

The second part deals with the establishment of churches and districts (*contrade*), these analysed as a decisive component of Rome's medieval identity, while the long final section offers a detailed appraisal of the area of the *Crypta Balbi*, the major and vital archaeological site that was extensively investigated by Manacorda and his team in the 1980s and which really opened our eyes to Rome's long archaeological history; however, as stated at the start of this chapter, the bibliography for this has not been updated and no recent related excavations are presented.

Overall, this represents a very interesting exploration of various aspects of the organisation of medieval Rome. It provides thoughtful approaches to understanding how the cityscape changed dramatically at the end of the classical period and how it was shaped into the Renaissance Rome of the Popes. Drawing on a wide assemblage of data following decades of urban archaeological projects, Manacorda has selected some of the most significant and recent case studies to inform readers of the diverse historical and archaeological problems one encounters when dealing with this medieval city. The volume thus offers a handy companion and reference point for any scholars seeking to approach the vast array of archaeological research within Rome, and provides a starting-point for future investigations of its medieval urbanism.

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*Archeologia in un'abbazia millenaria. San Caprasio di Aulla.* (Quaderni dell'Istituto di Storia della Cultura Materiale, 5). Edited by Riccardo Boggi & Enrico Giannichedda. 17 × 24 cm. 291 pp, 229 colour and b&w pls and figs, 9 tables. Florence: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2021. ISBN 978-88-9285-084-2; epub: 978-88-9285-085-9 (ISSN 2039-0688). Price: €40.00 pb.

Located in the centre of the Lunigiana region in SE Liguria (NW Italy), the abbey of San Caprasio at Aulla was a notable pilgrim stop on the *via Francigena*, likely visited by Sigeric, Archbishop of Canterbury, and his delegation in the late 10th century. Importantly, late copies of the abbey's foundation charter of May 884 exist, recording Adalbert I, marquis of Tuscany, who also donated properties, farmland, and woodland. The charter notes the church's dedication to the Virgin and to 'other saints whose relics rest here'. While saint Caprasius, a 5th-century holy man at the famous monastic school on the island of Lerins, is only directly named in the dedication from 1077, his relics were seemingly brought here from Lerins (often threatened by Saracen raids) in the 880s. Excavation in 2001 in fact uncovered a stucco sarcophagus containing human remains in an older casket, these C14-dated to 410–560, which might secure an identification with Caprasius, who died in 443 (discussed in Chapter 5, pp 106–20).

This discovery was just one notable aspect of the two decades-long archaeological project at Aulla, which began in 2000, with excavations alongside restoration work, undertaken without disrupting the functionality of the abbey and church for locals and pilgrims alike. This very informative and well-illustrated publication provides the extended story of the complex, including elements of an undocumented past. Set in an area with Byzantine-period (c 545–645) activity, centred on the old Roman city of *Luna*, excavations identified the apse of a first, single-naved Longobard-period (late 7th-/8th-century) church, associated with which are fragments of reused interlace panels and pilasters (see Chapter 3). Chapter 4 considers the traces of the Adalbert-era church (not *ex novo*, clearly) which featured the interment of Caprasius' relics at the altar. Chapter 5 details how this edifice was replaced in the later 10th century by a church (also built using river cobblestone) of extended scale and decoration (including figurative carvings and stucco work), and with a more prominent re-interment of the holy relics. Interesting is the intended, but seemingly aborted, plan to create a crypt. To this period belongs the construction of the larger abbey complex, exploiting the 'pull' of Saint Caprasius (pp 144–8); pilgrim traffic helped in fuller abbey

investment in the 12th and 13th centuries, traced both in standing structures (notably the chapter house), excavated features (belltower; bell-pits/furnaces) and in architectural remains (Chapter 6). Over 150 medieval burials were investigated, but many were damaged by later activity (pp 206–10). Chapter 7 considers first 17th- to 19th-century works and then 20th-century devastations at Aulla, first in a 1920 earthquake and then in 1943–44 allied bombardments (one unexploded 250 kg bomb was excavated in 2003 in the abbey church's main apse). The whole sequence of site activity is tidily summarised in the concluding Chapter 8.

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*The nEU-Med Project: Vetricella, an Early Medieval Royal Property on Tuscany's Mediterranean.* (Biblioteca di Archeologia Medievale, 28). Edited by Giovanna Bianchi & Richard Hodges. 21 × 29 cm. 206 pp, 160 colour and b&w pls and figs, 26 tables. Sesto Fiorentino: All'Insegna del Giglio, 2020. ISBN 978-88-7814-971-7 (ISSN 2035-5319). Price: €46.00 pb.

This volume reports on fieldwork within a European Research Council-funded project which aimed to assess the material evidence of transformations of the Maremma territory in southern Tuscany between the 7th and 12th centuries AD. So far, the project has generated five volumes and a string of articles, all freely accessible on a dedicated website (<<https://www.neu-med.unisi.it>>); this specific monograph focuses on Vetricella, a royal-owned site, investigated between 2016 and 2019.

As the editors state in their Introduction, Vetricella and its territory were selected for research because they form a valuable case study for coastal settlements and contacts in the early-medieval western Mediterranean. They stress how the excavation campaigns uncovered a new set of data that enabled them to draw out the framework for future research avenues, while extensively reviewing past materials; but this does mean that contributions in this volume should be considered as preliminary, awaiting further studies on single topics/data types.

To open, Lorenzo Marasco and Arianna Briano assess closely the stratigraphic sequence, providing syntheses for each of the six periods of Vetricella's history and archaeology, and connecting them to events documented for the area. Davide Susini and Pierluigi Pieruccini then illustrate the results of geoarchaeological analysis regarding the formation and function of the settlement's intermediate ring-shaped ditch. Next, a group of seven papers explores the material culture of Vetricella: Alexander Agostini assesses the metal finds and metalworking evidence; Briano deals with glazed and painted wares (scientific analyses are included); Luisa Russo focuses on coarse, fine and 'selezionata' wares from two key contexts, while Letizia Castelli analyses glass artefacts, to which Bernard Gratuze's study of blue and bluish glass is directly connected; Alessia Rovelli surveys the site's important coin finds, with notable emphasis on the role of the Pavese mint; and Lorenzo Marasco and Cristina Cicali focus on the coins' stratigraphic contexts.

Serena Viva presents a thorough analysis of the 52 burials dating to between the mid-10th and early 11th century from the cemetery (located near a small oratory), while Veronica Aniceti assesses animal exploitation through the zooarchaeological assemblages. Three papers focus on environmental and landscape reconstruction of the surrounding territory, using a multidisciplinary approach (Mauro Paolo Buonincontri et al), geochemical mapping (Luisa Dallai et al) and via coring (Pieruccini and Susini).

Three final contributions round up the site, studies and significance: Hodges' remarks explore the archaeology of the first feudal age, suggesting how Vetricella in its Phase 2, in particular, could have played an important role in land-use strategy pursued by Tuscan royalty in the 9th century, while Bianchi exploits the site's material culture to draw a picture of the changes occurring between the 10th and 11th centuries, and formulates hypotheses regarding the role of