

Foreword

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The allure of tranquil beaches and nostalgic lifestyles is what draws many visitors to The Bahama archipelago every year. However, the authors in “*New Perspectives on Bahamian Archaeology: Lucayans and Their World*” have been lured not by the sea and the sand, but by the rich islands’ archaeological record. In this timely special volume on Bahamian archaeology, Dr. Mary Jane Berman brings together a mixture of “seasoned” and new generation researchers involved in cutting edge research. The work presented here speaks to a wealth of existing information and to the potential of what can be learned by examining it in innovative ways. The papers also speak to the enormity of research that remains to be done.

The creation of the Antiquities, Monuments and Museum Corporation (AMMC) in 1998 signaled The Bahamas government’s continued commitment towards toward preserving and advancing our country’s rich archaeological heritage. Since its inception, The Bahamas has seen a revitalization of archaeological research, a growing awareness of the past, and strengthened collaborations with its

researchers from abroad, as is evident by many of the papers and cited references in this volume. Among its many and most proud accomplishments, though, is that AMMC now has two professionally trained Bahamian archaeologists in the senior administration and another presently pursuing graduate studies. This is testimony to the seriousness with which we regard the study and preservation of our country’s past, to the pride we have of our cultural heritage, and to the recognition that many challenges lay ahead.

Through the years, many of the scholars in this volume have forged close ties to AMMC. Some of these relationships have spanned several decades. We are excited about the papers presented here because we know they serve as the foundation for future scholarship, some of which will be done by Bahamian archaeologists. We acknowledge and thank the authors of this volume for their dedicated (and for some, life-long) interest in the archaeology of The Bahamas and we welcome and look forward to the continuation of exiting partnerships and the development of new collaborations.