THE ARCHAEOLoGY OF CYPRUS

Situated amidst the archaeologies of the Near East, Europe and Africa, the archaeology and culture of Cyprus are central to an understanding of the ancient Mediterranean world. This book treats the archaeology of Cyprus from the first-known human presence during the Late Epipalaeolithic (ca. 11,000 BC) through the end of the Bronze Age (ca. 1000 BC). A. Bernard Knapp examines the archaeological and documentary records of prehistoric Cyprus within their regional context, paying special attention to the Levant and the Aegean. The appendix (compiled by Sturt W. Manning) analyses all published radiocarbon dates from the island, providing for the first time a comprehensive chronological framework for all of Cypriot prehistory. Focusing on key themes such as (1) identity, insularity and connectivity, and (2) society, community and polity throughout, this book provides a remarkably up-to-date and integrated synthesis of human activity on the Mediterranean’s third-largest island.

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3 Periods, dates, sites and socio-economic practices: Late Epipalaeolithic–Late Aceramic Neolithic 83
Over the past 30 years, the archaeology of Cyprus has developed and changed in such a way that its earlier practitioners would barely recognise it. In that time, archaeologists working on Cyprus have produced an extraordinary amount of new information stemming both from fieldwork (excavations, survey projects) and from new research on various classes of material culture. Beyond two earlier studies (Bolger 2003; Steel 2004a) published nearly a decade ago, however, none of this new work and information has been integrated into a comprehensive, theoretically informed presentation of Cyprus’s prehistoric and protohistoric past. Most archaeologists working throughout Europe, the Near East and the Mediterranean, and especially those who work on Cyprus, have recognised the need for an up-to-date synthesis of all the materials, new and old, that form the basis for a prehistory of the island. Sturt W. Manning’s Appendix provides a real bonus: the analysis of more than 300 available radiocarbon dates offers a comprehensive chronological framework for all of Cypriot prehistory, from the Late Epipalaeolithic to the end of the Late Bronze Age.

I began work on this monograph whilst still a full-time member of the academic staff in the Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow. I wish to thank my colleagues and departmental staff at Glasgow for their support and the consideration (and relief from teaching) I was given as Research Professor (2006–2009). The bulk of the research and final writing of this book took place since I retired (September 2009) and was released from normal teaching and administrative demands. Much of this work was conducted in the library of the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI) in Nicosia, and I am particularly grateful to Tom Davis (former director of CAARI), Evi Karyda (CAARI librarian) and Vathoulla Moustoukki (CAARI’s administrator), all of whom facilitated my work in every way possible. CAARI’s extensive library holdings (and online database) ensured that little time was wasted tracking down even the most obscure references I needed.

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The complexity and breadth of the materials and topics covered herein presented real challenges to me, especially those chapters on the earlier prehistory of Cyprus (Late Epipalaeolithic–Chalcolithic). I am therefore indebted to all the individuals listed below, in alphabetical order, for their comments on earlier drafts of various sections, and/or for copies of unpublished or forthcoming papers, including PhD theses. I relied constantly on the comments provided by all of these scholars, but the opinions expressed and the interpretations presented here remain my own, and my own responsibility.

Albert Ammerman (Colgate University): Late Epipalaeolithic
Seth Button (University of Michigan): Late Aceramic Neolithic
Jo Clarke (University of East Anglia): Ceramic Neolithic
Paul Croft (Lemba Archaeological Project, Cyprus): Bioarchaeology (faunal, floral)
Nikos Efstratiou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Vretsia Roudias site (Late Epipalaeolithic)
Steven Falconer (Arizona State University, Tempe): Politiko Troullia (PreBA)
Nathan Harper (University of Nevada, Las Vegas): Late Aceramic Neolithic, Bronze Age mortuary data
Paula Louise Jones (University of Wales, Cardiff): Early and Late Aceramic Neolithic
Sturt W. Manning (Cornell University): Chronology and dating; Early Aceramic Neolithic; Appendix on 14C dates
Joseph Maran (Heidelberg University): Late Cypriot material in Tiryns
Carole McCartney (University of Cyprus): Cypro-PPNA; Early Aceramic Neolithic–Chalcolithic chipped stone
James D. Muhly (American School of Classical Studies, Athens): Protohistoric Bronze Age generally
Jay Noller (Oregon State University, Corvallis): Geology and geomorphology
Edgar Peltenburg (University of Edinburgh): Early–Middle Chalcolithic, Protohistoric Bronze Age
Curtis Runnels (Boston University): Palaeolithic
Anthony Russell: PhD thesis (University of Glasgow, 2011): Central Mediterranean
Alan Simmons (University of Nevada, Las Vegas): Late Epipalaeolithic, Early Aceramic Neolithic Ais Giorkis
Louise Steel (University of Wales, Trinity Saint David): Protohistoric Bronze Age overall
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