

ENGLISH SUMMARIES*

ENRICO FELICI, *Follow-up on Roman Port Iconography*

The paper examines how data on the contribution of ancient coastal and underwater topography aids in documenting and interpreting the image transmitted by the iconography of Roman ports. The ports represented a significant building development during the imperial age, for logistical and political reasons, thanks to the technical and engineering advancements of the time. It was perhaps precisely this development that made them a popular iconographic theme. Images of ports represent an important source for understanding this peculiar type of monument; however, as for other buildings, the iconography of ports can only assume effective topographical description with concomitant analysis of literary sources and archaeological remains above and below ground.

The complexity of the actual setting of the infrastructures and monuments created, case-by-case, problems of interpretation that are hard to resolve, and that make evident the conflicts between reality and its representation. It seems plausible that official communication and private artistic forms influenced each other reciprocally. The first had to identify effective ways of transmitting messages relating to sailing safety and the grain trade (*Annona*), using images, probably taken from private illustrations, which did not require a realistic drafting, but needed to appeal to easy comprehension («what is, but also what can be», as Vitruvius writes). Those same stylistic features were adopted by the mercantile sector that revolved around the grain trade flow, which used them in their own forms of communication.

GUIDO ROSADA, *Orestes and Pylades on the Road to Tyana*

A passage in Arrian tells us that Orestes, Pylades and Iphigenia fled from Tauris carrying Artemis' wooden image (ξύανον). Chased by Thoas, they would have crossed Anatolia and founded Tyana in Cappadocia. In addition to fitting into the myth of Orestes' wanderings, as he was traditionally founder (οἰκιστής) of sanctuaries and cities, this passage is particularly relevant in the context of the initial phases of Tyana, its geo-topographical location, and local hagiography, as well as in relation to Apollo's role in the area.

KEYWORDS: *Orestes, Pylades, Anatolia, Tyana, Apollo.*

RODOLFO BRANCATO, *Hellenistic Settlement System, Fortifications and Roads Network in the Vjosa River Valley (Southern Albania)*

The aim of this paper is to analyze the archaeological topography of the middle and lower valley of the Vjosa river (southern Albania): begun in 2017, the research project focused on fortifications (cities and phouria) and route networks that characterized the settlement system between southern Illyria and the Northern Epirus in the

Hellenistic period. On the basis of the field surveys carried out in the extra-urban area of Byllis, it is possible to reach a new understanding of the Hellenistic ruins embedded in the contemporary landscape. In light of the available archaeological data, ancient literary sources and historical cartography, the close relationship between river valleys, fortified sites and roads is analyzed: in fact, the Hellenistic settlement system seems strongly to be related to the expansion of the great Epirus, whose territorial consistency is now emerging in its historical reality.

ELIO DE MAGISTRIS, *Research on the ager publicus in Lucania*

The spatial definition of the *ager publicus* in Lucania here proposed is based on a new interpretation of the famous inscription from Polla CIL I² 638 - the so-called *lapis/elogium Pollae* -, of the Gracchan boundary stones and *lapides muti* discovered in the Tanagro valley, and on the territorial delimitation of the Lucanian cities of Volcei, Atina, Tegianum, Casilinum, Potentia, Grumentum. In reading the inscription from Polla, a new perspective is proposed, which supersedes that of a self-celebration of the anonymous magistrate who had built the road from Rhegium to Capua. For the moralizing campaign underway in Rome around the middle of 2nd century B.C. prohibited the erection of monuments dedicated to living magistrates in public places. The reconstruction of a different context for the monument makes it possible to read its many linguistic anomalies in a different light. The transformation of the *ager publicus* from a grazing area into arable land claimed by the magistrate is analyzed by reconstructing a hypothetical scheme of the Gracchan *limitatio* of 132-131 B.C., also in light of palaeoclimatic and pedological data. The second part of the paper expounds the territorial delimitation of the Lucanian cities.

KEYWORDS: Lucania, *ager publicus*, Polla.

FABRIZIO MOLLO, *New Survey about Nerulum's Site in the Lao-Mercure's Valley*

Recent investigations brings about a new hypothesis regarding the identification of the ancient town of Nerulum, a lucanian *oppidum* later conquered by the Romans and an important *statio* along Popilia and Herculia's road. The settlement under investigation is located in the River Lao-Mercure's valley, where the Department of Ancient and Modern Civilizations of Messina's University have carried out several researches and archaeological excavations since 2018. The results of the abovementioned studies allowed to discover a new lucanian and roman town near the Santa Gada and San Primo's areas and suggest a new hypothesis to locate Nerulum.

KEYWORDS: Landscape archaeology, Ancient Topography, Classics, Lucanians, Nerulum.

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BRUNO SARDELLA, MICHELE FASOLO, TITO FRATE, *Fortifications and Land Control in a Strategic Area of North-Western Molise: the Territory of Montalto (Rionero Sannitico, IS)*

As part of a long-term research on Samnite hill-forts within the administrative limits of the Molise Region, new investigations have been conducted along a defensive line of over 40 km in northwestern Molise, between the Sangro river basins and those of the Volturno and Trigno rivers, and bending southwest along the mountain ranges between Lazio and Campania. This is close to the upper Valle del Sangro, a junction of the traffic routes that crossed the peninsula in ancient times both in a transverse direction, connecting the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian, and longitudinally towards the Sabellic area and on the other to the paths that led to southern Italy. In the Middle Ages, further fortifications arose on the site of the Samnite ones or in the immediate vicinity, confirming the strategic importance that the control of this natural line has covered in various circumstances over the centuries.

During the verification and field validation of a heuristic model aimed at identifying further currently unknown Samnite fortresses, the area of Montalto, part of the Municipality of Rionero Sannitico, emerged as highly likely to have hosted such settlements. The Montalto area is now marginal and sparsely populated, but in ancient times was vital and of strategic importance, crossed by the sheep track (tratturo Lucera-Castel di Sangro) and secondary paths along which fortifications and places of worship are identified. In the area identified through predictive modeling it was possible to identify a new Samnite fortification (near Penna) and not far away a medieval village with church (localities Casarine and Castello) and the data of a medieval fortification and another Samnite fortress, already known, were reviewed and updated (locality Bosco delle Rocche Cemetery). Finally, the existence of a third Samnite fortification (La Montagnola), supported in the past, was again ruled out. The fortification of Penna di Montalto, recently discovered and published here, expands the number of fortifications built in connection with the Lucera-Castel di Sangro tratturo. In predictive modeling, the use of special Whitebox GAT tools in ArcGis Pro proved useful, including the calculation of the total visibility index which allowed the identification of the optimal positions for the observation points in the landscape.

ELENA FODDAI, GIAMPAOLO LUGLIO, *Corchiano (VT): the "Twin" Vie Cave at Madonna delle Grazie*

In southern Etruria, where the flow of water created natural ravines, valleys and gorges in the soft volcanic tuff bedrock, roads were often dug into the rock in order to mitigate the slope. The Etruscans built many roads after the adoption of the wheeled transport, not only to provide practical benefits.

Corchiano (Vt) seems to be characterized by a large number of road-cuttings, dug presumably between the 7th and the 4th century BC. While some of these (the Cannara, the Sant'Egidio and the Spigliara cuttings) were studied by Lorenzo Quilici, the present paper aims to examine two lesser-known roads in Santa Maria delle Grazie, just east of Corchiano, called "twins" because they are

almost side by side. The two cuttings had to ensure the connection between Corchiano and Gallese and above all with the Tiber valley, a communication route of strategic importance. Since these are also monumental remains, the authors also suggest viewing the roads deeply engraved in the tuff in a political context, as instruments of control of rural landscapes by the ruling elites during the Orientalizing and Archaic periods. The authors provide the unpublished graphic documentation of the ancient road system, which allows to establish parallels with other roads already known, clarifying specific technical aspects.

MARIAVITTORIA ANTICO GALLINA, *About So-called Amphora Drainage: the Risks and Dangers of a Conventional Terminology*

Reflection on the conventional language of archaeological practice focuses our attention on a specific term the author believes was used in an uncritical way. In the context of building campaigns marked by the use of a specific alternative material: *amphorae*, the reuse of *amphorae* in reclamation works has determined the creation and fossilization of a term, "drainage", indiscriminately adopted for any amphorary accumulation underground and regardless of evaluations regarding the purpose of the accumulation.

Examining the role of research, archaeological data, lexicon, semantics, the communicative function, and the necessary interdisciplinary approach to excavation, the author seeks to revolutionize the conventional value of the term "drainage" in favor of recovery and affirmation of its real meaning: "drainage" is therefore a definition that cannot be generalized, but rather appropriate for a single type of reclamation, when reclamation means a range of interventions, each with its own purpose and term.

MATTEO FRASSINE, VALENTINA SANTI, NICOLA CAPPELLOZZA, MICHELE ASOLATI, LUCA MILLO, *Vigonzà. From the Roman Sacellum to the Trenches of the Great War*

The archaeological excavation carried out by the former Soprintendenza Archeologia del Veneto during 2015 in Vigonzà at the "Borgo Rurale", built by Futurist architect Quirino De Giorgio in the 1930s, led to the discovery of an unexpected set of human traces. Among the ancient structures, the most peculiar feature was a Roman building with a T-shaped plan, which has been interpreted as a little temple, associated with a water well with nine sides. Some postholes and a wooden water well were also found, but they are typical features related to a Medieval settlement. Later, further archaeological soundings in the nearby via Tintoretto unearthed the paleochannel of a small stream, buried by the Brenta river deposits during the early Iron Age. At a short distance some agricultural ditches and a furnace of the Middle Ages were found, probably linked to the activity of the adjacent monastic complex of Santa Margherita. During 2019 a new archaeological excavation considered the entire area in via Tintoretto. The analysis of archaeological sequences has confirmed the data collected and analyzed in 2015, but also disclosed some striking remains of World War I trenches dug in 1917, immediately after the defeat of Caporetto.

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