

AFTERWORD

Reading through the text again, we realised that we undertook an immense task when attempting to review the history of the Sarmatians, a conglomerate of peoples whose history spans over two thousand years and whose migrations took them across the entire length of the Eurasian continent. The growing corpus of data from new excavations makes Sarmatian studies a dynamically growing discipline and we were aware, even while writing our book, how earlier views and our own perspective on one or another issue changed as new discoveries were made. This ebb and flow will be apparent to our readers, too, even as the book is published. Still, we believe that readers both in the East and West will find a comprehensive overview of the Sarmatian peoples useful, especially since these tribes have been somewhat neglected in archaeological publications. The main focus of our book was the Carpathian Basin. In writing the chapters on the Sarmatians' steppe history, we drew from the work of archaeologists, historians and linguists working in that region, while in the case of Hungary and the adjacent territories, we relied on our own excavations and research conducted over the past thirty years (we finished the manuscript in winter 2012).

This book could not have been written without the generous help provided by our colleagues, too numerous to mention, from Novosibirsk to North Carolina, who shared their ideas with us, sent us much-needed publications, provided us with illustrations of their finds and showed us their collections. We are greatly indebted to them all.

Special thanks are due to Univ.-Prof. Dr Falko Daim, General Director of the Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum in Mainz, who endorsed the idea of this book from the moment it was conceived, and to Dr habil. Dieter Quast, who kindly assisted us in all matters regarding the publication. We are also very grateful to Dr Claudia Nickel for the effective and careful editing work.