

## REVIEW

Stone, Shelley C.: *The Hellenistic and Roman Fine Pottery* (series: Morgantina Studies, Vol. VI), Princeton, NJ, 2014, text and catalogue xxxvi, 485 pages, 143 plates. ISBN 9780691156729. Price \$ 175.

Shelley Stone's *The Hellenistic and Roman Fine Pottery* is an impressive piece of work, providing a highly detailed overview of Hellenistic and Roman fine ware attested at the Sicilian site of Morgantina. S.'s presentation of the material, derived from 42 deposits and contexts and datable from the late 4th century BC to the 1st century AD, is comprehensive and richly illustrated. This fine new book in the Morgantina Studies series represents the definite presentation of the Hellenistic and Roman fineware of Morgantina and will substantially increase our understanding of inland Sicilian pottery production and consumption during this time frame.

The sizeable volume contains seven chapters; I: History and Archaeology of Morgantina, II: The Later 4th and 3rd centuries BC, III: Republican Morgantina: Black- and Red-Gloss Wares after 211 BC to ca. 35-25 BC, IV: Imported Early Italian Sigillata and South Italian Regional Sigillatas, V: Pottery with Moldmade Decoration, VI: Thin-Walled Pottery, VII: Catalogue. Additionally, four appendices are included, respectively detailing the evidence for pottery manufacture at Morgantina, the provenance of the site's ceramics, a comparison of Morgantina's Hellenistic pottery with that of tomb material from Lipari, and finally the Morgantina silver treasure. Each chapter is subdivided into a number of sections, which logically follow one another and together discuss the chronological, morphological, and typological development of Hellenistic and Roman fineware attested at Morgantina. After an introduction to the history and archaeology of Morgantina, the order of chapters II to IV is primarily chronological and the discussion of the attested fineware moves from the late 4th century BC to the first half of the 1st century AD. Chapters V and VI do not adhere to this chronological ordering and are stand-alone discussions of specifically defined categories of material; pottery with mould-made decoration and thin-walled pottery. Finally, chapter VII, presents the pottery catalogue. Entries are organized per ware group; e.g. black-gloss ware, Campana C, red-gloss pottery or early Italian terra sigillata. All chapters are headed by an introductory section in which the material under discussion is framed within a wider context (relevant deposits/contexts from

Morgantina and Sicily containing examples of the ceramic category under discussion are briefly discussed) and general developments and trends are surveyed. These sections are extremely valuable for the reader by providing a more general overview of how the ceramic material attested at Morgantina fits local, regional, and cross-regional trajectories of ceramic distribution. Equally, before the typological and chronological discussion of individual shapes each specific ware or material category (e.g. chapter III, section 3, Campana C Black-Gloss pottery, or chapter V, section 2, Medallion Wares) is introduced, and developments both specific to Morgantina and the wider region are summarized. Taken together these sections form the most interpretative part of the book (a point to which I will return later) and will be of most use to those students and scholars interested in the general development of ceramic production and consumption at Morgantina.

Of great importance to the work of S., is the decision to include in one volume both the Hellenistic and Roman fineware corpus. By not giving in to the specialist tendency for subdivision, S. is able to present a truly diachronic overview of fineware distribution at Morgantina from the late 4th century BC to the 1st century AD. The recent publication of the Hellenistic and Roman Imperial fineware of Knidos, published by Patrica Kögler (2010), has opted for a similar diachronic approach and also reaped the benefits of this by being able to compare and contrast ceramic developments between traditionally established and often artificially separated timeframes. S.'s decision to include both Hellenistic and Roman pottery in a single volume has greatly enhanced the explanatory power of her work making it of interest not only to ceramic specialists but also the wider scholarly community engaged in the Hellenistic and Roman epochs. She is, for example, able to point to potential dietary differences visible within 3rd century BC and Republican material and a continuation of ceramic traditions of the 3rd century BC next to the Campana C repertoire that was inspired by the Italian mainland.

Chapter I, History and Archaeology of Morgantina, is divided into four sections. These sections sketch the history of Morgantina, introduce the pottery deposits and contexts utilised, and discuss the dominant fineware fabrics attested at the site. Section one sets out the methodology of S.'s approach and establishes how the catalogue is build up. The terminology utilised is discussed and the differences between archaeological deposits and contexts employed by the author discussed. We learn that this book, together with an upcoming volume on the utilitarian pottery of Morgantina, publishes around 75% of the inventoried ceramics. Sadly no statistics are given about how this corpus of material relates to the total quantity of pottery retrieved from the site. Importantly, however, it is mentioned that certain classes of material, e.g. vases with molded decoration, are overrepresented in the catalogue. As with most pottery catalogues, one therefore needs to be careful in taking the presented data at face value, as being representative of actual ancient patterns of distribution, consumption and discard. S. is right to point this out to the reader but could have perhaps made clearer (if such

data are available) the relationship between the corpus of material presented and that retrieved from the archaeological record.

The history of Morgantina is very thoroughly discussed in section two of chapter I, dealing primarily with the archaeological evidence for occupation at Morgantina from *ca.* 340 BC to *ca.* 50 AD. S. focusses on three phases within the city's occupational history. The second half of the 4th century and the 3rd century BC are defined as the Hellenistic phase of Morgantina. The 2nd and 1st centuries BC are labelled the Republican phase, and the last quarter of the 1st century AD the Roman Imperial phase. This history section is of interest to the ceramic enthusiast not only for the wider context it provides but also because S. takes the opportunity to point out certain trends and developments as seen within the wider context of Morgantina's history. We learn, for example, that between 211 BC and the end of the 2nd century BC the shape repertoire from Morgantina changed from Hellenistic/Greek to Republican Roman/Italian mainland. Or, that large amounts of Italian thin walled ware arrived at Morgantina together with eastern red slip pottery during the 1st century BC, attesting to the prosperity of the community. Observations like these dot the historical overview presented by S.

Section 3 of chapter I is equally important in that it presents a discussion of the deposits and contexts utilised. All are individually discussed and summarized in tabular form. All the catalogue entries are linked in this section to the deposits or contexts they stem from, and the dating evidence of each deposit/context is discussed in detail. Section 4 of the same chapter goes on to discuss local/regional pottery production at Morgantina. We learn that 80% of the catalogued material dated to the 4th-3rd centuries BC is classified as Fabric I. Fabric I is also found at other Sicilian sites but is thought to include a significant proportion of locally made products. The different local/regional fabrics attested amongst the fineware material are clearly described and the catalogued shapes belonging to this fabric are cross-referenced, facilitating easy access to the reader. This section is very useful in providing an overview of local/regional productions. It is, however, a missed opportunity that S. neglects to frame her discussion more clearly within the wider context of fineware production and consumption at Morgantina. How did the local/regional wares interact, for example, with other imports and how operated the local market? S. does point out certain developments in this respect but does not proceed to discuss what they mean for Morgantina as a community within wider socio-economic, cultural, and geo-political frameworks, connections and interactions.

The core of S.'s book is comprised by chapters II-VI. In these chapters the attested fineware pottery is presented in full. The chapters are set-up identically. A general introduction precedes detailed discussion of individual shapes which are again excellently cross-referenced to the catalogue. The most stimulating parts of these chapters (next to the highly relevant and detailed discussions of individual shapes) are the introductory sections in which the fine pottery of each of the three phases focussed on by S. is set within its Sicilian context. We thus learn

that fineware made in Sicily during the later 4th and 3rd centuries BC exhibits little external influence. Metal ware is identified as being of greater importance in this respect. Sicily was at the same time, however, part of a more general Hellenistic ceramic *koinè*, and Attica in particular is mentioned as a place of reference. S. treads a fine line in this discussion, pointing out the apparent local/regional development of pottery on Sicily but at the same time also the existence of overarching similarities in Hellenistic pottery production and consumption. Her observations in this respect are, however, very important and in line with recent research from elsewhere. Similar trajectories can, for example, be identified at Ephesus (Mitsopoulos-Leon 1991), Sagalassos (van der Enden *et alii* 2014), and Corinth (Pemberton 2003).

Chapter II of the book is primarily concerned with a discussion and overview of the black-gloss fineware dated to the late 4th and 3rd centuries BC. Local/regional black-gloss makes up 85% of the catalogued material, and relatively little pottery appears to have been imported from elsewhere. In her discussion of the shape repertoire associated with this category of material S. makes some interesting and important observations, potentially of great relevance to a wider understanding of the pottery production, distribution and consumption in Hellenistic Sicily and beyond. We learn, for example, that plates are scarce in Hellenistic deposits at Morgantina, which contrasts with the situation in Republican times. This scarcity of plates has also been observed at other Hellenistic sites (Ilion, Berlin 1999; Gordion, Stewart 2010; Sagalassos, van der Enden *et alii* 2014). Cups on the other hand are dominantly present. As elsewhere echinus bowls are also commonly attested among the Hellenistic ceramic repertoire. S. suggests these vessels may have been used for drinking instead of food consumption, which is the commonly suggested interpretation of this shape (Rotroff 1997, 161; Stewart 2010, 196). This thought is intriguing, although the incurving lip of the vessel might not be ideal for beverage consumption. Amongst the Hellenistic pottery of Gordion, for example, few traditional cup shapes are attested; echinus or incurving rim bowls are, however, present in abundance (Stewart 2010). Could it be that these were also used for beverage consumption? In terms of decorated fineware, it appears that Morgantina primarily imported examples of such products but also locally produced them. Scattered throughout the discussions of individual vessels shapes are thus interesting observations by S. on ceramic production, distribution, and use. It is observations such as those outlined in the above that provide us with preliminary insights into the existence of socio-cultural differences, patterns of use, economic contacts, etc., in short the world behind the pot.

S.'s chapter III zooms in on black and red gloss pottery dated to the 2nd and 1st centuries BC. Once again the introductory section of this chapter is very important and makes some astute observations. The evidence is scanty for the first half of the 2nd century BC. After the destruction of 211 BC, Morgantina appears to not have produced any pottery but instead imported most of its requirements. S. is able, as mentioned already, to point to an important development in the pro-

duction, distribution, and consumption of pottery. During the early 2nd century BC ceramic traditions followed those of the preceding Hellenistic phase. From the second half of the 2nd century onwards, however, a shift has been identified by S. Fineware now follows developments on the Italian mainland as seen in the production of Campana C in eastern Sicily. Despite this, Greek Hellenistic influences can still be identified in the import of mould-made bowls and appliqué vases from Asia Minor during the second half of the 2nd century BC and the arrival of ESA from the Levant during the 1st century BC. Important changes in the shape repertoire between the Hellenistic and Roman periods have also been identified by S. Shape diversity in Morgantina's Hellenistic phase was, for example, much greater. The already mentioned increased use of plates in the Republican period and the decline of handled cups are two other significant conclusions by S. and suggestive of important dietary and cultural changes.

S.'s discussion of the individual wares and shapes subsumed under the heading of black and red gloss pottery is extensive, thorough, and authoritative. Campana C is, for example, extensively discussed and the local chronology of the Ware detailed. Campana C was locally manufactured at Morgantina during the 1st century BC as demonstrated by wasters and kilns. In her discussion of Campana C at Morgantina, S. makes a number of interesting observations. She is able to demonstrate that the shape repertoire, though limited, is closely related to contemporary Republican red-gloss fineware, demonstrating that Republican red-gloss developed from local traditions and was influenced less by the Eastern Mediterranean area, e.g. the arrival of ESA at Morgantina during the second and third quarters of the 1st century BC. The continuing presence of certain local Hellenistic shape elements further support S.'s case. Local/regionally manufactured red-gloss ware was most common at Morgantina.

Chapter IV deals with the fineware of Morgantina's last period of occupation, the latter part of the 1st century BC and the first half of the 1st century AD. Evidence for this period is scant and finewares were no longer manufactured at Morgantina. Imported sigillata attested at the site encompasses primarily Italian sigillata and chapter IV presents a detailed discussion of the chronology of the ware, its occurrence in Sicily and Morgantina, and the shape repertoire attested. S. suggests that Augustan veterans in northern and eastern Sicily may have facilitated the spread and acceptance of the ware on the island.

Chapters V and VI of S.'s book focus on mould-made and thin-walled pottery. In the case of mould-made pottery, chapter V discusses its appearance at Morgantina from the late 4th century BC to the first half of the 1st century AD. An extensive introduction introduces the different mould-made products identified at Morgantina and their chronology. Medallion wares are identified as the most common class of mould-made pottery at Morgantina. They were popular from the second half of the 3rd century to the first half of the 2nd century BC. Though well attested in her pottery catalogue S. does a good job in pointing out that in reality medallion wares were much less common. Chapter V goes into considerable detail discussing the chronology and appearance of the medallion

cups attested at Morgantina. Other products discussed extensively in this chapter are the so-called Megarian bowls and early relief wares in Italian sigillata. The discussion of these products is again highly detailed and informative, and focuses not only on Morgantina but also the wider Sicilian context. Chapter VI, much briefer in its set-up, does the same for the category of thin-walled pottery, dateable at Morgantina to the 1st century BC and 1st century AD.

S.'s final chapter, Chapter VII, encompasses the pottery catalogue itself. The catalogue is headed by a thorough introduction explaining its format and layout. A list of terms and abbreviations is also included for the convenience of the reader. The layout of the catalogue entries is logical, consistent, and easily cross referenced with the text and image sections of the book. Splendid illustrations and photographs accompany the catalogue.

S.'s Hellenistic and Roman fine pottery of Morgantina in sum is a highly detailed, well-written and well-researched publication. It presents a thorough overview of fineware identified at Morgantina and dated to the late 4th century BC-1st century AD. The book clearly is of great interest to ceramic specialists and archaeologists working on eastern Sicily. Undoubtedly the book will become an important reference work to scholars working in the area. As we have seen the book not only makes an important contribution with regards to presenting the fabrics and morphological repertoire of the finewares attested at Morgantina but also puts forwards some interesting observations regarding the production, distribution, and use of pottery, and associated wider socio-economic and geo-political level implications. If the book has one major flaw, however, it is the way in which it engages with and builds on the latter.

Reading through the pages one is struck by the sheer volume of data and detail. One is, however, also left guessing as to the aim and intentions of the author in writing this book. Is the purpose of this book to present a thorough overview of the Hellenistic and Roman fineware of Morgantina or does it aspire to something more? S. does not set out a clear answer to this question; in fact she is rather silent on the matter. The book itself speaks volumes, however. Despite the inclusion of explanatory introductory sections and a section on the wider historical and archaeological context of Morgantina and eastern Sicily, the book is primarily a typological and chronological discussion of the fineware attested at Morgantina. The introductions, although making brief observations on wider trends visible within the data, are primarily concerned with a discussion of archaeological deposits and contexts in Morgantina and across Sicily. Attention is primarily focussed in these sections on pointing out the occurrence of similar wares and shapes elsewhere. Little attempt at interpreting and contextualising this wealth of data and detail is made, and it is in this respect that S.' book is found wanting.

S.'s book makes a major contribution to our knowledge about Hellenistic and Roman pottery at Morgantina and in eastern Sicily. The data assembled and presented has the potential to substantially increase our understanding of a local community's involvement in the production, consumption, and distribution of

pottery and how this interconnects with wider socio-economic, cultural, and geo-political processes. The book unfortunately, however, does not directly engage with such topics and it is left to the reader to distil from the text the scattered references to wider trends, developments, and fashions. The choice, by the author, to present the material within the traditional format of the 'classic' pottery catalogue (with a core focus on data description and presentation) is, in the eyes of the reviewer, a missed opportunity and limits the explanatory power of this important piece of research. It makes S.'s book particularly inaccessible to non-pottery specialists, in particular those scholars, historians or archaeologists, interested in socio-economic history and cultural development. The reviewer would have liked S. to make an attempt at the wider interpretation of her data through the survey of general trends and developments and integration of the material in a reconstruction of the socio-economic, cultural, and geo-political context in which Morgantina was situated. It would, for example, be of great importance to get a better understanding of potential cultural associations reflected in the tableware repertoire of Morgantina or the way in which local products interacted or competed with imports on the market. How was Morgantina similar or different to other sites in eastern Sicily, and elsewhere, and what does this mean for patterns of interaction and exchange to which the site was connected? Such questions remain largely unanswered in this volume or are buried beneath the mass of primarily descriptive data presented. It is unfortunate that S. has not followed the lead of Patricia Kögler who in her book on Knidos has recently made a successful attempt to revamp the traditional pottery catalogue and found a successful balance between providing a vital and necessary descriptive overview of the data and the inclusion of significant interpretation and discussion. It is the latter that is mostly missing from S.' work, some sort of conclusion about ceramic production, consumption, and distribution at Morgantina, the balance between local production and import and the socio-economic, cultural and geo-political developments that lie behind the documented evidence. A more clearer and separate attempt at this (à la Kögler) would have significantly enlarged the importance of S.'s work and increase its audience beyond the ceramic specialist interested in the particular area or material category. Despite these shortcomings, S.'s book remains a highly important contribution to a greater understanding of Hellenistic and Roman pottery in the Central Mediterranean, and it will no doubt become a central reference work for scholars working on eastern Sicily. The wealth of data provided, its clear setting within a wider Sicilian archaeological context, and the excellent illustrations all combine to make this book highly recommendable.

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Mark van der Enden  
University of Leicester  
School of Archaeology and Ancient History  
University Road  
Leicester LE1 7RH  
Mv92@leicester.ac.uk