

From the Organizers and Editors

These are the Proceedings of our fifth symposium on the Stone Age archaeology of Northeastern Africa. As it was the case with the Proceedings of the previous four symposia, the reader will find in this volume papers not only dealing with the main subject of the meeting but also presenting other themes. This undoubtedly is the result of a lack of regular conferences devoted to other periods of the African past in different parts of that continent. Consequently, we always have a certain number of scholars participating in our symposia who work in areas bordering Northeastern Africa and who study the post-prehistoric developments there.

We are very happy to see a continuous stream of scholars from different countries attending our symposia. It is particularly nice to see numerous participants of the younger generation of archaeologists from Europe who are increasingly working in Africa. On the other hand it is rather worrying to see a decline in the numbers of North American scholars working in Northeastern Africa. As it was already the case with previous meetings, we are deeply worried by the very small number of African scholars who were able to come to Poznań due to a lack of financial possibilities. We hope that this may somehow be changed in future meetings.

We would like to express our gratitude to all participants of our 1997 symposium and particularly to those who submitted their contributions to this volume. Words of thanks to all of you who again have patiently been waiting for the publication of these Proceedings.

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