

Foreword

This volume represents the first result of a French-German research project, entitled “Archaeology of a transformation period. The burial place of Niedernai and the 5th century along the Upper Rhine” directed by Susanne Brather-Walter at Freiburg University and Eckhard Wirbelauer at Strasbourg University. It started in spring 2014 and was funded by both the *Agence nationale de la recherche* in Paris and the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* in Bonn. The first major event was a conference “Archaeology, history and biosciences. Interdisciplinary perspectives” at Freiburg University in November 2015, and its contributions can be found along the following pages.

Two additional volumes are working in process and will hopefully published in the near future. On one hand, the first volume will present all the information concerning the 5th and early 6th century burial place of Niedernai, collected through archaeology, DNA and isotope analysis, and of course our interpretation of the cultural changes which took place during the second half of the 5th century as Niedernai is a quite good study case. On the other hand, the second volume will contain papers that were written by archaeologist and historians at another conference in Freiburg in April 2017 entitled “The 5th century as a transformation period between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages”.

I am thankful that the outcome of the Niedernai project can be published within the distinguished series of the *Ergänzungsbände zum Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*.

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