The societies that developed in the eastern Mediterranean during the Bronze Age produced the most prolific and diverse range of stone vessel traditions known at any time or anywhere in the world. Stone vessels are therefore a key class of artefact in the early history of this region. As a form of archaeological evidence, they offer important analytical advantages over other artefact types – virtual indestructibility, a wide range of functions and values, huge variety in manufacturing traditions, as well as the subtractive character of stone and its rich potential for geological provenancing. Stone also has wide anthropological and archaeological relevance. It offers a favourable vantage from which to consider concepts of object value and how these might be approached in the archaeological record. In this book, Andrew Bevan considers individual stone vessel industries in great detail. He also offers a highly comparative and value-led perspective on production, consumption, and exchange logics throughout the eastern Mediterranean over a period of two millennia during the Bronze Age (ca. 3000–1200 BC).

Andrew Bevan is a lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. His work has been supported by fellowships from the Leverhulme Trust, the Institute of Aegean Prehistory, and the Dr. M. Alwyn Cotton Foundation. He also received the Michael Ventris Memorial Award for Mycenaean Studies.
Stone Vessels
and Values in the
Bronze Age Mediterranean

Andrew Bevan
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON, INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY
For my parents
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Acknowledgments

This book first began as doctoral research, for which I benefited from generous financial support from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (then AHRB). During this time, I was able to conduct fieldwork and attend conferences largely through the further support of the Institute of Archaeology, the University College London (UCL) Graduate School, and the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara, to all of whom I am extremely grateful. A Leverhulme Trust postdoctoral fellowship, while dedicated to other research goals, allowed time for me to acquire additional skills and to develop my ideas further. Thereafter, I was able to devote a crucial year to new research and writing-up with the benefit of an Institute of Aegean Prehistory fellowship, a Cotton Foundation grant, and a Michael Ventris Memorial Fund award, all of which led to late insights into particularly thorny problems. The final stages of writing were challenged and yet also inspired by the demands of full-time teaching at UCL.

There are numerous people who helped at different stages of this study. I am especially grateful to the academic and administrative staff and students of the UCL Institute of Archaeology for providing such a friendly and inspiring research environment. Cyprian Broodbank has been, and still is, a source of endless guidance and encouragement. Todd Whitelaw has provided help with an array of research and teaching questions, some of which I hope has made an impact here. Also, many thanks to Alexander Ahrens, Daniel Antoine, Carol Bell, Lisa Bendall, John Bennet, Elizabeth Bloxham, Stuart Brookes, Tristan Carter, Steffie Chlouveraki, James Conolly, Jago Cooper, Lindy Crewe, Joanne Cutler, Helène David, Don Evely, Lesley Fitton, James Harrell, Eleni Hatzaki, Christophe Helmke, David Jeffreys, Peter Jordan, Evangelia Kiriati, Carl Knappett, Olga Krzyszewska, Lorenzo Lazzarini, Mark Lake, Borja Legarra, Christine Lilyquist, Kris Lockyear, Christina Luke, Marcos Martínón-Torres, Roger Matthews, Nicoletta Momigliano, Orazio Palio, Ian Patterson, Edgar Peltenburg, Jacke Phillips, Claude Poursat, Laura Preston, Stephen Quirke, Lucinda Reeves, Thilo Rehren, Brian Robertson, Christopher Roosevelt, Joanne Rowland, Jerry Rutter, Robert Schaub, Vincent Serneels, Susan Sherratt, Ruth Siddall, Karin Sowada, Rachael Sparks, Denys Stocks, Geoffrey Tassie, Peter Ucko, Peter Warren, Vance Watrous, David Wengrow, and the two anonymous Cambridge reviewers for discussing different aspects of the subject with me, providing digital data, reading chapter drafts, or otherwise contributing to this effort. No doubt there are others who I have omitted for which I offer my sincere apologies. Any remaining errors are my own responsibility.

Permissions to reproduce photographs and/or include illustrations were kindly supplied by the following people and institutions (in alphabetical order): the Ashmolean Museum, Barbara Aston, the British Museum, the British School at Athens, the Cairo Museum,
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Pierre de Miroschedji, Christos Doumas, Ebla Expedition, Don Evely, Pat Getz-Gentle, James Harrell, the Herakleion Museum, the Italian School of Archaeology at Athens, Vassos Karageorghis, Gernot Katzer, Kay Kohlmeyer, Karla Kroeper, Olga Krzyszowska, the Louver Museum, Paolo Matthiae, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Museum of Greece, the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago, Nimet Özgüç, Philip von Zabern Press, Ingo Pini, Frances Pinnock, Sue Sherratt, Jeffrey Soles, Denys Stocks, the ST Ephorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities (Patras), Turan Takaoğlu, Francesco Tiradritti, Jonathan Tubb, the Turin Museum, University College London, the UCL Petrie Museum, the University of Wisconsin Press, Gert van Wijngaarden, Shelley Wachsmann, and Peter Warren. In addition, the opportunity to study unpublished material was of huge benefit in the early stages of this research, for which I thank Phillip Betancourt, Gerald Cadogan, Sinclair Hood, Mervyn Popham, Jeffrey Soles, and Peter Warren. I am also grateful to Lesley Fitton, Louise Schofield, and Jonathan Tubb at the British Museum; Sue Sherratt and Roger Moorey at the Ashmolean Museum; Penny Wilson and Eleni Vassilika at the Fitzwilliam Museum; Sally MacDonald and Stephen Quirke at the Petrie Museum; Despo Pilides at the Cypriot Museum; Sophie Cluzan and Norbeil Aouici at the Louvre; Tom Brogan at the INSTAP-EC Study Centre; and Eleni Hatzaki and Don Evely at the Knossos Stratigraphical Museum for facilitating my various visits to these institutions.

A final heartfelt thanks go to Brenna, my parents, and my sister.