

## Translator's Note

I have been out of this field for some years but I am well aware that Semenov's book, once it was available in English, did much to alter our attitude towards archaeological material, seeing it as potential evidence for activities at the time it was made, rather than just as elements in a classificatory system.

Semenov undoubtedly made mistakes, as we all do, but his work has firmly re-orientated students ever since towards looking for traces of use on the material before them. This has led to dramatic changes in our appreciation of the objects being studied and will produce even more in the years to come. No doubt many of these will be discussed in the Conference at Verona celebrating the 40 years since my English translation was published.

I regret the age does not allow me to join you.

Michael Thompson, April 2005