

FOREWORD

Piotr Bieliński

This collection of essays and articles presented to Prof. Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski by his friends, colleagues and disciples is published formally to honor his 75th birthday, but there is another equally round anniversary in his *curriculum vitae* which could be paid tribute to, an anniversary meaningful to Polish archaeology, namely, fifty years since he embarked on his scholarly career. From 1961 when he graduated from the Chair of Mediterranean Archaeology (as it was then called) of the University of Warsaw until the autumn of 2011 when he participated yet again in excavations in his beloved Nea Paphos in Cyprus, Andrzej Daszewski has been present uninterruptedly in Polish archaeology and in active scholarship. His scholarly life has been intertwined with the history of the Station of Mediterranean Archaeology in Cairo and its continuator, the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw.

A disciple of Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski and one of his closest associates, Andrzej Daszewski is an outstanding Classical archaeologist and a world-class expert on ancient mosaics from the Mediterranean region, a subject to which he devoted his most important publications. His scholarly interests, however, have never been restricted to this narrow specialization, especially as he is hardly the “armchair” scholar, but a full-blooded field archaeologist who has participated in excavations at virtually all of the more important sites investigated by Polish teams in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Near East, starting from Alexandria in Egypt through Dongola in Sudan to Palmyra in Syria, to name but a few.

His deepest ties were naturally with the two sites where he ran the excavations himself. Nea Paphos in Cyprus is the first of these two. It has been the main focus of his scholarly life for the past few dozen years, both the ancient city and the modern town which has granted him honorary citizenship. Even now, when he has passed the reins to his own disciple and is working on preparing for publication successive volumes of the results of his research, Paphos remains dear to his heart. The other site with which he is associated in a special way is Marina el-Alamein in Egypt. He discovered this harbor town and was instrumental in arranging for its preservation and conservation. It has also been a source of many of his important scientific findings.

Accomplishments in the field of classical archaeology, to which one should add teaching young adepts at the universities in Warsaw and Trier, are just part of Andrzej Daszewski's rich biography. His broad archaeological interests, huge experience and

openness to new ideas have made him a member of various scientific committees, but have also resulted in his being nominated to various international bodies of experts and archaeological consultants. In the latter role he has been active in distant corners of the world, even as far away from the Mediterranean as Peru.

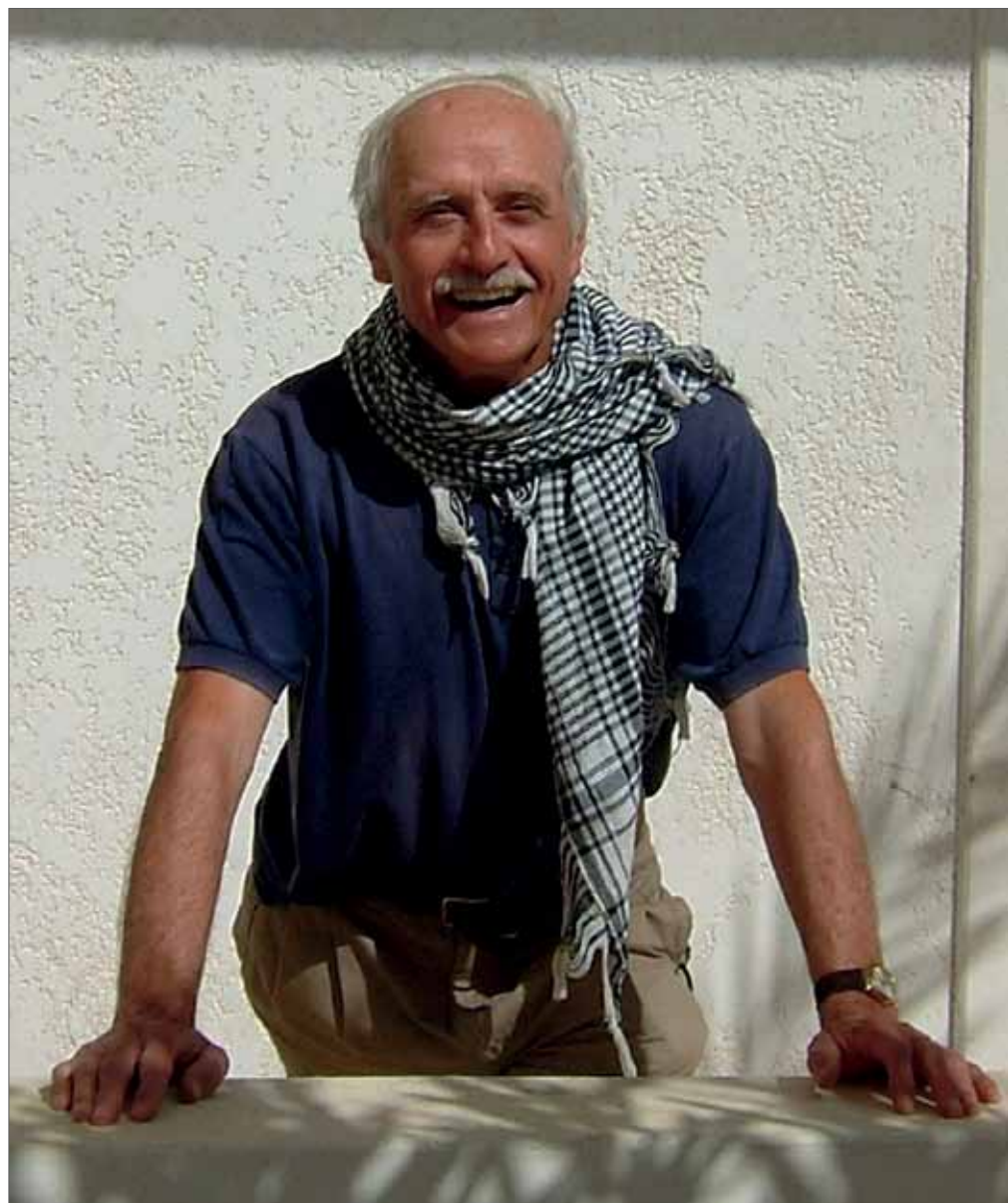
The same traits and his inborn organizational skills caused him to be charged with various functions in Polish Mediterranean archaeology, from Scientific Secretary of the Station of Mediterranean Archaeology in Cairo to the crowning post in his career as Director of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw, spearheading the restructuring of the institution that took place in the 1980s. In each case his diligence and efforts have brought excellent results.

I have come to appreciate his farsightedness and service in this field all the more now that I myself, as the Centre's Director, have to rise to a similar variety of challenges that he faced in the past. His openness to new research projects, even quite distant from his areas of specialization, his never flagging support for international archaeological cooperation, drawing young students into research work and supporting young colleagues at the start of their careers has left an indelible mark on the discipline and continues to influence its development.

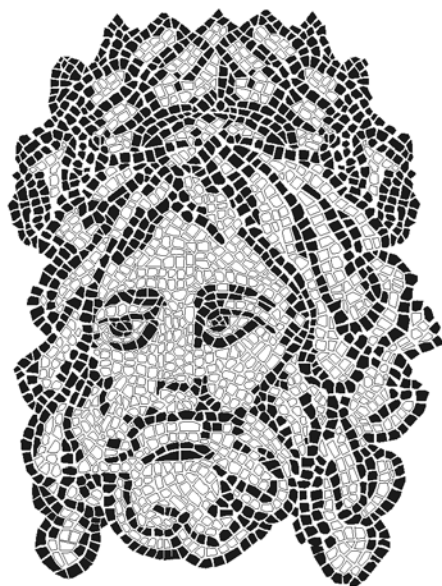
This volume is an expression of appreciation for all his accomplishments in the various venues mentioned here. The mark of fifty years of a highly active life is easily traced in these pages.

Warsaw, October 2011

CLASSICA ORIENTALIA



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Essays Presented to
Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski
on his 75th Birthday

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology
University of Warsaw
Wydawnictwo DiG

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology University of Warsaw

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