

To our Friend and Mentor, Jean-Marie Le Tensorer.

We have all been very lucky to study, learn and grow under your guidance through the inspiring and fascinating work you shared with us, firstly as students and later as members of your research group.

We are also privileged with your generosity in sharing your wide ranging knowledge and experience, your serenity in dealing diplomatically and uncomplainingly with the many complications during expeditions, your friendship, your wonderful sense of humour and your unstinting support in all our endeavours. Your confidence in us as individuals and researchers enabled us to develop our own ideas and further our projects, which you always followed with great interest.

Thank you for the openness to discuss any topic in any way; be it strictly scientific, philosophical, or humorously, taking a topic ad absurdum. You deserve credit for creating the familial atmosphere both in the department and in the field, there were never any airs and graces; we will all miss those delicious Friday morning pancakes in the Syrian Desert. You let us make our own mistakes and learn from our experiences but most of all you passed on to us your profound love and dedication for prehistory in all its shades.

We hope that throughout our time together we were also able to give something back to you and now you can sit back and enjoy the fruits of your guidance in this book. The diverse mix of articles and contributors in this volume clearly reflects the wide embrace of your research and interests throughout many periods, regions and fields of knowledge.

This volume would have been impossible were it not for the commitment of the contributors, who have shown their high regard for Jean-Marie Le Tensorer by giving up their free time and energy to help create this memory of a rich scientific career. There were also many institutions and individuals who generously donated their time and money in the production of this festschrift. Our particular gratitude goes to Marcel Otte, Vera von Falkenstein and the Tell Arida Foundation, the University of Basel, Ingeborg Dénes, Catherine Dreyfus Soguel and Isaac Dreyfus-Bernheim Stiftung; Hélène Le Tensorer, Franziska Follmann, Richard Frosdick and Jacek Wojtczak.

Dorota Wojtczak, Mustafa Al Najjar, Reto Jagher, Hani Elsuede and Fabio Wegmüller