

territory through its architecture; furthermore, it should stimulate a wider goal of a much-awaited synthesis on Italian late-medieval residential architecture.

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*Ferrara al tempo di Ercole I d'Este. Scavi archeologici, restauri e riqualificazione urbana nel centro storico della città.* (Quaderni di Archeologia dell'Emilia Romagna 38). Edited by Chiara Guarnieri. 21 x 29 cm. 501 pp, 545 colour and b&w pls, figs and tables. Sesto Fiorentino: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2018. ISBN 978-88-7814-824-6 (ISSN 1593-2680). Price: €75.00 pb.

Well known for its stunning Castello di San Michele or Castello Estense erected in the later 14th century, Ferrara has seen fairly restricted larger scale archaeology (though notable 1980s and 1990s excavations revealed 8th- to 13th-century timber structures in the San Romano zone), but this volume brings together results from a series of excavations, building surveys and restorations undertaken on and around key monuments in the historic centre (facing the cathedral) between 2000 and 2013, combined with evidence from small (services-linked) interventions. While the volume's title flags the figure and works of Duke Ercole I (1471–1505) of the powerful Estense family (discussed in an introductory essay, reproducing a highly detailed woodcut of a city panorama in 1499), the excavations revealed elements of a longer sequence of activity (chiefly 14th–18th centuries). Crucially, the Ercole epoch is richly documented, even regarding building costs, and thus the archaeology provides additional windows into this notable redesigning of Ferrara's public core (the results and their historical value are ably summarised by the editor from pp 20–32).

Divided into four parts, Part 2 covers the archaeology revealed along the Corso Martiri della Libertà, exposing structural features relating to some well-documented Estensi palaces (Corte Vecchia, Palazzo Ducale and the Loggia Grande); 3 discusses investigations of the internal, second-floor covered passage linking the ducal court and castle courtyard and the terrace or hanging garden of Eleonora of Aragon within the Castello Estense (both of late 15th-century date); and 4 details work at Porta dei Leoni, part of the city's northern defences (built in 13th century; demolished in 1514). The focal zone was the 'Piazza Municipale' (Part 1, pp 35–374), investigating components of the built fabric of the Palazzo di Corte, the Giardino delle Duchesse and the ex-Bazzi structure. The excavated areas helped identify elements of the older, pre-Ercole palace, plus workshops, a water tank and 'Venetian' well, and also touched natural deposits, showing reclamation work from the 11th/12th century (the creation of the cathedral in 1135 saw this as the new urban focus). Notable were two dump deposits, closed when the original court palace was demolished in 1479, yielding a valuable collection of ceramics and glass (over 8000 fragments), plus food remains, linked, most probably, to ducal dining debris. Meriting a close read is the section on the Giardino delle Duchesse, cleverly using text, finds and archaeobotanical data to reconstruct the famed display garden of Ercole I.

This rich volume owes much to the efforts of the editor, Chiara Guarnieri, who not only oversaw many of the excavations, but who contributes many sections on sequences, structures and finds.

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*Nel triangolo magico Bisanzio-Ravenna-Venezia. Dante e i mosaici di Torcello.* (Fuori della Selva, 2). By Emanuele Penni. 17 x 24 cm. 80 pp, 35 colour pls, 7 b&w pls and figs. Ravenna: Edizioni della Girasole, 2019. ISBN 978-88-7567-635-3. Price: €12.00 pb.

This slim publication has an avowed purpose to draw out parallels between the 14th-century 'Divine Comedy' of Dante and the 11th-century Last Judgement mosaic on the W wall