

Archaeology and History in the Lebanon

The very existence of the AHL journal would not be possible without the continuous support of those individuals and private institutions whose generous contributions directly reflect their interest in maintaining a higher national intellectual output.

This issue was made possible by the generous support of
Cimenterie Nationale

During the last season of excavations at Tell Arqa in September 2005, the idea emerged of putting together a Festschrift for Jean-Paul Thalmann, who would be celebrating his sixtieth birthday the following year. Otto Cichocki who was studying the ancient wood of Tell Arqa and Lebanon approached me with the idea of celebrating this important milestone with a collection of articles written in honor of the Sheikh of Arqa, a term of endearment bestowed upon Jean-Paul that demonstrates the degree of attachment he holds to this tell. Otto and I discussed the idea with Christine, Jean-Paul's wife, who was very enthusiastic and supportive of this project. We knew that we didn't have enough time or resources to put together a monumental work if we wanted the publication to be out in less than two years. Therefore, we decided to focus on Tell Arqa in particular and Lebanon in general by inviting former team members and scholars who worked at Arqa, or who maintain research links with the dig, to contribute to the book. We painfully realize that numerous other colleagues of Jean-Paul had to be left out of our selection, and we hope they understand the criteria that influenced our decision. We cannot thank enough Claude Doumet-Serhal who immediately agreed to publish the Festschrift in a special volume of AHL. This ensured prompt publication. Otto, who was juggling multiple Austrian and European projects, as well as the birth of his fifth child (welcome Adele!), couldn't follow through on the editing, but he kept in close contact with me as to the progress of the work. His unfaltering support and his advice were of great help to me in crucial times, especially since this was my first editing job. For this I would like to thank him warmly. Without the combined efforts of the contributors (who respected the imposed deadlines) and the editorial board, this special issue of AHL honoring Jean-Paul Thalmann would have never been out on time.

Hanan Charaf
