

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I could never have written this work without the help and support of many friends and colleagues.

I am indebted especially to the following people for enabling access to material and providing me with additional information, as well as for numerous very suggestive discussions:

Walpurga Antl-Weiser, Katalin T. Biró, Luise Böllig, Erich Claßen, Gretel Gallay, Birgit Gehlen, Pavlína Kalábková, Nicole Kegler-Graiewski, Róbert Kertész, Carsten Mischka, Doris Mischka (Rupprecht), Ebbe H. Nielsen, Britta Ramminger, Elisabetta Starnini, Jiří Svoboda, Krzysztof Tunia and Hans Tuzar.

I also wish to thank the following individuals for providing me with the study material which forms the basis of my doctoral thesis and for sharing important information with me:

†Miroslav Bálek, Tomáš Berkovec, Zdeněk Čižmář, Kateřina Geislerová, Alena Humpolová, Eliška Kazdová, †Pavel Koštuřík, Jana Langrová, Christine Neugebauer-Maresch, †Vladimír Ondruš, Jaroslav Peška and Helmut J. Windl.

The following individuals deserve my heartfelt thanks for providing and recommending literature, for countless inspirational remarks and suggestions, and in some cases also for allowing access to material:

Eszter Bánffy, Detlef Gronenborn, Thomas Götzelt, Malgorzata Kaczanowska, Janusz Krzysztof Kozłowski, Eva Lenneis, Clemens Pasda, Peter Stadler and Andreas Zimmermann.

For technical help, above all with graphical tasks on computer, I feel obliged to:

Robert Konečný, Martin Olšina, Marcel Vlček and Eva Zemánková.

For performing the experiments and providing me with a lot of information related to the production technologies of blade blanks, I thank Witold Migal.

I would like to thank Antonín Přichystal for the possibility to acquaint myself with the microscopic determination of lithic raw materials and gaining a basic knowledge of petrography.

I also feel indebted to my nearest and dearest friends for their help in obtaining literature and information, for valuable remarks and above all for their overall support. Some of them must also be thanked for helping with text corrections:

Chiara de Cesari, Miroslav Kouřil, Martin Oliva, Kerstin Pasda, Petr Patočka, Rudolf Procházka, Gerhard Trnka, Leif Steguweit, Alasdair Whittle and Maximilian Wilding.

Above all, I wish to thank Vladimír Podborský for his valuable remarks, patience and support throughout the development of my work. My teacher Jacek Lech, to whom I feel particularly indebted, I thank very much for his professional lead, critical approach, and for all the inexhaustible energy devoted to me during all the time of writing this work.

This work would not have been published in English without the initiative of Zdeněk Měřínský, head of the Department of Archaeology and Museology at the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University in Brno, whom I also thank for the possibility to publish this work within the framework of a newly-established editorial series.

For translation into English and linguistic corrections, I thank Maciej Karwowski, Jana Kličová, Alastair Millar, Daniela Hofmann and Alasdair Whittle. I would also like to thank Dan Šlosar for preparatory and graphical work (layout) and Radek Měšťan for printing and binding this volume.

Finally, I most deeply thank my parents and my sister Jana for all their love and tireless support. They helped me not to give up and to complete this work. Therefore, this book is dedicated to them.