

PREFACE

Texts on the issues of archaeology in Ukraine have often appeared in the „Sprawozdania Archeologiczne” journal. The authors of these papers are Ukrainian archaeologists and researchers from other countries implementing projects in Ukraine. The editors of this volume are also participants in large research programs carried out in cooperation with Ukrainian scientists. Many years of field research have created a strong connection with this beautiful country and, above all, friendships with many archaeologists and other people that we have met in Ukraine. Therefore, it is with desperate sadness, anger and helplessness that we look at the spectacle of a brutal war that has been going on for almost two years, caused by the barbaric aggression of the Russian state. People are dying, cities, landscapes, and treasured testimonies of the past are being destroyed. What’s more, our friends are in the middle of these events.

Ukrainians fighting for survival hope that the world will not forget about them. This is one of the reasons why we now want, despite these unfavourable circumstances, to continue our joint studies and conduct research on Ukraine. Volume 75/1 of “Sprawozdania Archeologiczne” is intended to be an expression of this. It presents works related to Ukraine. Several articles are also related to the topic of the Ukrainian steppes – they are a modified version of the presentations at the conference „Steppe invaders vs local residents (4th-3rd millennia BC)”, which took place in Niepołomice, Poland (2-3 December 2022).

In particular, we would like to dedicate volume 75/1 of “Sprawozdania Archeologiczne” to our archaeologist colleagues currently serving in the Ukrainian army, sometimes on the front line. First of all, we wish them a victory, the saving of the cultural heritage, and a quick return to peaceful scientific work. We hope that in the near future we will meet at conferences and field studies – in Kyiv, Donetsk, or Mariupol.

Below we have included photos of several archaeologists currently serving in the Ukrainian army. Some of them are the authors of articles published in present volume. Denys Grechko, for example, proofread his text in unfavourable circumstances during his service in the Zaporizhia region.

Stand with Ukraine!

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The Mariupol Local History Museum, ruined as a result of shelling by Russian troops in April 2022 and then looted. Before the war, 53 000 monuments from the entire Azov zone were exhibited here, including the famous Mariupol graveyard (Mariupolski mogilnik).

Material published by the Mariupol City Hall on September 2, 2022 (<https://novosti.dn.ua/news/330863-opublikovani-foto-zrujnovanogo-armiyeyu-rf-mariupolskogo-krayeznavchogo-muzeyu>)