

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The present thesis results from a PhD study that I carried out between 1997 and 2003 at Leiden University (The Netherlands). It was part of a research-project focusing on pre-Columbian interaction on the Lesser Antilles, that further comprised archaeological investigations by dr. Corinne Hofman and Sebastiaan Knippenberg. They studied pre-Columbian interaction on the basis of pottery style distributions and the exchange of flint, St. Martin greenstone and calci-rudite 'zemi-stone' on the northern Lesser Antilles respectively. I designed my part of the project to focus on pre-Columbian social organisation and interaction in a smaller part of the Caribbean by creating a detailed site inventory through surface surveys and test excavations and by investigating the resulting site patterns and systems. The research area includes the Pointe des Châteaux peninsula, La Désirade and Les Îles de la Petite Terre (Guadeloupe, French West Indies). The project may be considered a follow-up of small-scale archaeological investigations I had been doing at Anse Petite Rivière on La Désirade in 1994 and 1995, which resulted in my 1996 MA thesis and a great personal passion for the island of La Désirade. It also matches the archaeological investigations (1994-2000) carried out at Anse à la Gourde by André Delpuech (*Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles* of Guadeloupe), dr. Corinne Hofman and dr. Menno Hoogland (Leiden University). Last but not least, the project was designed to make a contribution to the *Carte Archéologique* (regional site inventory) project of the archaeological service of the *Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles* (DRAC) of Guadeloupe.

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(figures A2.12a-c, A2.16c, A3.9a-d, A3.35 bottom right, A4.2a-d, A4.4a-h). Medy Oberendorff (Leiden University) designed the cover, created the maps and elaborated the drawings of the test unit sections. Jan Pauptit (Leiden University) took the photographs. I owe many thanks to Wietse Balster for his great help in creating the lay-out of this volume.

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