ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book would never have been written had I not been invited to deliver lectures in honor of Jane K. Sather. It is all too easy for a field archaeologist and teacher to invent reasons to avoid composing a general, interpretative, synthetic work. I am grateful to the faculty of the University of California for providing me with the necessary excuse and to the University of Cincinnati for granting me leave to go to Berkeley.

My friends and colleagues in the Classics Department at Berkeley during the spring term of 2019 made me feel welcome on campus and in their homes. It also was an anticipated delight to spend several months across the corridor from Kim Shelton in Dwinelle Hall, but the talented group of graduate students who attended my Sather Seminar on the "coming of the Greeks" was an unexpected bonus. My two Sather Assistants, Bekah Mckay and Emma Remsberg, were invaluable in handling logistics for the lectures. David Wheeler, who was present for the lectures in Berkeley, then read my manuscript in Athens.

I can hardly find words to express my gratitude to the many from whom I have learned so much in the course of my career. As an undergraduate at the University of Akron, Theodore T. Duke first taught me that one must consider the Mediterranean and Near East as a whole in order to understand the Greek Bronze Age. In graduate school at the University of Cincinnati, Gerald Cadogan forced me to think big, while Jack Caskey emphasized speaking and writing with precision (in his mind, these were one and the same thing). My classmates in graduate school and at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens were inspirational. In Chicago at the University of Illinois older professors nurtured me academically.

At Pylos I am blessed to have had amazingly talented colleagues in our intensive surface survey in the 1990s, for legacy data studies after that, and in excavations since 2015. Among them, John Bennet has remained steadfast in all matters Pylian, now for thirty years, and I have summarized our joint studies in several parts of this book.

The faculty at Cincinnati has enthusiastically encouraged my research. Kathleen Lynch, in her role as a board member of the Institute for Mediterranean Studies, has unfailingly facilitated our progress at Pylos. Also in Cincinnati, Carol Hershenson and Jeff Kramer were diligent in providing materials from departmental archives for this book, often on short order. I have been fortunate to work for decades with two particularly gifted archaeological illustrators, Rosemary Robertson and Tina Ross, and I am in their debt for many of the illustrations included here. I thank Phoebe Acheson, Hariclia Brecoulaki, John Cherry, Imma Kilian-Dirlmeier, Lyvia Morgan, Joseph Shaw, Todd Whitelaw, and Malcolm Wiener for generously permitting me to reproduce or adapt their drawings, charts, or photographs. Jill Davis, Georgia Flouda, Amalia Kakissi, Carol Stein, and Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan have helped me obtain illustrations.

I am grateful to the following institutions for permissions to reproduce works over which they hold copyright: the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc and Continuum, the British School at Athens, Cambridge University Press, Casemate Publishers, the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology Press at UCLA, the Department of Classics of the University of Cincinnati, Equinox Publishing Ltd., the Geological Survey of the State of Ohio, the Indian Hill Historical Society, the Ministry of Culture of Greece, the *Smithsonian* magazine, and the Wooster, Ohio Public Library.

In Athens, Natalia Vogeikoff-Brogan, archivist of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, stimulated my interest in Carl Blegen, the man. Thomas Brogan has helped us at Pylos materially and with sage advice in his capacity as director of the Institute for Aegean Prehistory East Crete Study Center. Ioanna Damanaki of the ASCSA has assisted us with administrative affairs of all sorts for a decade now.

The COVID pandemic made revision of my lectures a special challenge. I only succeeded thanks to Maria Tourna and Susanna Ipiroti, librarians at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and Shannan Stewart, in the Burnam Classics Library in Cincinnati.

Mine and Sharon Stocker's collaborations with the Ministry of Culture of Greece have been close and supportive. I am grateful to Xeni Arapogianni and Anna-Vassiliki Karapanagiotou, former directors in Kalamata, as well as the current director, Evangelia Militsi-Kechagia; her staff, especially Evangelia Malapani, Dimosthenis Kosmopoulos, Stamatis Fritzilas, and Michalis Kappas; the guards of the Museum of Chora, notably head guard Yiota Kaloyeropoulou; Maria Vlazaki,

former director general of antiquities and cultural heritage; and Lina Mendoni, minister of culture.

Field archaeology has a voracious appetite for cash. Fundraising can be the invisible second full-time job for an excavator. The successes at Pylos have largely been possible through the generous contributions of many foundations and individuals. These donors are recognized on our website (http://www.griffinwarrior.org/support/).

I have profited greatly from the wisdom of the referees solicited by the University of California Press, from acquisitions editor Eric Schmidt, as well as from LeKeisha Huges, editorial assistant, and Barbara Armentrout, my copyeditor. Jennifer Sacher, editor of *Hesperia*, journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, advised me on editing matters prior to submission. Kay Banning assembled an index, once again for me expertly and on short order.

I thank especially Sharon Stocker, who has jointly authored the final chapter and epilogue of this book. Shari joined us at Pylos in 1992. In the course of working and living together over more than a quarter century, she has challenged me to think differently about Greek prehistory, while generously sharing her own ideas. Our thoughts are by now so intertwined that I could not begin to unravel them. Shari has pushed me to take academic risks and not worry about the consequences, where I would have chosen a less ambitious path. I have learned to trust her gut. She meant to spend the spring term of 2019 with me in Berkeley, but the discovery of the two new Mycenaean tholos tombs at Pylos made that impossible. I am pleased that she has been able to contribute to this book.

Some years ago, when we were on Crete together, Jared Diamond told me I should write a general book about the Minoans. I am grateful for that advice. This isn't exactly what he had in mind, but it is the best I can do for the moment.