I first came to Poznan in 1980, to attend the initial conference on the Late Prehistory of Northeast Africa at Dymaczewo. Many things have changed in Poland since 1980, but one thing that has continued without change has been the warmth of the welcome and the efficiency of the conference organization.

It is hard to overestimate the value of these meetings in Poland. Not only do they provide a forum for all concerned with our studies on Northeast African prehistory. The regular meetings enable us to follow research developments, and the finely produced volumes keep the work visible to those who cannot attend the conferences.

We all owe an enormous debt to Lech Krzyzaniak, Michal Kobusiewicz and Karla Kroeper, with all their collegues, and our thanks, in making this symposium possible. We are deeply grateful and note particularly that the scene of the meetings is likely to continue in the future. I, on behalf of everyone here, and those who have already had to leave, express our profound admiration and grateful thanks.

Fred Wendorf

Kiehrz, August 26, 1997