

The site is otherwise little known, and so this useful collection of essays forms an important contribution to friary studies, though only a few themes can be picked up here.

The convent was one of only four rural Carmelite houses founded in England before the order adopted mendicant practices in 1247, and several contributions address its significance in this respect. The origin story, first recorded by John Bale in the 16th century, recounts that the early hermits moved to the present site in 1253 from an adjacent location closer to the sea. This transfer may have been induced by climatic factors, with the original site probably destroyed or made uninhabitable by storm surges and flooding. The extent to which these early sites were significantly different from later Carmelite houses is hard to assess, but this relocation implies that the ties to patrons and locale were strong enough to ensure that the friars stayed close by.

Careful reading of the local topography has shed some light on the ways in which the friary was connected by both road and water, and in spite of its rural location the new site sought to take advantage of such factors, in the same manner as urban sites. Later gifts to augment the precinct testify to a rebuilding of the friary church in the 14th century; it also benefitted from bequests in later medieval wills. A final appendix includes a comprehensive listing of dated events, fully referenced to primary sources, and a biographical study of known friars, which places the house on an intellectual as well as a physical map.

The book brings together quite a diverse set of studies, ranging from the publication of original fieldwork and historical research to wider considerations of the medieval Norfolk landscape, and the origins of the order in the Holy Land. It is the outcome of two community-based study days in 2018, and this focus has been commendably preserved in its public-facing style. The individual contributions are nicely written, very well illustrated, and have high-quality maps, plans and photos. The collection serves as a useful model for other community-oriented projects combining fieldwork and historical research.

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*I castelli della Romagna. Indagini di archeologia dell'architettura.* By Andrea Fiorini. 21 x 29 cm. 159 pp, 9 colour figs, 130 b&w pls, figs and tables. Sesto Fiorentino: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2019. ISBN 978-88-7814-948-9. Price: €36.00 pb.

Not aiming at full coverage of the high number of castles across the Romagna region of northern Italy, Fiorini here examines 34 selected sites (primarily in the Forlì–Cesena provinces) in terms of castle placement, roots, forms, architectural evolution and construction materials, seeking to provide a chronological and structural overview, based primarily on a reading of their architectures. A small part of the monograph talks of the Early Middle Ages (here set as 8th–10th centuries), a period when eight of these sites (but probably more) had their documented origins, but for which, as yet, archaeological support is lacking (p 64 flags this ‘invisibility’, but briefly notes recent archaeology at Rontana revealing a 6th-/7th-century Byzantine precursor to medieval fortifications). The bulk of the evidence relates to the 13th century onward, and to material displays and conflict between key players such as the archbishops of Ravenna, the abbey of S Ellero, and lay elites like the Malatesti and the Guidi families (history covered in the compact Section 2). The brief Section 3, ‘Archeologia dei castelli della Romagna’, is a methodological summary of the archaeo-architectural recording and reading of sites and their constructional materials (including geological sourcing). Core are Sections 4 detailing the typologies and materials for walls, windows and (rare) decorative units identified via the sample sites, and 5 offering ‘Repertori cronotopologici’ — though at just four and a half pages this fails to explain why some dates are ascribed to some styles (some end or begin at c 1200; some end in c 1400, etc) and whether this is all based on

documentary guides for castle creations, renewals, etc. Readers need delve into the Appendix (Section 8), which features a valuable study into metrologies across a wider central-northern Italian sample: this identifies documented city, church and lordly units of measurements (diverse rods/poles, feet, arms, etc) which were incised and displayed on/in walls at communal palaces or civic towers across the 13th to 18th centuries (labelled ones at Cesena and at Rimini are respectively of the 15th century and of 1544).

The bulk of the volume comprises 11 case studies from the larger sample (Section 6, pp 61–114). For each comes tidy coverage of standing remains; historical overview; structural analysis (illustrated with plans, phased elevations, wall fabrics); documentary, iconographic and cartographic data; and chronological summary. Sites discussed include Castelnuovo (Meldola), the Rocca Malatestiana di Verucchio and the well-documented, multi-phased Castello di Sorrivoli.

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*Edilizia residenziale medievale dell'Appennino Reggiano (secoli XI–XIV). Maestranze, committenti e ambienti tecnici.*

Contributi di Archeologia Medievale 15. Premio Ottone d'Assia e Riccardo Fancovich). By Federico Zoni. 21 x 29 cm. 192 pp, 162 b&w pls and figs. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2019. ISBN 978-88-7814-950-2 (ISSN 2035-5424). Price: €44.00 pb.

Federico Zoni here examines residential buildings in the High Middle Ages in Apenninic northern central Italy, centred on the Reggio Emilia province. Most studies on medieval domestic dwellings and their social, economic and even political implications have tended to focus on earlier periods; relatively few regional analyses have tackled the built environment after AD 1000, unless in urban contexts (eg Lucca, Padua). This well-structured and systematic research (a prize-winning 2018 University of Bologna PhD) aligns with the latter strand of studies; concentrating on a relatively remote area of medieval Italy, Zoni successfully weaves together different datasets to build a coherent image, merging archival sources with archaeological ones, and linking these to an analysis of built elevations alongside the development of pre- and post-industrial human landscapes.

From this multi-disciplinary approach Zoni considers the dynamics linked to the social role of the workers involved in the formation and evolution of settlements in this part of the Apennines, while also reconstructing in good detail the range and succession of building techniques and their relationship with the technological/technical capabilities of the actual workers.

Chapter 4 in particular provides a set of well-illustrated case studies, accompanied by building/structural, geological, historical and archaeological analyses which form the solid basis for establishing the various typologies of residences set out in the following chapter, where Zoni outlines the different identified types, including *case solariate*, *palatia*, fortified houses and residential towers; these become narrative elements of a society in continuous evolution, where the clients flaunt their social status, while political realities alternate by showing off different architectural forms.

Zoni coins the phrase 'archaeology of the architectural landscapes' to define stratifications of building activities that can be observed with certain trends in a wider political landscape; if analysed correctly, these activities hint at the various passages and palimpsests of societies that produced them, intertwined in the architectural patterns of medieval residences.

Overall, this publication not only adds significantly to the construction of typological atlases of late-medieval residences, but it also allows us to historically and socially understand a specific