

Preface

This volume is dedicated to the memory of two great benefactors of Cypriot archaeology, who in very different ways served to enhance knowledge and to preserve the heritage of Cyprus, Edgar Peltenburg and Yiannis Kleanthous. Both passed away very recently and have left the archaeology of Cyprus and their many friends and associates bereft of their vibrant presence.

Eddie first met Yiannis at Kyrenia castle in the mid-1960s when, as a PhD student at the University of Birmingham, travelled to Cyprus to study material for his thesis. Several years later, after the start of his excavations at *Ayios Epiktitos-Vrysi* (1969-73), Eddie's contact with Yiannis became more frequent and began to develop into a close friendship that would last for the remainder of Eddie's life. Their paths continued to converge after 1974 when Yiannis was forced to move to Paphos where he resumed his work with the Department of Antiquities and helped to create the Folk Art Museum at Yeroskipou (established in 1978), at the same time that Eddie began excavations at the Chalcolithic site of *Lemba-Lakkous* (1976). In 1981, after Yiannis had settled into a house in the village of Lemba (which he later named 'Karmi' after his village of birth), they would meet regularly for drinks and long discussions under the mulberry tree, surrounded by cats, in Yiannis' magnificent garden with its fine view of the sea. Yiannis was a member of Eddie's fieldwork team for eight seasons of excavation at *Kissonerga-Mosphilia* (1985-1992) and was Eddie's koumbaros for his marriage to Diane Bolger in Paphos (2012). Eddie admired Yiannis for his magnificent and generous spirit, his amazing storytelling abilities, and his deep knowledge of Cyprus and regarded him as his best and oldest friend on the island. It would be wonderful to think that they are together again somewhere, drinking wine, laughing and

reminiscing about old times in the occupied north part of the island. It is my hope that the joint dedication of this volume to their respective memories is well within the spirit of their friendship during their lifetime and will help keep it alive in our hearts and minds.

The volume consists of seven papers. The majority are based on lectures given at the invitation of the Society of Cypriot Archaeologists, by known archaeologists and researchers on various topics of Cypriot archaeology. One of the main tasks of the current Board of the Association was to organise lectures for the public in an effort to raise awareness and interest in the archaeological heritage of the island, thus fulfilling one of its main statutory requirements. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express my gratitude to the speakers and contributors to the volume, as well as to express my sincere thanks to the Secretary, co-editor of this volume, and members of the Council for their hard work, spirit of co-operation and dedication to the causes of the Association.

Despina Pilides

President

Association of Cypriot Archaeologists