In 1958, a Princeton University archaeological expedition uncovered the fragments of an Attic red figure volute krater at Morgantina, in east central Sicily (fig. 1). The vase was found in the debris of a building that was destroyed apparently in 459 B.C. when Douketios, Hegemon of a league of Sikel towns in the interior of the island, took Morgantina as he sought to achieve indigenous autonomy. Not all the fragments of the krater were recovered, and some had been burned in the destruction. Once cleaned and restored, it was seen that the vessel was worn from use and had been repaired in antiquity at the handle and foot (fig. 2). Sir John Beazley, the master connoisseur of Greek vase study, immediately attributed the krater to the Athenian red figure pioneer, Euthymides, a judgement recently confirmed by Jenifer Neils. As noted by Neils, the Morgantina krater is the only known vessel of this shape by Euthymides, the only krater by a pioneer from all of Sicily, and the shape itself is rare everywhere in this period.¹ Made perhaps around 515 B.C. and not destroyed until more than fifty years later, the signs of wear and ancient repairs may be attributed to the krater’s long period of use, though the director of excavations that year, Richard Stillwell, had another explanation. As Stillwell stated the following year in the pages of the American Journal of Archaeology:

It was not only gratifying, but also not a little surprising, to find a work of a master hand in a relatively remote Greek settlement in the center of Sicily. Perhaps the very fact that the vase had been broken and mended in antiquity may be significant, and could suggest that

Fig. 1: Attic red-figure volute krater attributed to Euthymides (inv. no. 58-2382); photo C. Williams.