Roemische Mitteilungen 119, 2013

Gilda Bartoloni – Federica Cordano

"Si propone di bere secondo il costume greco" (Cicerone, Verrine 2, 1, 66). In memoria di Horst Blanck (S. 13–32)

Abstract: During the Orientalising period in Etruria and among other Tyrrhenian Italian people, several vases, such as craters, jugs, and kantharoi, were produced for containing wine to be consumed during the related ceremonies. These vases imitated the Greek models, and the reason for this intentional artistic imitation can be attributed to the increased consumption of wine during public and private ceremonies. Wine is drunk in the symposium and during ritual libations. Our knowledge of this phenomenon is based on the archaeological evidence and on literary sources. In Critias, Diodorus, Aristotle and Cicero we can isolate two topics that are related to the Etruscan imagery as it is reconstructed and admired by the Greeks: metallurgy and the social role of women. Everybody knows the interest in this topic shown by Horst Blanck and the care with which he studied it thanks to his knowledge of literature, iconography, and the plastic and figurative motifs of the related objects.

Keywords: Blanck, wine, literature, iconography

Pier Giovanni Guzzo

Caronda e coloro che si nutrono dallo stesso granaio. Ipotesi sulle strutture circolari di Megara Hyblea, Selinunte e Himera (S. 33–42)

Abstract: The reference to homosipuoi in Charondas, like the similar one in the lex sacra from Selinus, implies that the core of the archaic family formed around the shared granary. We propose that the stone circular platforms found in Megara Hyblea, Selinus, and Himera, as well as in many other places in the Greek motherland, be accepted as foundations of granaries.

Keywords: Charondas, Megara Hyblea, Selinus, Himera, granary, circular platforms

Pierfrancesco Vecchio

Morte e società a Mozia. Ipotesi preliminari sulla base della documentazione archeologica della necropolis (S. 43–67)

Abstract: A century of research dedicated to the Motya necropolis has not yet produced a general approach regarding the dynamics of society on the Phoenician island. Up to now, a fragmentary image of the archaic community has arisen through scant and irregular analysis of the tombs, their organisation, their grave goods, and a few anthropological studies on human remains. At closer analysis, many of the tombs show a particular physical proximity: clusters of cremation pits seem to be linked by chronological hierarchy and a differentiation among the choice of vessels. A major change in death practices occurs in the 4th century BC, when inhumation, in sarcophagi, acquires a substantial presence in the necropolis, along with standardised grave goods. The Motya necropolis seems to see continuous use until well into the 3rd century BC, when its pottery numbers among the common wares produced at sites in Western Sicily.

Keywords: Motya, necropolis, society, pottery, family clusters
Abstract: The University of Bonn, in collaboration with the DAI Rome and the Parco Archeologico di Selinunte, conducted excavations in the Cotone Valley on the eastern slope of Selinus between 2010 and 2012. The project has investigated sections of a huge industrial quarter discovered by geophysical prospection. In the course of the excavations, the city wall with a water drain, the street next to the wall, and the street S16-E were uncovered. Five kilns of rectangular and circular shape in particular verify the production of ceramic goods. Next to these kilns, a tiled room featuring a roof-tile pavement was uncovered. Evidence of a small domestic sanctuary and typical workshop equipment (e.g. spacers) were found in this room. The structures can be identified as the eastern section of an extended potter's workshop dating to the 6th–5th centuries BC, destroyed by the Carthaginians in 409 BC.

Keywords: Selinunte/Selinus, industrial quarter, potter's workshop, city wall, kiln, colonisation

Abstract: The so-called Tomba dei Sarcofagi is an exceptionally furnished monumental family tomb dating from Cerveteri's last period of flourishing (the second half of the 4th century BC). This article offers the first comprehensive study and documentation of the hypogeum and the evidence associated with it, particularly the wall paintings and the decorated sarcophagi. Both being extremely rare in Caeretan funerary culture, they form a unique milieu in which architecture, frescoes, and sarcophagi are given a context to interact. It is further argued that the Magistrate who owned the famous homonymous Sarcophagus founded this tomb of the Apucu family in the decennia around 350 BC.

Keywords: Caere, Banditaccia, Tombe del Comune, funerary architecture, wall-painting, sarcophagi

Abstract: The ‘Nicchioni’ of Todi number among the most impressive monumental remains of ancient Umbria. The focus of the present paper is to provide a detailed technical and archaeological investigation of the building. On the basis of hypothetical modeling, the paper seeks to make a tentative estimate of the schedule of the construction work. Further chronological evidence can be deduced from an analysis of the monument's decoration. It is argued that the best analogies to the design of the Doric frieze stem from the second half of the 1st century BC. Additionally, the metopal decoration was arranged in semantic units, featuring a divine triad as well as symbols of naval victory. Combining these results with evidence from epigraphical and historical sources, the years immediately following the battle of Naulochus (36 BC) must be seen as the most plausible time frame for the construction of the ‘Nicchioni’.
Keywords: Architecture, Todi, Nicchioni, architectural decoration, Doric frieze

Angela Palmentieri
Addenda ai sarcofagi romani della prima età imperiale. Nuovi dati dall'area campana (S. 169–199)

Abstract: A well-known group of Roman sarcophagi was produced between the early Augustan period and the 1st century AD. Alongside these famous sarcophagi, it is important to consider other marble tombs originating in Campania, in locations such as Amalfi, Torre del Garigliano, Teano, San Leucio di Caserta, and Salerno. These new testimonies suggest that urban workshops employed Greek models when making their marble sarcophagi in the 1st century AD. This work of research serves as an extension to the previous state of scholarship, and an attempt to fill the gap in our knowledge about this region.

Keywords: Early Imperial sarcophagi, Campania, Greek sarcophagi, polychrome marble, classical spolia

Carlo Gasparri
Un nuovo sarcofago con Nekyia tipo Villa Giulia (S. 201–220)

Abstract: At the Villa Volterra in Ariccia, there is a sarcophagus that had been used as a washbasin near the villa itself. It presumably comes from a funerary monument on the Via Appia, and is an almost exact replica of a sarcophagus featuring a netherworld scene that has been discussed by the author of the present study in an essay published over forty years ago. This sarcophagus, up to now, had been considered a unicum. The newly discovered specimen, however, bears witness to a wider circulation of this particular iconographic theme. The imagery expresses a particular conception of the Beyond, one possibly inspired by Neo-Pythagorean beliefs and often associated with the rite of inhumation, which seems to have been shared by the buyers of a small group of molded sarcophagi, datable – like these two figured specimens – to between the late 1st century BC and the early 1st century AD.

Keywords: Ariccia, Villa Volterra, sarcophagus with Nekyia, Roman molded sarcophagi, inhumation, Neo-Pythagoreanism

Domenico Esposito – Domenico Camardo
La ‘Basilica Noniana’ di Ercolano (S. 221–258)

Abstract: Herculaneum’s ‘Basilica Noniana’ was systematically explored and despoiled by Bourbon excavators during the 18th century. This paper stems from the partial re-opening of their tunnels undertaken in the context of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, which, alongside further research, contributed to a feasibility study commissioned by the Packard Humanities Institute to evaluate the possibility of completing the excavation and proper conservation of one of Herculaneum’s most important public buildings. The site campaign allowed the plan of the building, as well as its decorative programme, to be better defined, and confirmed that the statues of the Nonius Balbus family belong to the building. Furthermore, identifying another structure on the west side of the Basilica, possibly identifiable as the local Macellum, served as an opportunity to revisit the question of where Herculaneum’s Roman Forum might have been located.
Keywords: Herculaneum, forum, basilica, Roman architecture, wall painting

Anna Maria De Meis

Su alcuni capitelli figurati con delfini dalla Villa Imperiale di Anzio (S. 259–274)

Abstract: These capitals featuring dolphins, found in Antium in the first half of the 19th century, in the vicinity of the Imperial Villa, attest to the Neronian age of the building, to which no attention has been devoted to date. With the aid of stylistic and iconographical analysis, as well as archival research, it is possible to date the capitals and put them in their original context, as belonging to a monumental colonnade overlooking the sea in the upper part of the Villa.

Keywords: Antium, capitals, dolphins, anchor, Neronian age

Rita Paris – Bartolomeo Mazzotta – Maria Naccarato

Via Appia Antica. Il nuovo sito archeologico di Capo di Bove e il Triopio di Erode Attico

Abstract: The Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma's acquisition of a property on the Via Appia Antica in 2002, close to the Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella and the Castrum Caetani, enabled a complex investigation of excavations, archival research, and topographic analysis to be carried out, and the site of the monument with the Caryatids designed by Piranesi, discovered in 1765, to be located. Recent excavations have brought to light a thermal area dating from the middle of the 2nd century AD. A large fragment of a statue identifiable with the sixth Caryatid of Piranesi's monument was also found; three of the remaining five are to be found at Villa Albani, one at the British Museum, and one at the Vatican Museums. Unpublished documents attest to the location of Vigna Strozzi, to which Piranesi refers in the caption of the design of the building, within the topographic aspects referred to above. The results of the research therefore allow the borders of the Triopio of Herodes Atticus area to be extended to the south of the Mausoleum of Cecilia Metella.

Keywords: Via Appia, Capo di Bove, Pago Triopio, Herodes Atticus, Annia Regilla, baths

Moheddine Chaouali

Les voies d'époque romaine du territoire de Simitthus (S. 333–354)

Abstract: This analysis of the milestones discovered in the territory of Chimtou (antique Simitthus) allows a better knowledge to be formed of the various Roman roads: the section of the Carthago – Hippo Regius via Simitthus road; the "marble road", which links Simitthus with Thabraca; and the Simitthus – Naraggara via Masculula road. The chronological frame of the analysis ranges from the reign of Hadrian (129 AD) until the reign of Theodosius and Arcadius (383–393 AD). This study, together with the examination of the available evidence, allows a variety of further deductions to be made concerning the use of the roads, the export of Numidian marble, the spelling of the city's name, and the composition of the inscriptions.

Keywords: Milestone, Simitthus, Roman roads, Numidian marble, territory