

Preface and acknowledgements

This book presents final reports on the results of American research at the ancient Sicilian city of Morgantina, where Princeton University began excavation in 1955. The eleven Princeton campaigns (1955–1963, 1966, 1967) were directed in alternating years by Erik Sjöqvist and Richard Stillwell, both of whom devoted much attention to the city's agora. Four subsequent seasons were sponsored by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1968–1971) under Hubert L. Allen, who in 1969 carried out a series of probes in the central agora. In 1980 the University of Virginia began a program of research that has continued to the present. The Princeton campaigns brought to light most of the material included in this book; the Virginia project excavated the Fountain House and has continued to pursue research in the city center and elsewhere, with the general aim of publishing the results of both the early and more recent excavations.

Completion of these reports on the city plan and the architecture of the upper or political agora has taken longer than was initially anticipated. At the start, the architectural coherence of the public center appeared to call for a comprehensive account of the space. The many large, more or less contemporary public buildings of the agora have indeed proved to be the components of a unitary design that responded to an underlying political program. Analysis of the single buildings has also shown that each one has its own history of use and presents its own problems of interpretation. It is my hope that the various parts of this book will help to explain, if not justify, the long gap between excavation and publication.

In addition to sponsorship by the University of Virginia, the U.S. project, known today as the American Excavations at Morgantina, has at times also received backing from Wesleyan University, Duke University, and the University of Texas at Austin. The Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton has continued over the years to provide support for research and publications, including a generous subvention for the present volume from the Luigi Sturzo Sicilian Archaeological Fund. The assistance of Christopher Moss, former co-editor of *Morgantina Studies*, is warmly acknowledged. At the University of Virginia, the McIntire Department of Art, the School of Architecture, and the College of Arts and Sciences have contributed in various ways to research at the site; I am particularly indebted to Dean Merrill D. Peterson and President John T. Casteen, III. The Friends of Morgantina under the leadership of Neil MacDougall and Warren Dunn have been generous in supporting the aims of the American project. To all the institutions that have sustained our work the scholarly community of the American Excavations at Morgantina is deeply grateful.

While the early excavations in the agora were conducted with considerable speed and impetus, extensive documentation was maintained in the form of notebooks, drawings, and photographs. Excavation records were kept by graduate students, mainly from Princeton but also from Swedish institutions. This invaluable archive is maintained at Princeton University and has been essential for interpreting the results of the early work at the site. I thank Julia Gearhart, Director

of the Visual Resources Collection at Princeton, and her assistants, Jacob Wheeler and Yichin Chen, who have satisfied numerous requests for documents, photographs, and information. Earlier, Shari Kenfield provided similar helpful assistance.

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In pursuing research, I have frequented the libraries of the University of Virginia, the American Academy in Rome, and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut in Rome. I am grateful to the obliging librarians and personnel of all three institutions, and especially to Lucilla Marino, Sebastian Hierl, and the late Christina Huemer at the American Academy.

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In Aidone I have often sought out my friend Silvio Raffiotta, whose knowledge of Morgantina is deep and intimate, and who has made many admirable contributions to preserving the city and its monuments. Serena Raffiotta has continued to embody her family's long-standing commitment to the ancient city.

Colleagues in the Morgantina project have been generous with their knowledge and counsel. I am especially grateful to Carla Antonaccio, co-director of the American Excavations at Morgantina. I have also turned to Shelley Stone, the late Barbara Tsakiris, D. Alex Walthall, Sandra K. Lucore, Henry K. Sharp, John J. Dobbins, Ingrid M. Edlund-Berry, Paul W. Deussen, Thomas D. Groves, Lars L. Karlsson, Stephen M. Thompson, Justin St. P. Walsh, Holger Baitinger, J. Theodore Peña, and Monika Trümper. My thanks go to them all.

At the University of Virginia, Elizabeth A. Meyer read an early version of chapter three; at the University of Kansas, Philip Stinson offered useful advice.

Readers of this book will quickly perceive the extraordinary contribution of Erik E. Thorkildsen, chief architect of the American project, whose commitment to thorough and accurate documentation has led to the creation of an invaluable graphic record of the ancient city. Collaboration with Erik Thorkildsen in the study of the buildings has been consistently enjoyable and rewarding; his plans, reconstructions, and photographs are infused with his *akribeia*. In important ways this is his book.

From the start of the Princeton project, American research at Morgantina has depended on the work of skilled surveyors and architects. I express particular thanks to William Hodges Hendrix, Melissa Pinsley, James Huemoeller, and Giancarlo Filantropi, all of whom worked often at the site in the later phase. Plans and renderings by student architects are also included here; for their fine drafting I am grateful to Peter Blum, Bethany Christensen, Steven Dawe, Andrew Gettelman, Frank Michielli, Sandra Parsons, Philip Scott, Sujatha Shan, Peter Talty, Paul Thompson, and Gabriel Zamora.

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Most photographs are drawn from the Morgantina archives at Princeton University and the University of Virginia. I am also pleased to acknowledge the contributions of Linda Stabler Talty, Ben Gorham, Simona Arrabito, and Antonio Maggio. Sources of photographs not drawn from the archives of the American Excavations at Morgantina are noted in the captions. The Photographic Archive of the American Academy in Rome has kindly provided photographs taken by Ernest Nash during the early campaigns. I am grateful to Holger Baitinger for images of fibulae and other small bronzes.

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In Aidone, I thank the obliging personnel of both Museo Archeologico and Parco for their essential help over many years. This book also owes much to all those who have labored in the ancient city. Beginning in 1955 the earth that covered the monuments of the agora was removed by the stalwart workers of Aidone; from 1982 the excavations were continued largely by spirited student volunteers from the University of Virginia, Princeton University, and other institutions. The contributions to the Morgantina project of both local workers and volunteers are gratefully acknowledged.

I dedicate this book to my wife, whose judgement and support have been precious gifts.

