Archeologia urbana a Borgo Terra, Muro Leccese — I. Edited by Paul Arthur, Brunella Bruno & Stefania Alfarano. 21 × 29 cm. 168 pp, 151 colour and b&w pls and figs, 16 tables. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2017. ISBN 978-88-7814-773-7. Price: €43.00 pb.

The 15th-century landscape of the heel of Italy (province of Lecce) was one marked by efforts to rationalise and secure its products and workers, chiefly following the crises of the 14th century, but with further prompts generated by Turkish raids (the coastal city of Otranto was captured by the Ottomans in 1480) and also by internal banditry. The fertile landscape is dotted with abandoned/shrunken medieval villages and hamlets, some with roots in the Byzantine period, but also features a number of defended sites, many now enveloped by modern development. One such site or *terra* is Borgo Terra, the historic core (c 1 hectare) of the compact town of Muro Leccese, founded likely by the splendidly named feudal lord Florimonte Protonobilissimo between 1440–1450. This was a planned, defended agro-town, with a slightly later inserted fortified residence, which acted as base for farmers, storage depot and local market focus. The need for defences generally diminished after the Ottoman naval defeat at Lepanto in 1571, and in Borgo's case, its market role enabled outward growth. Almost none of these sites have seen archaeological investigation and this well-produced volume provides an overview of the project led by Arthur and Bruno and the University of Salento, working with the local community, started in 1999 and boosted by EU funds in 2005. There is a suitably mixed approach, the fruits of which will be detailed in future volumes, such as buildings analysis (rather disappointingly we see just two such views here), but Alfarano's chapter/section 4 gives a handy overview of the Borgo's archaeological resource base (accessibility, legibility, likely preservation, etc). This publication otherwise comprises an overview (chapters 1 and 3) of the archaeological interventions (Areas I–XII) — mainly in conjunction with relaying of paths, roads and services — consideration of religious spaces and burial finds (chs 7 and 8), faunal and botanical remains (9, 10), and ceramics (6, including Caprino's strong report on medieval and post-medieval finds). Chapter 5 outlines the wider evidence for a previous, much larger (100 ha) Messapian (6th- to 3rd-century BC) *oppidum*, quitted following Roman capture, and succeeded by a dispersed farming landscape in Roman, Byzantine and medieval times.

I look forward to the next volume which will detail the built environment, the Borgo's planning and contents, diverse related finds, and the new Museo, which has attracted many visitors to Muro Leccese and given an added boost to the local economy.

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