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PREFACE

The first fascicle of the *Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae* appeared in 1986. The founder and editor of the journal was Professor Andrzej Nadolski. After his death, Professor Tadeusz Poklewski-Kozieli together with Maria Żemigala, Secretary of the Editorial Board, published another 14 fascicles.

The present, twenty-first fascicle has been prepared by the author of this preface and Kalina Skóra, Secretary of the Editorial Board.

Desiring to preserve the traditional line of the publication, I invited the hitherto operating Editorial Committee to continue with the publication. Much to my delight, all the Board members agreed to cooperate.

An alert reader will notice that the title, the editorial page and the preface of the present fascicle are no longer in French but in English. This is the only major departure from past practice. The articles will remain to be published in congress languages, which makes them accessible to a bigger circle of readers.

As the title suggests, the subject matter of the journal is so-called historical archaeology, from antiquity to modern times. We are going to continue to give preference to issues connected with the history of arms and armour and ancient military science, which have been one of the major research subjects at the Łódź Branch of the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Of course we have no intention of limiting ourselves to this particular field of study. For this reason, one of the forthcoming fascicles will be devoted to woolen cloth production in Medieval Europe, one

of the most important, if not the most important Hanseatic trade article.

The fascicle is titled 'Studies into Mounted Warriors' Equipment in Antiquity and the Middle Ages'. The papers included in this issue were gathered by the previous Editorial Board and the choice was inspired by Associate Professor Witold Świątosławski, head of the ancient arms and armour research group at the Łódź Branch of the Institute. I would like to thank these scholars for making it easier for us to carry on with the work.

Needless to say, the present articles, written by archaeologists and historians from France, Russia and Poland, do not discuss the topic of a mounted warrior's equipment, his arms and armour included, in full. The one aim of the publication is to draw the reader's attention to this significant issue. The selection of authors guarantees that both differences and similarities between the kinds of equestrian equipment used in the East and the West will be presented. It has been assumed that Poland, where various eastern and western influences have always been in evidence, is bound to become a natural link between these two big cultural circles. The Editorial Board of the *Fasciculi Archaeologiae Historicae* would like to contribute to this by continuing to edit our publication.

Łódź, November 2008

Translated by Zuzanna Poklewska-Parra

