

Jane C. Waldbaum Field School Scholarship Report  
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This summer, thanks to the generous support of the Jane C. Waldbaum Archaeological Field School Scholarship, I had the opportunity to attend the American Excavations at Morgantina: Contrada Agnese Project (AEM:CAP) under the direction of Dr. Alex Walthall (UT Austin). The ancient Greek city of Morgantina (fig. 1) has been the site of continuous archaeological investigation since 1955. Located roughly 60 kilometers from the Ionian Sea coast, Morgantina is situated along a ridge in the Enna province of east-central Sicily. This ridge sits along the western edge of the Catania plain and above the source of the Gornalunga River. Two separate settlements have been discovered in this area. Greek colonists encountered an indigenous settlement at the first, a village on a conical hill, known today as the Cittadella, in the second quarter of the sixth century BC. The second, founded in the fifth century BC, lies to the southwest of the Cittadella along the Serra Orlando plateau (fig. 2).

Excavations conducted during the 2015 season were focused on an insula in the Contrada Agnese (figs. 3-4), an area at the west edge of the city. Based on the results of a geophysical survey conducted in 2012, trenches 39 and 40 were laid to the south of the well-known North Baths. I was assigned to work in trench 39 (fig. 5) under the supervision of Andrew Tharler (Bryn Mawr University) and Katharine Huemoeller (Princeton University). Of the questions we hoped to address were the possibility of continued habitation of the area following the capture of the ancient city in 211 BC by Roman forces, how the orthogonal city plan navigated the topography of the area, and the function of the building we were excavating.

As a volunteer, my main duties included digging (fig. 6-7), articulating objects in context, weighing tiles, pushing wheelbarrows, sifting, and assisting our trench supervisors with the documentation of finds and context layers. Over the four-week season, however, I was given opportunities to work in other capacities. These opportunities included floating soil samples with the environmental team, cataloguing and conserving finds in the museum, and assisting with the total station (fig. 8). The director and supervisors encouraged and worked with the volunteers to ensure we were given the opportunity to explore and expand our areas of interest. Tutorials and tours were also offered on a regular basis.

A typical workday began at six with breakfast in the dig house. We would then take a bus from Aidone, the small mountain town where we resided, to site. Work commenced at seven and would run until cookie break at ten (fig. 9). This break gave us a chance to not only recharge, but also reflect on our daily goals and the best way to approach the rest of the morning. We would then work until lunch, which ran an hour, and continue our efforts until four when the bus would return us to Aidone. Two days a week, our trench would work an additional one to two hours washing pottery (fig. 10). While we were tired from our work in the field, it was gratifying to wash the pottery we had found and learn how the sherds could assist in dating and assigning function to the site.

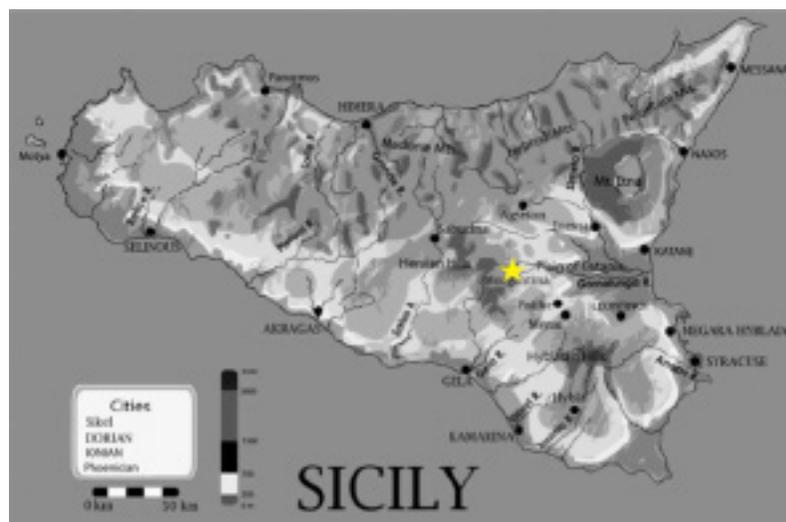
We worked on site five days a week and were given each weekend off. This provided an excellent opportunity for travel around the island. I was able to visit Syracuse, Palermo, Monreale, Agrigento, and Selinunte (fig. 11) over the course of my stay. While the trips were fun and often relaxing, they also allowed time to expand upon my studies and research interests. In Syracuse, I was able to explore the Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi and its large

collection of terracotta figurines. Being able to see these figurines in person and compare them with those found at Morgantina was an invaluable experience.

Of everything I learned and experienced at Morgantina, the friendships and contacts created were the most valuable (fig.12). It was truly an incredible experience, being surrounded by others who shared similar passions and goals. Many hours were spent discussing future plans, programs of study, and the necessary next steps to pursue a career in archaeology.

I would once again like to thank the Archaeological Institute of America and the Jane C. Waldbaum Field School Scholarship for their generous support, without which I would not have been able to attend the AEM:CAP excavations. I would also like to thank Dr. Alex Walthall, Dr. Jared Benton, Dr. Randall Souza, and the other supervisors for their direction, leadership, and continued support.

## Figures



*Fig. 1 Map of Sicily, showing cities and their founding population (After Walsh 2012, fig.1)*

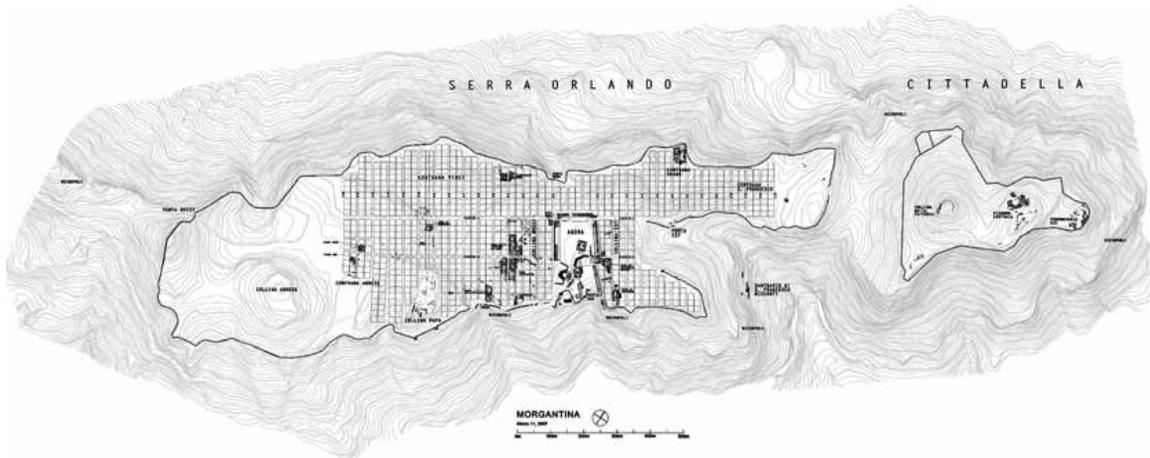


Fig. 2. Plan of Morgantina (After Walsh 2012, fig. 2)



Fig. 3. City Plan of Morgantina with areas of the agora and Contrada Agnese highlighted. (After Walthall 2014, Fig. 1)

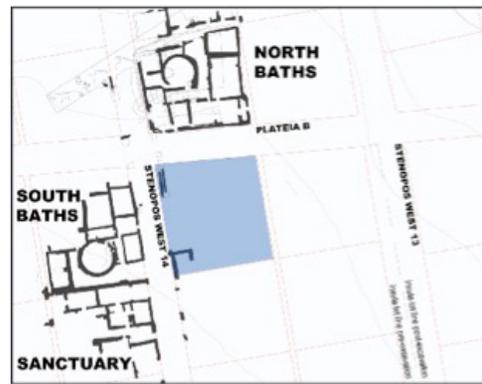


Fig. 4. Plan of Contrada Agnese with the locations of trenches VI.39 and VI.40 indicated. (After Walthall 2014, Fig. 14)



Fig. 5. Trench 39 group photo. (photo courtesy of Andrew Tharler)



Fig. 6. Digging in trench 39 (photo courtesy of AEM:CAP)



*Fig. 7. Digging in trench 39  
(photo courtesy of Andrew Tharler)*



*Fig. 8. Working with the total station.  
(personal photo)*



*Fig. 9. Cookie break.  
(photo courtesy of Andrew Tharler)*



*Fig. 10. Washing pottery.  
(photo courtesy of Luke Hollis)*



*Fig. 11. Weekend trip to Selinunte.  
(photo courtesy of Mary Evelyn Farrior)*



*Fig. 12. 2015 AEM:CAP staff and volunteers  
(photo courtesy of AEM:CAP)*