

# PREFACE

by

LARS KARLSSON

This volume is a publication of all the architectural features and the stratigraphy from the excavations by Carl Nylander at the Borgo north-west at San Giovenale. For the report on the artefacts the reader is referred to the publication by Ingrid Pohl from 2009.

The site of San Giovenale was rediscovered by the explorer and amateur archaeologist Erik Wetter in the early 1950s. Though it was not mentioned by George Dennis in his *Cities and cemeteries of Etruria* (1848), the place was known locally for its rock-cut tombs spread out in the hills and the hillsides around the city plateau.

San Giovenale, named after a chapel on the Acropolis dedicated to Juvenalis, the saint-bishop of Narni, is located near the village of Civitella Cesi in the Comune of Blera, about 20 km east of Tarquinia and about 27 km from Cerveteri to the south-west. The ancient name of the place is not known.

The soft tufa mountain ridge of San Giovenale, located at about 180 m above sea-level, consists of two hills divided by a shallow ravine (*Fig. 9*). The western hill is a large and level plateau. It is called the Acropolis and here a 13th-century castle (the *castello*) blocks off its eastern approach for defensive purposes. The Acropolis forms an excellent site for a city, being surrounded on two sides by very deep ravines (about 50 m deep) created by two rivers, the Vesca and its tributary the Pietrisco to the south, and a smaller stream, the Fammilume, to the north. The Acropolis forms an oblong and narrow tongue of land, almost sickle-shaped, measuring about 400 m east to west, and only about 80–90 m north to south.

The eastern hill, which is smaller (about 100 by 50 m), is called the Borgo and the excavations on the north-west slope of the Borgo area (here abbreviated Borgo NW) were initiated by Axel Boëthius, Erik Berggren and Birgitta Tamm in 1957–1958. During the years 1961–1963 and in 1965, Carl Nylander directed the excavations with the help of King Gustaf VI Adolf in 1961–1963 and Lars Gezelius in 1961. The excavations uncovered a large area, about 30 × 20 metres, which in 1964 was covered by a metal protective roof, the so-called *Capannone* (replaced in 2002).

The excavations were complicated because the buildings stood on a bedrock slope. This resulted in the study of an inclined stratigraphy, difficult to follow, as well as sections of reversed stratigraphies, with older material having washed down the slope from the higher-located Borgo *Spina* area. This book publishes the work conducted by Carl Nylander and the architect

Börje Blomé primarily during the 1990s. Between 2008–2011, I assisted the reworking of the texts. My role has been to structure and coordinate the works from several scholars included in this volume, as well as coordinating the texts with the larger San Giovenale corpus, the Borgo pottery volume by Ingrid Pohl and the publication of Area F East on the Acropolis of San Giovenale.

This publication contains a prolegomena by Carl Nylander, which describes his involvement in the study of the Borgo excavations; then follows an introduction to the site and its geography in Chapter One. Chapter Two gives the history of the excavations and Chapter Three deals with the settlement periods and stratigraphy. Chapters Four and Five describe the evidence for buildings and structures dating to the period before the start of the Borgo Building Programme, which is dated in the late 8th century BC. They analyse the Pre-House Periods I and II respectively, which are contemporary with Periods 1 and 2 at the Area F East on the Acropolis.

The Borgo Building Programme starts after the Great Fill Project, which is presented in a separate chapter, Chapter Six. It is thus the initial phase of this publication's Period 1. The Great Fill Project can be traced in all three excavation areas (Areas A, B/C and D) and is the basis for the entire Borgo Building Programme. Chapters Seven to Ten then deal with the excavated remains from Periods 1 and 2 (sometimes also Period 3), starting in the northern Area A (Chapter Seven), continuing with the central area with Houses B/C (Chapter Eight), with Lane K (Chapter Nine) and finally, the southern Area D with Houses D, E and F, as well as *Cantina* G (Chapter Ten). In these chapters, the excavated stratigraphy is presented after the description of each house and the different rooms and wall elevations. We have chosen to do this because of the inclination of the slope, which caused the stratigraphy to have different configurations. An attempt at gathering together a general stratigraphy for the entire site is presented in Chapter Three. The different stratigraphies of the excavation areas are presented here because they can be compared with the stratigraphies presented in the same way in the pottery volume by Ingrid Pohl. The stratigraphy is in this volume given with stratum 1, the topsoil, first. The lowest levels, strata 9–10 can be found in the bottom of the list (as they appear in the soil). The opposite is true for the floor levels. Floor 1 is counted from the bottom of the trench. Floor 4 is thus the latest.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that in the volume by I. Pohl (*San Giovenale* V:2), the floors are counted from the top.

Chapter Eleven deals with the suggested earthquake in the third quarter of the 6th century BC and Chapter Twelve discusses the reconstruction of the site after this event. Chapter Thirteen gives a brief description of the scattered evidence from the Roman and early medieval periods and Chapter Fourteen is a summary on the development of the Borgo NW.

The book contains five appendices; first, a bibliography of references to San Giovenale in academic publications from the 19th century to 2001, compiled by Kerstin Bellerba, the former head librarian of the Swedish Institute in Rome and updated to 2011 by Brita Alroth of Uppsala University. An analysis of the houses' individual masonry blocks is presented in Appendix 2 by Barbara Bellelli Marchesini. Appendix 3 presents the results of analyses on early mortar recovered at the site, by Marie Klingspor Rostein and Daniel Kwiatkowski. Appendix 4 is a concluding analysis of the roof-tiles from this area by Örjan Wikander. Appendix 5 is a description by architect Angela Bizzarro of the process of architectural documentation of the preserved walls at the site, from the hand-drawn sections by Börje Blomé to the digitization by the team of Tilia & Bizzarro. In the list of drawings, there are some elevations missing; these were never produced and are not important for this publication.

The main text of this publication was written by Carl Nylander. I have added the Preface, the general discussion on excavation areas and stratigraphy (Chapter Three), the Summary (Chapter Fourteen), as well as the organization and lists of illustrations, bibliography, notes and contents.

It should be noted here that the fix point used in this publication is located at a level of 171.17 metres above sea level (= masl); for the exact location, see *Fig. 16a–b*. Measurements of levels and stratigraphies in this book are often given as metres *uf.* = under fix point, or in a lone case, *af.* = above fix point. There is an abundance of these measurements in this publication, but since they have been recorded, we have chosen to keep them, even though they in many cases seem superfluous.

At the end of the volume one finds the 43 complete Borgo drawings by Börje Blomé, Giuseppe Tilia and Angela Bizzarro, listed as *Plates 4–43*. *Plate 1* is an archaeological plan without any letters; *Plate 2* is the well-known photographic montage by Börje Blomé and *Plate 3* is a reconstruction drawing of the area in Periods 1 and 2 by Richard Holmgren. Finally there are two *Fold-out plans*; the first is the general plan that contains all the names of houses, rooms, walls, canals and niches discussed in this publication; the second is a general plan with indications marked of where the sections and elevations have been taken.

The reader should observe that the drawings present the excavations of Borgo NW in a general north–south extension.<sup>2</sup> Thus, west is (approximately) towards the upper side of the drawing, and north is towards the right. House A is the northernmost structure, Houses B and C are in the centre of the excavations and Houses D, E and F are in the south.

Finally, I thank Brita Alroth and Yvonne Backe-Forsberg, both of Uppsala, as well as Jenni Hjöhlman, the editor of the series, for their valuable assistance in the final editorial work.

## CHRONOLOGICAL CONCORDANCES OF PERIODS AT SAN GIOVENALE

<i>Borgo NW (Nylander)</i>	<i>Borgo NW (Pohl)</i>	<i>Area F East (Karlsson)</i>
Pre-House Period I (down to 675 BC)	Pre-House Period	Period 1
Pre-House Period II (675–late 7th cent.)	Pre-House Period	Period 2
Period 1 (late 7th cent.–575 BC)	Period 1	Period 3
Period 2 (575–550 BC)	Period 1	Period 3
Period 3 (530–c. 400 BC)	Period 2 (530–500 BC)	Period 4
Period 3 (530–c. 400 BC)	Period 3 (5th cent. BC)	Period 4
Period 4 (4th–2nd cent. BC)	not applicable	Period 4 to 275 BC
Period 5 (medieval)	Post-habitation	Period 5

<sup>2</sup> This was probably done because the best view of the excavated area is from the bedrock outcropping in the east. It is also here that the modern visitor's platform was built.