If a man is to be acclaimed for his life achievement, it is only just that his works be presented. This essay is offered to Professor Wiktor A. Daszewski by the authors, hopefully on behalf of Polish and foreign friends, colleagues and students, who have benefited — and suffered — in their life and work from their acquaintance with the Professor, but who have nonetheless stood by him in good times and bad, respectful of his commitment to the success of Polish archaeology in the Mediterranean and of his achievements as an archaeologist and scholar of Graeco-Roman antiquity.

Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski comes from a generation of Poles born before the war, whose life may have taken quite a different turn had not the geopolitical situation changed so diametrically in the aftermath of World War II. He was born on 1 November 1936 in Horodysławice near Lvov, in what was then a thriving part of the Polish Eastern borderlands. Like many other families displaced from this region, he moved with his mother to the southwestern part of Poland. There, in Cieplice Śląskie, in the haven of a small secondary school with old-time professors, Daszewski completed his schooling in 1954. His first steps into academics led him to a year of studies at the Civil Engineering Faculty of the University of Technology in Wrocław. Discovering that his interests lay elsewhere, he seized the opportunity to transfer to the University of Warsaw, to study art history and archaeology.

The restituted Chair of Mediterranean Archaeology under the energetic Professor Kazimierz Michałowski was coming into fat years and it was during Daszewski’s time as a student that Polish archaeologists started to excavate abroad again, first in Crimea in 1956–1958 and starting from 1957 in Tell Atrib in Egypt. His future associate on digs in Cyprus and Egypt and colleague in restructuring and developing the Polish Centre after Michałowski’s passing, Prof. Zofia Sztetyło, started her own career with research on two Classical sites in Crimea. The results of those first forays into Classical archaeology abroad must have fired the imagination of many prospective archaeologists, later colleagues and associates of Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski. Indeed, they may have fired the
Fig. 1. In Oxford with Prof. Terrence B. Mitford (left), May 1978 (W.A. Daszewski, private archives)

Fig. 2. Stop on the way to Palmyra, with Prof. Kazimierz Michalowski (right) (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)

Fig. 3. Visit with Egyptian officials to the site of Tell Atrib, from left: Elżbieta Daszewska, Marek Marciniak, Wiktor A. Daszewski and Egyptian officials (Photo W. Jerke)
Fig. 4. In Cairo, with the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs, 1968 (W.A. Daszewski, private archives)

Fig. 5. Visit with the official authorities of the Coptic Church in Cairo, from left: Wiktor A. Daszewski, Kazimierz Michalowski, Pope Kyrillos VI (W.A. Daszewski, private archives)

Fig. 6. Fun in Palmyra: from left, Janusz Meuszyński, Jadwiga Kubinski and Wiktor A. Daszewski, Karol Mysliwiec (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)
imagination of Daszewski himself, as did the establishment of the archaeological center in Cairo in 1960, an event which was to shape the professional life of the young scholar.

In the meantime, however, he completed his archeological studies in December 1961, submitting for his Master’s degree a thesis on Roman stone offering tables from the collection of the National Museum in Warsaw (published in the form of articles in 1966). For two years after that he explored other venues, studying journalism at the University of Warsaw and the University of Perugia. In the academic year of 1963–1964, he enrolled in Lincoln College at Oxford for post-graduate studies in the field of Classical and Graeco-Roman archaeology. This was hardly a run-of-the-mill move in those times. Upon returning to Poland, in 1965, he was employed briefly at the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and, like many of his peers at the time, sent to Egypt for archaeological field training. This gave him his first opportunity for a touch-on experience of excavations, participating in the Centre’s current projects. He also joined the excavation teams in Paphos on Cyprus and in Palmyra in Syria. This, coupled with his natural organizational skills and a bent for leadership, gave him the necessary background to take on, from the fall of 1967 when the opportunity presented itself, the post of Scientific Secretary of the Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw in Cairo, as it was then called.

If there is one thing that Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski would like to be remembered for, it is the discovery of the ancient town at Marina el-Alamein, justly described by a first-time visitor as the “Pompeii” of Egypt’s Mediterranean coast.

In 1986, tourist development on a major scale had started to claim the picturesque wilderness of the Mediterranean coast. On occasion building works turned up antiquities. Reacting to information from Egyptian colleagues in the antiquities service that tourist village developers had apparently unearthed marble columns on a site on the shore near the World War II battlefield of El Alamein, Daszewski sprang into action, helping to obtain from appropriate Egyptian authorities a ban on further construction and organizing an ad-hoc mission to help colleagues from the Egyptian Antiquities Organization (EAO) to survey and document as much of the site as possible. This was in 1986–1987. In 1988 he already had a license for regular excavations and preservation of the ancient remains. In the years between 1988 and 2007, Daszewski missed only one season, in 2003, when he was recovering from a serious illness. Every year, almost always in late winter and early spring (too early for sea bathing, which he adored), his team would spend from four to six weeks in the field, the amount of time that his duties as head of the Center and later lecturer at Trier University permitted. Sometimes he could not stay for the whole season, but somehow he was always there for the major discoveries, like the first preserved Roman funerary portrait found on the Mediterranean coast of Egypt.
Fig. 7. Showing the newly discovered mosaics from the House of Aion, Paphos, October 1983: from left, Stanisław Medeksza, Zbigniew Doliński, Jolanta Młynarczyk, Yannis Kleanthis, Elżbieta Daszewska, Mirosława Kamińska, Jolanta Jabłonowska, Ewa Orlowska, Adam Łajtar, Mariusz Burdajewicz, Wiktor A. Daszewski (sprinkling the surface of the mosaics with water for better presentation), Zofia Szetyłło (Photo I. Zych, private archives)

Fig. 8. Showing the pillar tombs of Marina el-Alamein to visiting (from right) Maria Mossakowska-Gaubert and Christian Gaubert, March 2004 (Photo I. Zych, private archives)
Fig. 9. Visit of Vassos Karageorghis, Director of the Cyprus Department of Antiquities, at the site in Paphos, 1 October 1987; from left: Elżbieta Daszewska, Wiktor A. Daszewski, Vassos Karageorghis, Stanisław Medeksza, Jacqueline Karageorghis, Zofia Szetyłło, Iwona Zych (I. Zych, private archives)

Fig. 10. Wiktor A. Daszewski in Paphos, 1975 (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)

Fig. 11. Wiktor A. Daszewski (left) and Henryk Meyza in Paphos, 2007 (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)
In the course of nineteen seasons of fieldwork he explored the necropolis of the ancient town and commenced on the excavation of the central city square. Apart from numerous communiqués, interim field reports and syntheses published over the years, he wrote on selected finds reflecting his specific interests in the fields of iconography and architectural decoration.

The project has not been closed and the conservation team (for the past sixteen seasons from the Wrocław University of Technology, headed by a long-time colleague, the late Prof. Stanisław Medeksza) continues to work on restoring monuments at the site. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond the Centre’s control, the archaeological excavations were interrupted in 2007, the year of Daszewski’s retirement; they should be resumed in the near future.

Yet it was Paphos, where Daszewski first worked in 1966 as deputy director and then continued as field director and director until his retirement, which determined the course of his scientific career. He excavated the Villa of Theseus with its set of splendid mosaic floors (the mosaics of Theseus and Achilles were discovered in 1970), then commenced to clear the ruins to the east and south of the residence. This resulted in the discovery in 1983 and subsequent exploration of the House of Aion with its set of extraordinary mosaics. *Dionysos der Erlöser. Griechische Mythen im spätantiken Cypern*, published in 1985, was the fruit of that discovery.

Excavations to the south of the residence demonstrated the presence of substantial Hellenistic private architecture underneath the Roman remains. An extensive house surrounding a peristyle continues to be cleared. Following Daszewski’s retirement, the project is now headed for the PCMA by a long-time team member, Dr. Henryk Meyza from the Research Center for Mediterranean Archaeology (now Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures) of the Polish Academy of Sciences, whose PhD thesis was supervised by the Professor. Daszewski continues to participate in the fieldwork, working on completing a number of pending publications.

Paphos has also figured strongly in Daszewski’s scholarship. Figurative mosaics from Polish excavations in Paphos were the topic of his doctoral dissertation, which he defended at the University of Warsaw in 1974. This study in revised form was published in 1977 as *La mosaique de Thésée. Études sur les mosaiques avec représentations du labyrinthe, de Thésée et du Minotaure* in the Nea Paphos excavation series. Mosaics remained at the center of Daszewski’s scholarly interest. His next book, *Corpus of Mosaics from Egypt I. Hellenistic and Early Roman Period*, published in the *Aegyptiaca Treverensia* series in 1985, was presented in 1979 as his habilitation dissertation. In Poland he was nominated Associate Professor in 1989 and Full Professor in 2005; in Germany he was Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University in Trier from the 1988–1989 academic year.
Fig. 12. The first mission in Paphos with student trainees, October 1981: standing, from left: Wiktor A. Daszewski, Cypriot worker, Marek Kulczycki, Małgorzata Mańkowska, Cypriot workmen, Barbara Lichocka, Grzegorz Majcherek, Neoptolemos, Tomasz Derda, Cypriot worker, Diana Ostrouska, Elżbieta Danielczyk, Cypriot workers; sitting, from left: Mirosław Kielak, Jolanta Młynarczyk, Marek Olszewski, Jolanta Jabłonowska, Alicja Drabek, Zofia Szetyłło, Dorota Ryszkowska, Renata Kucharczyk, Andrzej Szum, Stanisław Medekszka, Cypriot workers; in front, from left: Iwona Zych and Adam Łajtar (I. Zych, private archives)

Fig. 13. The Marina team in the 1990 season, from left: Wiktor A. Daszewski, Zofia Szetyłło, Maria Kaczmarek, Iwona Zych, Grzegorz Majcherek, Jarosław Dobrowolski (I. Zych, private archives)
Daszewski pursued his scholarly interests during various stays in the then Yugoslavia, the Institut français d’archéologie de Proche-Orient (IFAPo) in Beirut and the École française in Athens, followed by a three-year scholarship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Erlangen and Trier between 1976 and 1979.

His writing has naturally followed in the wake of the results of fieldwork which he directed. The Paphos mosaics and finds of statuary at Paphos and Marina led him into the fields of iconographic and iconological studies of the Graeco-Roman gods, which have included items on Ambrosia, Labyrinthos, Nectar and Theogonia, among others, for *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae*. He wrote on Aphrodite Hoplismene and Isis, Hygieia, Cassiopeia and Tyche, Dionysos and Eros. For *Kunstlexikon der Antike* he wrote an item on Spatalos, as well as the Roman mosaicist Sophilos. These interests carried over into other categories of finds, like terracota oil lamps and Roman tableware, especially Cypriot sigillata. Considerations of Alexandrian mosaic emblem panels and color in Hellenistic mosaics resulted in an interest in ancient renderings of landscape, growing also from studies of the early necropolises of Alexandria (including a tomb from the Gabbari burial ground). His recognition of an unparalleled form of capital at the site of Marina el-Alamein produced an important contribution to studies of architectural decoration. This particular form of capital, commonly believed to be Nabatean, has now been distinguished as the Marina type of the pseudo-Corinthian order. Daszewski’s writing included forays into the origins of Hellenistic tombs in Alexandria, as well as notes on coastal settlement patterns. Throughout his career he continued to publish short studies and articles on mosaic floor decoration from Cyprus and Egypt, including a popular guidebook to Cyprus mosaics (with Demetrios Michaelides) published in three languages in 1988–1989.

In the 1988–1989 academic year, he embarked on a career as a university lecturer. Until November 2001 he was a professor of Classical archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology of the University in Trier and from 2001 until his retirement in 2007 a professor of Classical archeology at the Institute of Archeology of the University of Warsaw. As professor *emeritus* he continues to participate in the education of future archaeologists in Warsaw.

Daszewski has also lectured extensively at universities in Great Britain (Oxford, Cambridge, London, Reading, Edinburgh, St. Andrews, Liverpool, Glasgow), in France (Paris and Lyon), Belgium (Brussels and Liège), Italy (Bologna, Ravenna and Rome), Spain (Madrid), Greece (Rhodos and Crete), most universities in Germany, Switzerland (Geneva and Lausanne), the United States (24 academic institutions around the country), as well as Peru (Lima and Cusco). He has also been invited to lecture at archaeological institutes in Athens, Nicosia and Tunis.

Experience of issues connected with the saving of ancient cultural heritage, accumulated as head of the Polish Centre in Cairo, gained him the position of coordinator for the UNESCO International Salvage Project in Ancient Carthage and the Historic Center of Tunis in 1971–1973. It was his openness to new methods that led to the
Fig. 14. Breakfast break at Marina el-Alamein, in the background tombs T1GH and T1D, March 1990; sitting clockwise, from bottom left: Wiktor A. Daszewski, visiting SCA inspector Saura from Alexandria, Maria Kaczmarek, Zofia Szetyło, Wojciech Kolataj, Ahmed Musa and Ala’a inspectors from Alexandria, Jarosław Dobrowolski, Grzegorz Majcherek, Iwona Zych (Photo W. Jerke, private archives)

Fig. 15. The Marina team in the last full season of excavations, March 2005, top: Wiktor A. Daszewski; upper tier, from left: Andrzej Retkowski, Artur Błaszczyk, Grażyna Bąkowska; bottom tier, from left: Małgorzata Krauczyk-Szczerbińska, Iwona Zych (I. Zych, PCMA archives)
mounting of one of the first comprehensive geophysical surveys of classical archaeological sites organized by Prof. Jacek Przeniosło from Poland. In 1975 and again in 1978, Daszewski served as an archaeological consultant for UNESCO, advising on matters connected with the preservation of archaeological sites of the Incas in Peru. From 1983 he was on a board of experts working under the auspices of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to supervise the project of building a National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo (ongoing) and the Nubia Museum in Aswan, and was member of an advisory board coordinating for ICOM the establishment of a national museum of archaeology in Tripoli, Libya.

Not the least, Daszewski is an art and memorabilia collector in his own right, owning a small collection of North African terra sigillata plates (from the decoration of which come the vignettes appearing in this chapter), as well as numerous historical and ethnographical artifacts.

Apart from ICOM, Daszewski is a member, active or honorary, of a number of professional societies and associations, among others, the German Archaeological Institute (DAI), the Archaeological Society in Alexandria and the International Association for the Study of Ancient Mosaics (AIEMA). He has also been named a Honorary Citizen of Paphos for his contribution to the discovery of the town’s ancient remains.

In his capacity as Scientific Secretary of the Centre in Cairo, a post which he held recurrently from 1966 until 1980 (with study breaks in 1971–1973 and 1976–1979), Daszewski was responsible for the organization of the Polish archaeological and conservation effort in Egypt, Sudan, Cyprus and Syria. He also coordinated the establishment and operation of Polish-Egyptian Preservation teams at Deir el-Bahari (both the Hatshepsut and the Tuthmosis II temples) and Cairo (Amir Kabir Qurqumas Mausoleum in the City of the Dead) and later, in the 1980s, Alexandria (Kom el-Dikka) and Marina el-Alamein under an intergovernment Cultural Agreement between Poland and Egypt.

On behalf of the Centre’s Director, Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski, he coordinated the formal and practical aspects of contacts with the Egyptian Antiquities Organization. In this capacity he cultivated relations, some of which grew into lifetime friendships, with Egyptian colleagues. His good standing with successive Chairmen of the EAO (renamed the Supreme Council of Antiquities), especially with Prof. Gamal Eddin Mokhtar, as well as with the rank and file of the antiquities service, facilitated many matters, which could have floundered otherwise in the bog of Oriental bureaucracy.

Being in permanent residence in Cairo, Daszewski also coordinated the logistics of getting the Centre’s missions in the field. Practically every team and every team member had to pass through the Cairo house of the Centre, where the necessary preparations for fieldwork had to be made. The Centre was also home to many Polish scholars and stu-
Fig. 16. Wiktor A. Daszewski photographing undisturbed mummy burials in the western chamber of hypogeum tomb T 28 right after discovery, March 2000 (Photo I. Zych, private archives)

Fig. 17. Anthropological examination of skeletal remains, Marina el-Alamein, March 2002, from top: Wiktor A. Daszewski, Maria Kaczmarek, Iwona Zych (Private archives)

Fig. 18. Official inspection by SCA director Abdel-Moneim Abu-Bakr (in black suit); first from right is Marina site director Abdelatif El-Wakil, in front of the Marina dighouse, March 1998 (Photo M. Budzanowski, private archives)
Fig. 19. Clearing the altar in front of Tomb T6, Marina el-Alamein, March 1998: Wiktor A. Daszewski and Mikołaj Budzanowski standing by the edge of the trench (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)

Fig. 20. Weekend boating trip off the Paphos shore, October 1983: from right, Jolanta Młynarczyk and Wiktor A. Daszewski (Photo I. Zych, private archives)

Fig. 21. Discovering a bronze lamp stand, Paphos, August 2006, working together with a student trainee (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)

Fig. 22. Field photography session at Marina el-Alamein, August 1988 (Photo I. Zych, private archives)
students, beneficiaries of an official government exchange program with Egypt, whose task was to pursue their studies in the Cairo archaeological libraries and participate in current archaeological projects. The Centre also employed a photographer and architect in residence. To all of them, and the outpost in Alexandria (where a permanent mission was also located), the house in Heliopolis, at 14 Baron Empain (now Nazih Khalifa) Street, was a surrogate home and Daszewski and his wife, Elżbieta, a surrogate family. With air travel not as facile as today, there were occasions, for Christmas and Easter, when the house at Baron Empain hosted dozens of people.

With the passing of Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski in December 1981 and the political and economic transformation taking place at the time in Poland (1981–1983 were the years of martial law imposed in Poland), it became imperative to give the Centre a new, more secure standing. Zofia Sztetyło served as interim head of the centre during this period. The unit was formally registered with the University of Warsaw as an independent department charged with the mission of managing the Polish archaeological and conservation effort in Egypt and the Near East. With community acceptance Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski (serving as deputy director of the National Museum in Warsaw in 1981–1983) was called on to serve as the first director of the Centre in the new formula. The transformation from Centre in Cairo to the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw with a research center in Cairo was effected in 1984. Daszewski held this post until early 1990.

In the early 1980s Daszewski spearheaded an intensive scientific, organizational and logistic effort on the part of the big PCMA “family” to carry on the founder’s, Professor Michałowski’s, achievements in the new geopolitical and economic realities. This entailed organizing a logistical base in Warsaw as well as the necessary funding for current and new projects undertaken by the growing institution. The latter included new sites like West Saqqara, Marina el-Alamein and Naqlun in Egypt, the Eski Mosul/Hasake Dam salvage project and Tell Arbid in Syria, Nemriq and Bijan, as well as other sites and survey work in Iraq. Daszewski also welcomed, as head of the Centre, new initiatives, especially with regard to the application of scientific methods of research, such as geophysical prospection (first seasons conducted in 1987 in West Saqqara and Naqlun) and laboratory analyses. He also took advantage of his position and standing with the international archaeological community to foster the participation of Polish scholars and scientists in research carried out by foreign institutes.

Daszewski was also co-editor of the Centre’s journal *Polish Archaeology in the Mediterranean* founded in 1990 for close to twenty years. He now sits on the PCMA Editorial Board, which is responsible, among others, for *PAM*. As Center Director he also initiated and supervised a number of publication projects designed to popularize the achievements of Polish archaeology at home and abroad.

As head of the Centre and director of the Paphos Archaeological Mission in Cyprus, Daszewski also opened the way to a program of field training for students of Mediterranean archaeology and related fields at the excavations in Nea Paphos. The first group of 17 students arrived for the 1981 season. For many of the participants, not a few
Fig. 23. Opening of the “Kazimierz Michalowski and the Polish School of Mediterranean Archaeology school”
exhibition at the University of Warsaw (November 2006), standing from right: successive directors of the
Polish Centre Wiktor A. Daszewski and Michał Gawlikowski, and Piotr Bieliński, currently in office
(Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)

Fig. 24. Opening of the “Seventy Years of Polish Archaeology in Egypt” exhibition at the Egyptian Museum in
Cairo, 21 October 2007, from left: Wiktor A. Daszewski, and Polish Ambassador Jan Natkański; far
right, Polish Deputy Minister of Culture Tomasz Merta (Photo W. Jerke, PCMA archives)
of which are represented with articles in this volume, this was their first “real” experience of digging on an ancient site in the Mediterranean. Many have pursued their own careers in archaeology, earning degrees and becoming professors in their own right. The practice has been continued and has spread to other field missions.

In an article on the Centre’s work, penned for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Centre and the 50th anniversary of Polish excavations in Egypt, published in 1986, Daszewski wrote of the optimism that a review of past work generated and the attention and care which needed to be put in preserving and developing these achievements in order for Polish archaeologists to remain leading partners in the investigations of ancient cultures in Africa and the Near East.
The present authors do not feel entitled to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of Professor Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski’s life achievement. Having worked for and with the Professor, they have seen both faces of the man, the public and the private one. They have been at the butt end of Daszewski’s striving for personal and team excellence and have had to bear the brunt of various conflicts that invariably accompany such strong personalities. But they have also witnessed the Professor’s generosity, and the sympathy and respect that he has always engendered among the local workmen. A quick mind, keen interest in world affairs and appreciation of the arts, coupled with fluency in a number of European languages, have made Daszewski an appreciated colleague in scholarly circles, as well as gained him many friends and acquaintances worldwide. He has also been unmatched in his practical and technical skills and the ingenuity necessary to manage in difficult field conditions. He can also justly pride himself on having been an excellent driver. This stoutness of heart and iron inner discipline were put to the most demanding test when a serious illness struck him down. There was no miracle in his recovery, but months of diligent hard work to “teach” himself to live and work again. He returned yet to direct excavations and lecture at the university. A healthy lifestyle and a love of sea bathing has kept him in good condition.

He has been married to Elżbieta Zamoyska since 1961 and has two daughters and four grandchildren. Last but least, he is a Scorpio, like quite a few other Polish archaeologists of his generation.
Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski
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**Addendum**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Title</th>
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**Abbreviations**

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CLASSICA ORIENTALIA
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Essays Presented to
Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski
on his 75th Birthday

Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology
University of Warsaw
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# TABULA GRATULATORIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ahmed Abd El-Fattah</th>
<th>Bolesław Ginter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andreas Ataliotis</td>
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<td>Mikołaj Budzanowski</td>
<td>Elżbieta Jastrzębowska</td>
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<td>Mariusz Burdajewicz</td>
<td>Piotr Jaworski</td>
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<td>Adam Jegliński</td>
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<td>Anna Dagnan Ginter</td>
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<td>Tomasz Derda</td>
<td>Jerzy Kania</td>
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<td>Yiorgos Dimitriadis</td>
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<td>Maria de Jesus S. Duran Kramer</td>
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<td>Barbara Drobniewicz</td>
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<td>Teresa Dziedzic</td>
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<td>Iwona Dziemidowicz</td>
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<td>Grzegorz Dziemidowicz</td>
<td>Barbara Kramer</td>
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<td>Moustafa El-Abbadi</td>
<td>Karla Kroepper</td>
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<td>Hervé Lebrun</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Jean Leclant
Andrzej Leligdowicz
Marek Lemiesz
Kazimierz Lewartowski
Joanna Lis
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Teresa Witkowska
Maciej Witkowski
Dariusz Wolski
Barbara Wrońska-Kucy
Zuzanna Wygnańska
Grzegorz Wyżykowski
Zygmunt Wysocki
Mariusz Ziółkowski
Jerzy Żelazowski
Bogdan Żurawski
Abbreviations........................................................................................................................................9
Foreword..................................................................................................................................................11
Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski: Essay presented on his 75th birthday anniversary..........................13
Wiktor Andrzej Daszewski: List of publications..................................................................................31
Krzysztof Babraj
Interprétation de la lettre ταῦ sur le vêtement du Christ et du geste de l’ogdoade sur la mosaique absidiale de l’église Santa Pudenziana à Rome.................................................................43
Janine Balty
Le rinceau d’acanthe à fond noir dans la mosaique syrienne : l’exemple de Mariamin.............73
Jean-Charles Balty
Une « nouvelle » dédicace apaméenne à Cn. Marcius Rustius Rufinus......................................89
Grażyna Bąkowska-Czerner
Aphrodite in Egypt. Images of the goddess from Marina el-Alamein........................................97
Giuseppina Capriotti-Vittozzi
Un gruppo scultoreo da Dendera al Museo del Cairo: due fanciulli divini e i due luminari.....115
Rafal Czerner
The peristyle of House H1 in the ancient town at Marina el-Alamein.......................................129
Krzysztof Domżalski
Roman fine pottery from a cellar under Oil-press E.I at Chhim (Lebanon)............................147
Piotr Dyczek
From the history on ancient Rhizon/Risinium: Why the Illyrian King Agron and Queen Teuta came to a bad end and who was Ballaios?.................................................................157
Pavlos Flourentzos
New evidence of the aniconic iconography of Astarte-Aphrodite in Cyprus............................175
Michał Gawlikowski
Bagatelles épigraphiques..................................................................................................................183
Włodzimierz Godlewski
Mosaic floor from the sanctuary of the EC.II cathedral in Dongola.............................................193
Tomasz Górecki
Roman ceramic thymiaterion from a Coptic hermitage in Thebes.............................................199
Contents

TOMASZ HERBICH, HARALD VAN DER Osten, IWONA ZYCH
Geophysi EC.II cs applied to the investigation of Graeco-Roman coastal towns west of Alexandria: the case of Marina el-Alamein.............................................................209

MARIA KACZMAREK
Human remains from Marina el-Alamein.................................................................233

ZSOLT KISS
Deux fragments de portraits funéraires romains de Deir el-Bahari...........................................259

JERZY KOLENDO
Zita, une ville oubliée de Tripolitaine..............................................................................267

RENATA Kucharczyk
Glass medallion in the shape of a lion's head mask............................................................277

BARBARA LICHOCKA
Delta-epsilon issues of Elagabalus and Severus Alexander................................................287

JOHN LUND
Head vases of the Magenta Group from Cyprus.....................................................................325

ADAM ŁAJTAR
Divus Probus(?) in a fragmentary building(?) inscription in Latin found in Kato (Nea) Paphos, Cyprus.................................................................341

ADAM ŁUKASZEwicz
A fish from the sea...............................................................................................................353

GRZEGORZ Majcherek, IWONA ZYCH
The Cretan presence in Marina el-Alamein......................................................................357

HENRYK MEYZA
A mask of ἡγεμων θεράπων with ὀγκος(?) from Paphos....................................................379

KAROL MYŚLIwieC
L’acquis des fouilles de Tell Atrib pour la connaissance de l’époque ptolémaïque.................387

JANusz A. Ostrowski
Najwcześniejsza polska wzmianka o sycylijskich antiquitates (with summary in English)......399

EWDOKSSIA PAPUCI-WłADYKa
The contribution of Kraków archaeologists to excavating Nea Paphos, the ancient capital of Cyprus.............................................................................................................413

ANNA PołudniwicKieWicz
“Megarian” bowls from Tell Atrib..........................................................................................425

ZOϕIA SztetyłLo
Amphoras on Knidian amphoras............................................................................................441

HANNA SzymańskiA
Two “armed” terracottas from Athribis.................................................................................451