

REVIEWS

C.L. Lyons, *Morgantina Studies, Volume V, The Archaic Cemeteries* (Princeton, N.J., 1996) 261 pp., 96 pls.

The volume is the fifth in a series of monographs on various aspects of the site of 'Serra Orlando', identified as the ancient city of Morgantina. It deals with several archaic cemeteries bordering the so-called 'Citadella' (Area III), a hill with older settlements which lies to the east of the 'Serra Orlando ridge' (the central part of the site) and contains graves of varying types and dates. The four previous volumes deal with the terracotta's, coins, kilns and protohistoric settlements of Morgantina. The site, lying in the southwest part of Sicily, has a rather long excavation history. On it, as early as 1912, P. Orsi directed excavations, digging several trial-trenches in the area of the Agora, that is, in the central part of Serra Orlando. At the time, already several graves were found too. From 1956 onward, E. Sjöquist and R. Stillwell conducted more extensive excavations covering large parts of the area. These were continued by H.L. Allen in 1969-1970, and by M. Bell in more recent years.

From at least the 9th century B.C., a Sicilian population inhabited the Citadella and surroundings. In the town, signs of 'hellenization' from the early 6th century B.C. onward are found in such material categories as Greek objects and building techniques. In the 5th century B.C., the Citadella was largely abandoned and the town was refounded on the Serra Orlando ridge, to the west of the Citadella. This change is linked up with the capture of Morgantina by the Sicilian leader Douketios.

The Archaic Cemeteries opens with an extensive discussion of the backgrounds and chronologies of the necropoleis (Chapter I), the typologies (Chapter II) of the graves and the classes of finds. Following, there is a detailed catalogue of the graves and the material found in them. Then, the book contains an Appendix by Marshall J. Becker (pp. 227-237) dealing with the human skeletons from several of the graves discussed in the main text (nos. 4, 9, 16, 41, 50-52). A concordance of inventory and catalogue numbers and an extensive general index complete the text.

The volume is rich in visual material. It contains 14 text figures,

chiefly of detailed plans of tombs and graves. It also has 95 plates: 71 photographic plates of the site, tombs and material; 19 plates with mainly drawings of pottery profiles and a few drawings of other materials. The remaining five drawings show vertical sections and plans of tombs 1-11.

Lyons arranges the data of 67 tombs (nos. 1-59, including 6A, 7A, 11A, 13A-C, 20A and 28A) investigated by the American investigators and dating from the late 8th to the third quarter of the 5th century B.C., that is, to just around the date of the capture of the town by Douketios. Furthermore, she mentions many other graves which, for various reasons, are not included in her present study.

The graves were found in groups surrounding the Citadella, named Necropolis II, IV, V and VI. These cemeteries mainly consist of chamber tombs (45 of the 67 graves), additionally of fossa graves, tile-built tombs, sarcophagi, inhumations in pottery, urn cremations, 'primary cremation' burials, wooden coffin burials and soil burials.

Chapters III-VII deal with the material found in the graves: imported pottery (Attic, Corinthian, Lakonian, East Greek), 'Sikelioté' pottery, local pottery, jewellery, terracotta's, weapons and utensils. The chapter before the catalogue discusses burial customs: funerary rites; treatment of the deceased; significance of grave goods; aspects of hierarchy, ethnicity, sex and age (incorporating M.J. Becker's notes on human skeletons).

The extensive catalogue (pp. 135-226, with figs. 3-14: sketch plans of many of the tombs) gives detailed descriptions, measurements and dating of each of the graves, and shorter descriptions of the material. Also, it includes several tracings of graffiti on pottery.

The volume gives a clear view of the development, material culture and burial customs in a period of about two hundred years in the history of a highly interesting site. This clarity is added to by the well-structured, transparent organisation of the material in text and catalogue, the visual aid of many figures and plates, and the descriptions of many aspects of the graves and material.

There are, however, a few notes of minor criticism.

Problems are aptly stated and conclusions duly given in the respective chapters, no way around it, yet, after the catalogue and the Appendix on human skeletons, the book seems to end rather abruptly. A small, concluding chapter might have fit in nicely. It must in fairness be said, however, that this want is partly satisfied by chapter VIII dealing with burial customs.

As to my personal interest, Attic decorated pottery, I would have

warmly welcomed a few profile drawings of figured Attic pottery. Regrettably, the class is not represented.

Then, I think it is a pity that many attributions of vases should go without parallels or references to Beazley. I would like to add some here: The skyphos 9-158 is a close parallel to Athens NM 12267 (already mentioned by Lyons), attributed by M. Pipili in *CVA Athens 4*, pl. 58.1-4, near the CHC Group. It is also very close to Amsterdam 13.103, P. Heesen, *The J.L. Theodor collection of Attic Black-Figure Vases* (Allard Pierson Series 10), Amsterdam 1996, 98-100, no. 19. The lekythos 6-2 can also be attributed to the Class of Athens 581.ii (Group of Agora P 2437). cf. Athens Agora P 24436, 24437, 24427 and Eleusis 345, J.D. Beazley, *Paralipomena, Additions to Attic Black-figure Vase-Painters and to Attic Red-figure Vase-Painters*, Oxford 1971, 238, T.H. Carpenter, *Beazley addenda, Additional references to ABV, ARV² and Paralipomena*, Oxford 1989, 126.

Finally, I wonder why the Attic vases cat. nos. 9-157, 9-158, 39-4 and 50-2 should be referred to as 'cup-skyphoi', whereas the 'Sikeliotē' vases 4-64, 4-65, 17-50 and 19-7 are called 'skyphoi'. The two groups are very similar in shapes and proportions (9-158 and 4-64 even have quite nearly the same dimensions). I think, 'skyphos' might be the proper word for both groups, distinguishing them from the much lower cup-skyphoi related to the Haimon group (6-4 and 6-5).

To see things in their true perspective, this criticism can only be from the lips of one interested in a specialised subject. It is not meant to nor can it detract from the merits of this highly interesting, superbly organised and well-accomplished study.

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