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Technological and Typological Change at the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic Boundary in Lebanon

by

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VERLAG DR. RUDOLF HABELT GMBH, BONN

PREFACE OF THE EDITOR

Since 2009 the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC 806) “Our Way to Europe – Culture-environment interaction and human mobility in the Late Quaternary” has investigated the origin and dispersal of early modern humans from Africa to Eurasia. A couple of projects has focused on the Middle East, the Balkan Peninsula and the Carpathic Basin, thus following one possible pathway of human migration about 50,000 to 30,000 years ago. From the archaeological point of view, this is the time when the Middle to Upper Palaeolithic “transition” (or rather the boundary between the two eras?) occurred.

When Dirk Leder came up with the idea to investigate this crucial time range with a focus on southern Lebanon the research centre immediately accepted the author’s plan as a dissertation project. Dirk Leder’s work is based on his own studies in Beirut, London, Basel and Cologne, of all important archaeological inventories available. As a pioneering work, the present volume delivers new, first-hand informa-

tion from sites which were previously poorly known. Typological classification of tools and technical features allowed for a model of cultural change leading from the Middle to the Upper Palaeolithic, strictly following an evolutionary concept. Dirk Leder’s surprising conclusions must be regarded as elements of a working hypothesis rather than final results. Hopefully, his ideas will provoke discussion and further research into the Palaeolithic of southern Lebanon.

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Jürgen Richter
series editor

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