

*Cave e petriere nell'Amiata occidentale. Lo sfruttamento delle risorse lapidee per la produzione edilizia medievale.* By Elisa Pruno. 21 x 30 cm. 104 pp, 58 colour and b&w pls and figs, 4 tables. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2018. ISBN 978-88-7814-859-8. Price: €20.00 pb.

Centred on a territory on the western side of Monte Amiata in southern Tuscany, this compact but innovative study explores the quarries and resources exploited by medieval masons and architects, looking directly at the geology and quarry-workings rather than merely referring to diverse stone types in their final built context. In Section II, Pruno scrutinises the evidence from the trachite quarry site at Gravilona (San Biagio) and the cutting of peperino from more irregular outcrops at La Cannuccie zone (an extraction site-type labelled 'petriera' rather than 'cava' or quarry); there is close study and mapping of the diverse cutting techniques, extraction zones, and surface data such as post holes and tanks, plus reference to problems of close dating of the activities. Building on project work from Florence (since 2000) on medieval buildings in the Amiata which helped secure chronologies to these, Section III looks to the use of the materials in local churches, abbeys and castle/palace structures in sites like Arcidosso, San Biagio and Santa Fiora, with emphasis on 10th- to 12th-century edifices (nb pp 62-66). There is then useful assessment of transportation routes as well as of the mechanics of moving the stone, plus comments on the 'management' (almost wholly undocumented) of these extractive sites, with the figure (located to the east) of the major abbey of San Salvatore looming large. Well enough illustrated, the volume did need a general location map to guide readers not familiar with the region, and perhaps closer scrutiny could have come of the materials in the main buildings cited and questions asked here of on-site storage, stone preparation and mounting.

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