

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This monograph on the seals and seal-related material from Akrotiri is the conclusion of my involvement with the excavation over many years. I arrived at Akrotiri on October 2000 in order to participate in the excavation for the pillar pits for the new shelter of the site, with absolutely no idea of how my involvement would develop in subsequent years. First and foremost C. Doumas, director of the excavation, is to be thanked for entrusting me with this material, which, even amidst the abundant archaeological material that Akrotiri has generated, stands out and is fundamental for our understanding of the latest phase in the life of the settlement. In addition, on a personal level, his and his family's hospitality and warmth have been a steady reference point in my life. Throughout the excavation and in the following years the precious friendships and collaborations that arose from my belonging to the wider Akrotiri Excavations family have been unique and irreplaceable, and this is all thanks to him as the head of this family. Akrotiri took me on a journey that began in Santorini, with stop overs in Athens, Crete, Marburg and Oxford, took me to Vienna and had me land in Heidelberg, where my manuscript found a welcoming home.

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Artemis Karnava
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