

## SICILY AND THE HELLENISTIC MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

In *Sicily and the Hellenistic Mediterranean World*, D. Alex Walthall investigates the royal administration of Hieron II (r. 269–215 BCE), the Syracusan monarch who leveraged Sicily's agricultural resources to build a flourishing kingdom that, at one time, played an outsized role in the political and cultural affairs of the Western Mediterranean. Walthall's study combines a historical overview with the rich archaeological evidence that traditionally has not been considered in studies of Hellenistic kingdoms. Exploring the Hieronian system of agricultural taxation, he recasts the traditional narrative of the island's role as a Roman imperial "grain basket" via analysis of monumental granaries, patterns of rural land-use, standardized grain measures, and the circulation of bronze coinage – the material elements of an agricultural administration that have emerged from recent excavations and intensive landscape survey on the island. Combining material and documentary evidence, Walthall's multidisciplinary approach offers a new model for the writing of economic and social history of ancient societies.

D. ALEX WALTHALL is an associate professor in the Department of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin. He has worked for more than two decades in Sicily, much of which has been spent directing archaeological campaigns for the American Excavations at Morgantina. His research has been sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers, the American Academy in Rome, and the Loeb Classical Library Foundation.

# SICILY AND THE HELLENISTIC MEDITERRANEAN WORLD

ECONOMY AND ADMINISTRATION  
DURING THE REIGN OF HIERON II

D. ALEX WALTHALL

University of Texas at Austin



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
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*For Poppy and Sloop*

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