THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CARIBBEAN

The Archaeology of the Caribbean is a comprehensive synthesis of Caribbean prehistory from the earliest settlement by humans more than 6,000 years ago to the time of European conquest of the islands, from the fifteenth through seventeenth centuries. Samuel Wilson reviews the evidence for migration and cultural change throughout the archipelago, dealing in particular with periods of cultural interaction when groups with different cultures and histories were in contact. He also examines the evolving relationship of the Caribbean people with their environment, as they developed increasingly productive economic systems over time, as well as the emergence of increasingly complex social and political systems, particularly in the Greater Antilles in the centuries before the European conquest. The Archaeology of the Caribbean also provides a review of the history of Caribbean archaeology and the individual scholars and ideas that have shaped the field.

Samuel M. Wilson is professor and chairman of the department of anthropology at the University of Texas, Austin. He is the author of several books, including most recently The Prehistory of Nevis, and editor of The Indigenous People of the Caribbean.
The Cambridge World Archaeology series is addressed to students and professional archaeologists, and to academics in related disciplines. Most volumes present a survey of the archaeology of a region of the world, providing an up-to-date account of research and integrating recent findings with new concerns of interpretation. While the focus is on a specific region, broader cultural trends are discussed and the implications of regional findings for cross-cultural interpretations considered. The authors also bring anthropological and historical expertise to bear on archaeological problems and show how both new data and changing intellectual trends in archaeology shape inferences about the past. More recently, the series has expanded to include thematic volumes.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CARIBBEAN

SAMUEL M. WILSON

University of Texas
This book is dedicated to the next generation of Caribbeanist scholars, with thanks to the previous generation.
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Like most fields, Caribbean archaeology is one in which we learn most of what we know from our colleagues. I certainly learned most of what I know of this region from my friends and fellow researchers in the Caribbean and from the publications of earlier scholars. This learning process was greatly facilitated by the International Association of Caribbean Archaeologists. They have provided an essential forum for communication in their biannual meetings and in their Proceedings series, and this has had a profound and positive effect on the field. I acknowledge my great debt to this organization and to all of its members.

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