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Preface by the President of the Association

The Seventeenth International Conference on South Asian Archaeology was held in Bonn from 7th–11th July 2003. After two earlier meetings of the European Association of South Asian Archaeologists in Berlin in 1979 and 1991 it was the third time that the conference was hosted in Germany – now jointly organized by the *Kommission für Archäologie Außereuropäischer Kulturen* (previously the *Kommission für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Archäologie*) and the *Eurasien-Abteilung* of the German Archaeological Institute. For more than 40 years the German Archaeological Institute contributed to the study of the research area, at the very beginning with investigations in Iran. Later, the two above institutions extended their excavation activities to Sri Lanka and Nepal as well as to Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asia devoted to archaeological sites covering the period from prehistoric to Islamic times.

We therefore felt most honoured by the Association's decision to entrust us with the organization of the conference 2003 in Bonn. Not only it offered the opportunity to present a selection of the Institute's research projects, but also – and more importantly – a forum of discussion for academic circles involved in the various disciplines of South Asian Archaeology. We had the pleasure to welcome in the *Wissenschaftszentrum* about two hundred scholars and students from Asia, Europe, America, and Australia. The facilities conveniently allowed the presentation of more than one hundred lectures, which were presented in two sessions, and the posters of those researchers, whose contributions could not be incorporated into a programme already fully packed.

The 2003 conference was financed with special funds generously provided by the president of the German Archaeological Institute, Prof. Hermann Parzinger. This support, for which we are very grateful, was most essential, since it also allowed us not only to sponsor the participation of some foreign guests but also to keep the

expenditures for all participants as low as possible. I am also very indebted to Dr. Ute Franke-Vogt and Dr. Hans-Joachim Weisshaar who in 2001 joined me as members of the Organizing Committee as well as to Catherine Jarrige for sharing with us her long experience in handling earlier conferences. Whenever major obstacles occurred, the Association's Secretary General Dr. Bridget Allchin was most helpful.

Our thanks go the *Wissenschaftszentrum* for its hospitality in a modern and very comfortable setting as well as its logistic and organizational assistance such as the professional handling of "sound and light". During the days of the conference we also received great assistance from Céline Grünhagen, Heidrun Schenk, Nora Scholpp, and Jürgen Wegert who lent us a helping hand in the registration of the participants and other important organizational matters. Our secretaries Gisela Klier and Felicitas Krieger assisted us to cope with all the paper work and to arrange for the boat trip on the Rhine River. We gratefully accepted an invitation of the director of the *Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland*, Dr. Wenzel Jacob, to have a guided tour through the exhibition "Through Time and Space – Archaeology in Germany" followed by a memorable reception on the roof of the museum. All this would have been impossible without the efficient support of all our helpers.

Most of all, our heartfelt thanks go to all researchers whose lectures and posters made the conference such a success. And we extend our thanks to the chairpersons of the different sessions.

Understanding the biennial intervals of the meetings as a platform for the presentation of most recent research we put emphasis on a quick and reasonable publication. The two editing institutions are proud to publish herewith almost seventy papers, both lectures and contributions submitted as posters. Some colleagues, who read papers at Bonn, were unable to send

them for publication. The two editors of this volume, Dr. Ute Franke-Vogt and Dr. Hans-Joachim Weisshaar took the burden to carefully go through all manuscripts and Hans Wittersheim equally invested much time in preparing the illustrations for layout and printing. Their intervention was mainly technical, although some papers required more substantial editing concerning language and completion of references. Uniformity of the papers was not an objective; individual preferences of the authors concerning transliteration were maintained. Only bibliographical references were standardized through-

out the volume. Since most of the authors returned their proofs, the responsibility for inconsistencies, mistakes and shortcomings has necessarily to rest with the authors.

At the concluding plenary session 2003 at Bonn, the Secretary General, Dr. Bridget Allchin announced the decision of the board to hold the Eighteenth International Conference on South Asian Archaeology in London in July 2005. We hope that these proceedings, which are dedicated to the memory of Karl Jettmar, will appear in due time.

Bonn, May 2005

Burkhard Vogt