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Antikythera in Long-Term Perspective

Andrew Bevan and James Conolly

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MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS, FRAGILE COMMUNITIES AND PERSISTENT LANDSCAPES

Mediterranean landscape ecology, island cultures and long-term human history have all emerged as major research agendas over the past half-century, engaging large swathes of the social and natural sciences. This book brings these traditions together in considering Antikythera, a tiny island perched on the edge of the Aegean and Ionian seas, over the full course of its human history from the Neolithic through the present day. Small islands are particularly interesting because their human, plant and animal populations often experience abrupt demographic changes, including periods of near-complete abandonment and recolonisation, and Antikythera proves to be one of the best-documented examples of these shifts over time. Small islands also play eccentric but revealing roles in wider social, economic and political networks, serving as places for refugees, hunters, modern ecotourists, political exiles, hermits and pirates. Antikythera is a rare case of an island that has been investigated in its entirety from several systematic fieldwork and disciplinary perspectives, not least of which is an intensive archaeological survey. The authors use the resulting evidence to offer a unique vantage on settlement and land use histories.

Andrew Bevan is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at University College London. His primary research interests include landscape ecology, spatial and computational modelling and archaeological fieldwork techniques. He has also published widely on comparative approaches to Mediterranean material culture. He is author of *Stone Vessels and Values in the Bronze Age Mediterranean* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and co-editor (with David Wengrow) of *Cultures of Commodity Branding* (2010).

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*Antikythera in Long-Term
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*For the present-day community on Antikythera;
and for Aris Tsaravopoulos,
longtime champion of Antikytheran archaeology.*

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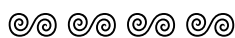
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It is unusual for two authors to write a book based partly on archaeological fieldwork; multi-author edited volumes are far more common. We are thus keenly aware that our own interpretations have been built upon the ideas, facilities and sheer hard work of many others. We hope that it is exceedingly obvious throughout the text where our own thoughts reflect wider multilateral discussions, and that the references offer sufficiently clear pointers to the primary publications upon which our own reflections are often based. The archaeological survey portion of the fieldwork we discuss was carried out as a formal collaboration between the Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Canadian Institute in Greece, and our project co-director in this venture, Aris Tsaravopoulos (Greek Archaeological Service), was a great source of knowledge, encouragement and advice throughout, despite his many other responsibilities. We would also like to thank all those agencies who contributed funds: the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (grant no. 410-2005-0477), the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council (grant no. AH/E502989/1), the Institute for Aegean Prehistory, the British Academy (grant no. SG-45163), the Mediterranean Archaeological Trust, Trent University and University College London. Amongst all those present-day inhabitants of Antikythera who welcomed us and assisted our work, we would particularly like to mention Andreas Charchalakis, Manolis Charchalakis, Nikitas Galanis, Georgos Katsanevakis, Maria Katsanevakis, Marinos Katsanevakis, Myronas Patakakis, Dionysis Progolakis and Myronas Progolakis. During our fieldwork, three different doctors on posting to the island were also very helpful.

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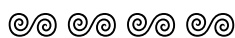
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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in the text.

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Full Name</i>
BPP	British Parliamentary Papers
NMM UK	The National Maritime Museum, United Kingdom
TAK	Local Archive of Kythera
TNA UK	The National Archives, United Kingdom

For period abbreviations, see Chapter 4, Table 4.1.