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CONTENTS

R.T.J. CAPPERS & H. WOLDRING In memoriam Sytze Bottema	1
E. DRENTH & J.A. BAKKER In memoriam Albert Lanting	3
J.N. LANTING Bibliography of A.E. Lanting	39
M.J.L.TH. NIEKUS A geographically referenced ¹⁴ C database for the Mesolithic and the early phase of the Swifterbant culture in the Northern Netherlands	41
E. HAVEMAN & J.A. SHERIDAN The Exloo necklace: new light on an old find <i>with contributions by A. Shortland & K. Eremin</i>	101
A.J. NIJBOER, P.A.J. ATTEMA & G.J.M. VAN OORTMERSSEN Ceramics from a Late Bronze Age saltern on the coast near Nettuno (Rome, Italy)	141
J.J. BUTLER & HANNIE STEEGSTRA Bronze Age metal and amber in the Netherlands (III:2) Catalogue of the socketed axes, part C	207
J.N. LANTING & J. VAN DER PLICHT De ¹⁴ C-chronologie van de Nederlandse pre- en protohistorie V: midden- en late ijzertijd	241
R.T.J. CAPPERS The reconstruction of agricultural practices in Ancient Egypt: an ethnoarchaeobotanical approach	429
J.M. BOS Medieval brooches from the Dutch province of Friesland (Frisia): a regional perspective on the Wijnaldum brooches. General Introduction	447
J.M. BOS Medieval brooches from the Dutch province of Friesland (Frisia): a regional perspective on the Wijnaldum brooches. Part I: small equal-armed brooches	455
V.S. OLSEN The development of (proto)-disc-on-bow brooches in England, Frisia and Scandinavia	479
H. GROENENDIJK Dorfwurt Ulrum (De Marne, Prov. Groningen). Eine Fundbergung im Jahre 1995 als Anregung zur Benutzung hydrologischer Messdaten bei der Erhaltung von Grosswurten <i>Mit einem Beitrag von J.A. Zimmerman: Ein Textilfund aus der Dorfwurt Ulrum</i>	529

IN MEMORIAM SYTZE BOTTEMA
6 October 1937 – 21 November 2005

R.T.J. CAPPERS & H. WOLDRING

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The previous volume of *Palaeohistoria* (45/46) was dedicated to Sytze Bottema. It opens with an appreciation and a bibliography and includes an article by Sytze dealing with the pollen signal of early Neolithic farmers in northern Drenthe (the Netherlands) and an article by his wife Nicolien on the wood from Akrotiri (Santorini, Greece).

Sytze suffered from Multiple System Atrophy, of which the first signs appeared shortly before his retirement in 2002. In the autumn of 2005, Sytze's health was failing rapidly and he became more confined to his sickbed. Although *Palaeohistoria* 45/46 was intended to be presented to Sytze as a surprise, we agreed to inform Sytze about this special volume only if his state of health would become life-threatening.

Sytze died on the very day that volume 45/46 of *Palaeohistoria* went into print and it was not longer possible to adapt the appreciation. It is most regrettable that Sytze was not acquainted with its appearance.

Sytze had an excellent knowledge of the palaeoclimates and palaeoenvironments of the Eastern Mediterranean and Near East areas and his publications are still a firm foundation for the interpretation of climatic change, human impact on the former vegetation and the modelling of the origin and spread of agriculture. Sytze had a special interest in birds and in animals in general and his bibliography includes a substantial number of articles on these subjects.

Colleagues and students were privileged to work with Sytze for many years. His gifted ability to observe from nature, his thought-provoking discussions and his amusing stories, larded with nice details, will be remembered and much missed.

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Sytze Bottema, 2000.