Pottery to the people. The production, distribution and consumption of decorated pottery in the Greek world in the Archaic period (650-480 BC)
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Preface

Writing a thesis is a long and solitary task, but happily for me it has not been a lonely one. Many people have helped me arriving where I am now, by offering their support, discussing about general archaeological themes or more specific issues treated in this study, and, of course, simply by being friends. Here, I can thank only few of them individually.

First, my parents. It goes beyond my memory, but it must have been them who lured me into archaeology when they brought me – at first still a child – first to the wonderful temples of Sicily and museums all over Europe, later to less well-known, even quite hidden places of archaeological interest. Also back home, in Amsterdam and on Sicily, their support, in practical matters but also in keeping up the spirits, has always remained strong, and without their help and hospitality this thesis could never have been written.

My brother is the next to be mentioned with gratitude here. Even after sharing many of the just mentioned voyages, he has continued to assist me in my archaeological hobby. Particularly his help in providing the IT and his patience in answering my questions on computer matters have formed a crucial contribution to the completion of this work.

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Then, last but certainly not least, I come to my close ‘context’ at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. As we all now, archaeology is nothing without contexts. First as my teachers, than as colleagues, I have always enjoyed the presence of Herman Brijder, Joost Crouwel, Joop Derksen, Marijke Gnade, Patricia Lulof, Eric Moormann, Kees Neeft and, only slightly further away, Fik Meijer. Our younger researchers Jan-Paul Crielaard, Roald Docter, Demetrius Waarsenburg, Gert-Jan van Wijngaarden and, more recently, Lucinda Dirven have been no less important by offering themselves as ‘sparring partners’ in many a stimulating discussion; Roald Docter, moreover, gave much practical help and moral support during many shared meals and evenings. My youngest colleagues, fellow PhD students Anneke Aarts, Olaf Borgers, Helle Hochscheid and Hendrieneke Maas have all seen a large part of my text and commented on it, while they shared their own writings with me. I am very grateful for their suggestions and hope that we can continue to support each other in this fruitful way for many years to come. You all were and are always ready to answer my questions, to give me support and advice of all kinds, but the many hours spent together in lively discussion or in cheerful drinking were at least as pleasant and useful.

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