in charge of the medieval department of the Swedish History Museum until he retired in 1933.

Otto was married to Karin Maria Lundborg (1870–1928). They had a son named Per (1903–1971) and a daughter named Ann-Mari (1905–1998). In 1928 Karin Maria died suddenly during a journey to Italy. Otto,

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25. The biographical information on Otto Janse is drawn from Thordeman 1958, 1973–1975.

26. His exact title was first “extraordinary amanuensis” (Swe: *eo amanuens*), later amanuensis.

27. The Swedish History Museum (Swe: *Historiska museet*) opened in 1866 as a department on the ground floor of the National Museum on Blasieholmen. It remained a part of the National Museum until 1939, when it became an independent institution and moved to its current premises on Narvavägen.

28. Interview with Andreas Lindblom by Lars Lagerqvist, 1973. Transferred to CD 14 December 2008. ATA.

who was 61 years old, lived alone for two years, before he married again, this time to Baroness Märta Sofia Eckhoff Leijonhufvud (1878–1970), who was the widow of Otto's older colleague Emil Eckhoff (1846–1923). They had met over the work of completing and publishing Eckhoff's unfinished study of the medieval town wall of Visby. After Janse's formal retirement from the Swedish History Museum he continued to work with Märta on *Visby stadsmur*, which was published jointly, hence partly posthumously, by Emil Eckhoff and Otto Janse in 1936.<sup>29</sup> Although it was not his study to begin with, *Visby stadsmur* is the work that is most commonly associated with Otto Janse's academic oeuvre.

But let us go back again, to the early years in Valdemarsvik. When Otto left the hotelier family trade for Uppsala and an academic career in medieval history, Thure,<sup>30</sup> the second youngest son of Johanna and Erik Johan Janse, chose instead to continue the family's tradition in the food industry. He became a pastry baker and left Valdemarsvik in his early twenties. After a brief sojourn in Söderköping he moved fifty kilometres northwest, to the bustling industrial town of Norrköping.

Young and handsome with an auburn moustache,<sup>31</sup> Thure Janse arrived in Norrköping in 1888 and established his own bakery shop at the corner of Trädgårdsgatan and Drottninggatan.<sup>32</sup> In the census of 1890, a Hilma Wilhelmina Svensson was listed in his household as an unmarried assistant (Swe: *biträde*).

Hilma was born in 1859 in a



Fig. 4. Thure Janse, around 1890.

29. Eckhoff & Janse 1936; Thordeman 1973–1975.

30. Thure Johan Janse (1864–1939).

31. Nerman 1948:93.

32. Thure Janse's first bakery shop was called Häggströms konditori, and later changed its name to Milles (Christina Janse Petersson, interview 30 September 2014).

cottage at Marmorbrottet in the parish of Ljung, some fifty kilometres west of Norrköping. She was the youngest of three children to Anders Peter Svensson (born 1826) and Brita Katarina Persdotter (born 1831). She had a six-year-old sister, Anna Sofia, and a four-year-old brother named Axel Herman.<sup>33</sup> Almost the entire parish of Ljung belonged to an estate with the same name,<sup>34</sup> which had been owned since 1730 by the noble family of von Fersen. Axel von Fersen (1755–1810), famous marshal (Swe: *Riksmarskalk*) and Swedish Minister to France, who was Marie Antoinette's special friend and mastermind of the French royal family's failed escape from Paris in 1791, was the owner of Ljung until he died in 1810. The estate was very successful in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, and its property expanded to eventually cover almost the entire parish. The Ljung estate stretched along the river *Motala Ström*, which was one of the most important routes for transport and communication in central Sweden. The manor house was connected to the parish church by an impressive avenue, and the estate had its own sawmill, ironworks, brickworks, and marble quarry. The von Fersen family was also successful elsewhere. In the early nineteenth century they owned a number of castles and estates and were one of the wealthiest families in Sweden. Both Hilma's parents were natives of Ljung and lived their entire lives in the workers' community within the estate. They were born and raised while the estate flourished, and when Hilma was born in 1859 they lived at the marble quarry – *Marmorbrottet* – where her father Anders Peter Svensson worked as an assistant worker (Swe: *dräng*). But changes had been on the way since 1839, when Fabian von Fersen died and all the family's fortunes and estates, including Ljung, were inherited by his daughter Louise. Louise was married to the chamberlain Carl August Gyldenstolpe, and the couple spent most of their time abroad, particularly in France, Italy, and Germany, where they squandered the family fortunes in casinos and on an extravagant lifestyle.<sup>35</sup> Meanwhile, the estates in Sweden were mismanaged and financially drained. Ljung was eventually bankrupt and sold in 1867 to the German family von Mecklenburg, who used the estate to grow sugar beets and built a sugar factory. The sugar project, however, was not a success and the factory was closed only a few years later.

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33. Parish records (Swe: *Husförhörslängder, födelse och dopböcker*) at Landsarkivet, Vadstena.

34. Swe: *Ljungs slott* or *Ljungs säteri*. Länsstyrelsen Östergötland 2002.

35. Trolle 1944.



The situation was difficult for the many people who, like the Svensson family, lived their lives within the estate and depended on the economic universe that it had been for over a century. In 1869, when Hilma was ten years old and two years after Louise Gyldenstolpe had bankrupted the estate and sold it to von Mecklenburg, the Svensson family moved from Marmorbrottet and built a new cottage a stone's throw away, at Fridensberg just beside the important Göta Kanal, where Hilma's father Anders found work as a canal assistant. The family got by, but on small means. When Hilma was nineteen, her unmarried older sister had a baby girl who was named Anna Alfrida. She got married a month later to a local worker, but the marriage failed and Anna Sofia soon moved back home to her parents with her little girl. For several years Hilma lived at Fridensberg with her sister and niece. Meanwhile, the economic situation on the former estate grew more acute and many young people decided to move to America. Over a hundred people from Ljung emigrated in 1869 and many more around 1880.<sup>36</sup> Hilma's brother Axel Herman was one of them. He left the family home in Fridensberg and set off to North America in 1881. One year later the twenty-three-year-old Hilma also left Ljung, but she stayed in Sweden and moved only a hundred kilometres north to the town of Örebro. Seven years later, she moved again and found a job as an assistant in Thure Janse's bakery in Norrköping.

Somehow, the thirty-one-year-old assistant and the twenty-six-year-old pastry baker found each other in the bakery, and before long she was pregnant. They married on 4 January 1891,<sup>37</sup> and less than three months later, on 23 March, she gave birth to their first child: Nils Harald Thure. Both baby and bakery business were healthy and growing, and at the end of the year, Hilma was pregnant again. But happiness did not last long for the young family. In April, eighteen days after his first birthday, Nils contracted pneumonia and died. Hilma was then five months pregnant, and before the end of the summer, on 3 August 1892, she gave birth to their second son: Olov Robert Thure.<sup>38</sup>

Olov Robert Thure, known as Olle to his family and friends, grew up in the urban centre of Norrköping as the second, but only surviving

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36. <https://runelarsson.blogspot.se> "måndag 25 mars 2013", accessed 2 December 2017.

37. In the official wedding registry, their occupations are listed as Pastry Baker (Swe: *Sockerbagare*) and Pastry Baker Assistant (Swe: *Sockerbagarbiträde*).

38. The photo in fig. 5 has been donated by Christina Janse Petersson to the City Archive in Norrköping.

*Fig. 5. Olle  
with his  
mother Hilma  
Wilhelmina  
Janse.*



child of Hilma and Thure Janse. Hilma was described as a frail and quiet person, anguished perhaps by what must have been the unbearable loss of her first son, when she had just begun to feel the movements of the new baby inside. In Olle's first years, the family moved house several times within the same area in the centre of Norrköping.<sup>39</sup> When he was six years old they moved to a ground-floor apartment at Repslagaregatan 31. In the apartment on the first floor was the family of a bookshop owner, Janne Nerman with his wife Ida and their three sons Ture, Birger, and Einar. The Nerman brothers would later

become famous names in Swedish culture, arts, and politics, with their own biographies and archives. The oldest, Ture Nerman, describes vividly in his memoirs how it rocked the world of his family when "handsome Janse" and his "quiet and frail wife" moved in with their son Olle, and the backyard, which had been their playground with ramshackle buildings and kitchen gardens, was turned into a building site for Janse's first candy factory.<sup>40</sup> Olle, for his part, later describes in a letter, with warmth and affection, the first time they met. "On a spring day 1899, on the stairs to Repslagaregatan 31, [...] Ture entertained me with music and play".<sup>41</sup>

The Janse family stayed almost a decade at Repslagaregatan and became close friends with their Nerman neighbours. Olle spent much of his childhood years with the three brothers, while his father was successfully expanding his confectionery business to an industrial scale. It was a prosperous time for the family. For Hilma, it had been quite a journey in

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39. In 1890 they lived at Generalsgatan 6, Kv Vattnet, Hedvigs församling; in 1894 at Hospitalsgatan 21, Kv Svärdet, Hedvigs församling; and in 1897 at Hospitalsgatan 23, Kv Svärdet, Hedvigs församling.

40. Nerman 1948:93.

41. Letter from O. Janse to T. Nerman, 4 August 1952. Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek. Ture Nerman 3.1.46.



less than a decade – from the tough economic situation with a divorced sister and an emigrant brother at the cottage in Ljung, via marriage, two pregnancies, and the loss of one child, to a prosperous bourgeois life as a successful industrialist's wife.

Norrköping is one of Sweden's oldest and largest towns. It was founded in 1384 and its location – where the river *Motala Ström* meets the Baltic Sea bay *Bråviken* – made it an ideal place for markets and industrial projects. Its industries flourished at the end of the nineteenth century, and the population increased to around 40,000. There were considerable differences in income and social standing between industry directors and factory workers. In 1894, as many as a quarter of all the deceased in Norrköping died from tuberculosis, indicating the unhealthy environment and lack of medical care for the working classes.<sup>42</sup> But the Janse family belonged to the wealthy industrial bourgeoisie. They lived in the most attractive ground-floor apartment of their building, and could afford to put their son Olle in a private primary school.<sup>43</sup>

The years around the turn of the twentieth century were particularly prosperous times for the candy and confectionery businesses. And Thure Janse seems to have been a shrewd businessman, knowing how to ride the wave of industrial modernity. An advertisement in the Norrköping directory from 1899 says that Thure Janse's candy factory at Repslagaregatan is "recommended", "new built", "up to date", and has "vacuum cooking".<sup>44</sup> It was not the largest factory in town, but by far the most efficient.<sup>45</sup> By 1905 his accumulated profits from the past decade allowed him to build a larger factory with his own horses in a stable block, and its very own automobile garage as an extra embellishment.

At the opening of the new factory, the Janse family moved two blocks south, to Handtverkaregatan 51, where they lived in a grand apartment in a new-built art nouveau style building next to the factory (see fig. 8). A

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42. Nerman 1948:39–40.

43. Swe: *Enskild skola: Elisabeth Lundgrens förberedande skola för gossar och flickor*. Pupil lists including Janse's name (1899) are found in Norrköping City Archive.

44. Norrköpings adresskalender 1899, p. 111: "Thure Janse's Karamellfabrik", Repslagaregatan 31, "rekommenderas", "Nybygd", "Tidsenlig", "Vacuumkokning".

45. In the year 1900, Janse's factory at Repslagaregatan had eight employees and produced candy worth 115,000 Swedish crowns. This can be compared with the largest factory, *Svensk Marmelad A.B.*, which had 116 employees and produced candy worth 557,000 Swedish crowns. Janse's factory was the third largest factory of a total of seven in Norrköping (Ringborg 1923:348).

Fig. 6. Letter-head of Thure Janse's new candy factory at Handtverkaregatan 51, featuring the factory building with stables in the back and the living quarters in the building facing the street.



cook and several maids assisted Hilma in the household, and the building had a number of rental apartments and rooms. Among the tenants were candymaster Karl Oskar Svensson with his wife Anna Sofia and their two children, and several more workers at the factory. There were also the families of a police superintendent, a pharmacist, an organist, and a ship broker.<sup>46</sup> In the yard behind the residence were the new factory buildings. In figure 7, Thure Janse is seen posing proudly in front of his factory, in a smart-looking cap and starch-ironed white apron, surrounded by members of his staff. This was Olov Janse's world in the first twenty years of his life. When he later looked back at his childhood – which was “played like a film for him” when as a 56-year-old US citizen he read a copy of Ture Nerman's memoirs – he saw a home that was both warm and secure. He recalled fond memories of when the birch logs were lit in the fireplace on winter mornings just before Christmas: “It was cold and dark outside, but at home it was warm and light.”<sup>47</sup>

After graduation from private primary school at the age of nine, Olle enrolled for the rest of his mandatory education at Norrköpings Högre Allmänna Läroverk.<sup>48</sup> He started there in August 1902 and received his el-

46. “Kv. Kannan 4 och 5a”: Hedvig församlingsbok 1916–21. Landsarkivet, Vadstena.

47. “[V]år barndom på Repslagaregatan rullas upp för mig, som på en film. Den där björkvedsbrasan har jag ofta tänkt på, särskilt när den tändes på vintermorgnarna strax före jul. Ute var det kallt och mörkt men hemma var det varmt och ljus.” Letter from O. Janse to T. Nerman, 26 December 1948. Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek. Ture Nerman 3.1.46. See also Nerman 1948.

48. Now a public high school named DeGeer-gymnasiet.



*Fig. 7. Janse's candy factory staff outside the factory building, around 1910.*



*Fig. 8. The art nouveau style living quarters of Janse's candy factory at Handt-verkaregatan 51 (demolished in 1971) in an overlay montage with the present building on the same site.*



Fig. 9. Hilma  
Wilhelmina  
Janse in the  
apartment on  
the first floor of  
Handverkare-  
gatan 51.



ementary education certificate (Swe: *Realexamen*) at the end of the spring semester 1908. In August the same year he enrolled for the equivalent of high school, also at Norrköpings Högre Allmänna Läroverk. He chose the *Latin* programme, which was the humanities choice, and when he graduated (Swe: *Studentexamen*) four years later his grades were average rather than exceptional. Of the seven possible grades he did not get either of the two highest (*berömlig* and *med utmärkt beröm godkänd*) nor the two lowest (*underkänd* and *icke fullt godkänd*). He got only the three middle grades: *godkänd*, *icke utan beröm godkänd*, and *med beröm godkänd*. His best subjects were The Swedish Essay, The German Exam, Christianity, Swedish, German, English, French, and History. The weakest were Latin, Translation from Latin, Mathematics, Physics, and Drawing.<sup>49</sup> During the high school years he was exempted from Physical Education (Swe: *gymnastik*) and Singing.

There were several optional extracurricular clubs and student organizations at the school, and he was active in two: *Fosterländska förbundet*

49. A copy of the high school graduation grades (Swe: *Studentexamen*) is found in the archive of Norrköpings Högre Allmänna Läroverk at Landsarkivet, Vadstena.

(1908–1911) and *Helnykterhetsföreningen Njord* (1910–1912).<sup>50</sup> The first (not to be confused with the right-wing political organization with the same name) was a student club to promote culture and literature, and the second was an organization for non-drinkers promoting teetotalism. Olle Janse's engagement in these two organizations was likely an expression of his admiration for Ture Nerman, who was a leading member of *Fosterländska förbundet* in his high school years, and remained throughout his whole life a passionate advocate of a teetotal lifestyle.

Meanwhile, the candy factory continued to grow, and the business peaked in September 1913, when Olle had just graduated from high school and left to study at the university in Uppsala. Encouraged by the business success, Thure Janse submitted an application to the city council planning office for an extension of his factory building. The plans were approved, but the extension was never built.<sup>51</sup> The reason for the cancelled plans was probably the outbreak of the First World War a year later. The war meant dramatic changes for the confectionery business, which depended on expensive ingredients like sugar and global trade goods like vanilla and cocoa. Moreover, the war left the people of Norrköping starving. Grand avenues were turned into potato fields, and hunger and desperation sparked an historical event known as “the bread riot” (Swe: *Brödupproret*) in May 1917. Bakeries were plundered and the situation in the city was out of control. Candy was not a priority in such difficult times.

Adding to the already critical situation, the Janse family suffered a terrible blow when Hilma Wilhelmina died unexpectedly on 9 August 1917, five days after Olov's 25th birthday. She had been feeling unwell for some time and died of endocarditis, fifty-eight years old.<sup>52</sup> According to the family, Thure suffered from depression in the years that followed,<sup>53</sup> and a guess is that it was owing to Hilma's unexpected death, the war that destroyed Europe, and the critical situation of his business. Between 1916 and 1920, the number of people living in Janse's property at Handtverkaregatan 51 was successively reduced from 34 to 15 people.<sup>54</sup>

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50. School yearbooks containing class lists with subjects and extracurricular clubs are found in the archive of Norrköpings Högre Allmänna Läroverk at Landsarkivet, Vadstena.

51. The application is found in Norrköping City Archive.

52. In the parish records (Swe: *Död- och begravningsboken*, Hedvig församling, Norrköping) the registered cause of death is “cardiac inflammation” (Swe: *hjärtinflammation*). Landsarkivet, Vadstena.

53. Interview with Christina Janse Petersson, 30 September 2014.

54. “Kv. Kannan 4 och 5a”: Hedvig församlingsbok 1916–21. Landsarkivet, Vadstena.

Tenants left, and the factory workforce diminished year by year. In less than five years, Thure Janse's once so prosperous and secure world had collapsed, and he never seems to have regained his strength.

However, he got married again, less than a year after Hilma's death, to Signe Karolina Andersson (1877–1958).<sup>55</sup> Signe was the widow of Thure Ludvig Andersson, a travelling merchant who had died from pneumonia only fifteen months after the birth of their only son Bengt Ludvig (born 1910).<sup>56</sup> Rumours say that they met at the local swimming pool where Signe worked as a cashier. Once married, she and Bengt moved in with Thure at Handtverkaregatan. Olov was still registered at the same address, but spent most of his time in Uppsala and moved out officially on 9 January 1919. One year later Thure Janse sold what was left of the candy factory – for almost nothing, it is said in the family<sup>57</sup> – to AB Chokladfabriken Fyrise in Uppsala,<sup>58</sup> and was left without a business. He stayed a few years in the apartment at Handtverkaregatan with Signe and Bengt, and then moved to another address in Norrköping where they lived until Thure died, on 12 December 1939. He had grown weaker and weaker with the years, and the outbreak of the Second World War was the final straw. Olle wrote in a letter to Ture Nerman that “Dad enjoyed life in his healthy days, but the world's destruction, hatred and lies weighed his spirit down, and his strength failed him.”<sup>59</sup>

But let us return to the days when Hilma was still alive and the candy factory was prospering. For it was in the happy days before it all collapsed, when the Janse family had just moved and settled in their new exclusive apartment at Handtverkaregatan 51, that Olle began to take an interest in archaeology. In 1906, when he was about to turn fourteen, his uncle Otto was in Norrköping to arrange a display of historic art and artefacts for the town's big industrial exhibition.

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55. Thure Janse and Signe Andersson married on 20 July 1918.

56. Bengt Ludvig Thuresson was born on 9 November 1910. His family name was changed to Janse when he was seven years old and his mother married and changed her name to Signe Janse. His daughter Christina Janse Petersson has donated family photographs and documents of Thure Janse's family to Norrköping City Archive.

57. Interview with Christina Janse Petersson, 30 September 2014.

58. According to the tax register: Uppbördsboken för 1920, kv. Kannan 4 och 5a.

59. Letter from O. Janse to T. Nerman, 27 June 1940. Arbetarrörelsens arkiv och bibliotek. Ture Nerman 3.1.24. In the Swedish original: “I sina friska dagar gladde sig Pappa åt livet men världens förstörelse, hat och lögn nedstämde så hans sinne att krafterna ej längre stod bi.”



Norrköping was then, around the turn of the twentieth century, an important industrial centre built on the power supplied by the river Motala Ström, and the easy transport routes the river offered to and from the town. It had an intellectual bourgeoisie elite and many famous Swedes of the time were natives of Norrköping. Industrialism and education (Swe: *bildning*) went hand in hand for the bourgeoisie at the time, and it was therefore only logical that Otto Janse arranged a display of historic art and artefacts as part of the industrial exhibition.

The area around Norrköping is fertile and rich, and abounds of traces of historic and prehistoric settlements. The famous Bronze Age rock art at Himmelstalund and other prehistoric landmarks were well known among the city's bourgeoisie and intellectual elite, and the historic art and artefact display was a crucial part of the industrial exhibition. Otto Janse was in charge of the display, and when he came to collect suitable pieces to show (mainly objects from medieval churches, in keeping with his own interests), he borrowed a horse and cart from his brother's new candy factory and invited his young nephew to come along with him.<sup>60</sup> Fifty-three years later Olov Janse remembered, in Saigon:

[...] as I was on summer vacation from school, I was of course very thrilled to get this opportunity to see a little bit of the world around me.<sup>61</sup>

The collection tour with Otto sparked an interest in ancient things in the young teenage boy. He went to see the exhibition (as did his friend Birger Nerman, who also became a prominent Swedish archaeologist and later Director of the Swedish History Museum), which propagated for better care and more attention to the ancient art on display. A few years later (in 1908, 1910 and 1912) Otto Janse excavated a fourteenth-century fort near Norrköping,<sup>62</sup> and it is likely that Olov visited and to some extent participated in the excavations. The Nerman brothers (with whom we will get acquainted in more detail in the next chapter) had also taken an early interest in archaeology, and it was probably their influence more

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60. Janse 1959:14.

61. Olov Janse's handwritten notes for a lecture at the American Association in Saigon, Vietnam, on 14 January 1959 [the notes are incorrectly dated to 1958]. ATA: Enskilda arkiv 59. Olov Janse. Arbetspapper vol. 2.

62. Thordeman 1973–1975.

than Otto's that eventually steered Olov into archaeology as a career path. But Otto Janse's invitation to join him on that collection tour around Norrköping in 1906 was surely the very first step in Olov Janse's lifelong career in archaeology.

So, Olov Janse grew up in the home of a well-born family in Norrköping's wealthy industrial bourgeoisie. There was a sense of quietness and frailty surrounding his mother and a lingering sorrow after the death of his older brother Nils. But the home was secure and embracing – a warm and bright retreat that offered shelter from the cold and darkness outside. His father provided a financial and social security that young Olle must have taken for granted in the years before the First World War. It seems as if an obvious career path would have been to follow in the entrepreneurial footsteps of his father and grandfather, and establish his own successful business. But industrialism and *bildning* went hand in hand in the prospering town of Norrköping, so Olov Janse chose to follow in the footsteps of his uncle Otto and the Nerman brothers, and began to study archaeology. Nonetheless, there is a certain sense of entrepreneurship in his later movements, which is arguably an interest and skill inherited from his father, and which was pivotal for the success of the archaeology in-between nations and institutions that he later pursued. From these early days, standing with one foot in each territory (be it social, professional, or national) and moving between these units would become Olov Janse's main asset, as well as his main weakness.