Preface

Professor Rosalie David OBE has made a significant contribution to Egyptology both within Manchester University and far beyond. Presented on the occasion of her seventieth birthday in May 2016, this volume reflects the major Egyptological themes that have characterised Rosalie's academic career. 'Pharaonic sacred landscapes' addresses the ways in which the ancient inhabitants of the Nile valley conceptualised their landscape – funerary, ritual, mythic – and is a reminder that Rosalie's doctoral research involved a detailed study of the hieroglyphic inscriptions in the Sety I temple at Abydos; 'Magico-medical practices in ancient Egypt' includes contributions that represent her lifelong interest in Dynastic pharmacy and medicine; 'Understanding Egyptian mummies' reflects the pioneering work of the Manchester Museum Mummy Project, which Rosalie initiated, and the subsequent application of the 'Manchester method' to the study of mummified remains elsewhere; chapters presented under the heading 'Science and experimental approaches in Egyptology' stand testament to Rosalie's innovative approach to understanding ancient materials and technologies.

But these academic themes, and Rosalie's many books and articles, are not the whole story. Away from her laboratories and museum galleries, Rosalie has worked tirelessly to bring Egyptology – once perceived as the rather dull preserve of elderly gentlemen – to the widest possible audience. This has involved everything from formal teaching sessions through numerous television and radio appearances to advising awestruck schoolchildren on their future careers. By inspiring others to study the past she has brought great joy into many lives, and for this she is respected and admired throughout the world.

We hope that Rosalie will enjoy reading these articles written by colleagues who have benefited from her teaching, research and friendship. Many others would have liked to contribute, but were prevented from doing so by the

constraints of time and space. They all send their best wishes to the 'Mummy Lady'. Happy birthday, Rosalie!

Campbell Price, Roger Forshaw, Andrew Chamberlain, Paul T. Nicholson,
Robert G. Morkot and Joyce Tyldesley