

CHAPTER TWELVE

PERIOD 3—AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

AREA A (Fig. 128)

Niche Ah3

The Ah3 pavement was clearly laid from the south with Drain wall L2 as the point of departure. The blocks, mostly huge and very well cut, are laid closely to it while on the opposite side they make an irregular, partly earth-filled edge against the sloppily built wall A18. In addition, at a certain point the pavement blocks 15–21 are re-oriented with a change of direction.

Measurements of pavement blocks (Fig. 129)

(1) $0.96 \times 0.70 \times 0.24$ m; (2) 0.90×0.60 m; (3) $0.91/0.81 \times 0.65 \times 0.24$ m; (4) 0.87×0.66 m; (5) 0.90×0.65 m; (6) 0.68×0.63 m; (7) 0.93×0.64 m; (8) 0.43×0.57 m; (9) 0.82×0.56 m; (10) 0.63×0.54 m; (11) 0.38×0.54 m; (12) 1×0.66 m; (13) 1×0.66 m; (14) 0.42×0.64 m; (15) $0.65 \times 0.20/0.26$ m; (16) $0.89 \times 0.60/76 \times 0.18$ m; (17) $0.76 \times 0.60/0.77$ m; (18) $0.82/0.76 \times 1.20/1.13$ m; (19) $0.30 \times 0.38 \times 0.29$ m; (20) $0.69 \times 0.40 \times 0.28$ m; (21) $0.22 \times 0.45 \times 0.30$ m (the third measurement on some blocks refers to the thickness). The huge block 18 clearly had a particular function as indicated by a canal-like cutting in a north–south direction. In front of blocks 18–21 there was apparently a narrow gap and then a further row of four stones, one as part of wall A18 and the other three less carefully shaped.

Niche Ag (Figs. 130–131)

The carefully built, niche-like construction Ag looks like a smaller version of Ah, limited on three sides by low walls, some 0.50–0.60 m high, and open at the front, towards the west. The six blocks of its pavement rest on the fill in the former room Ac at a level *uf.* 1.67 m and its upper, pavement level is on *uf.* 1.27 m. It is built against the pre-existing walls A11 and A9, and a ledge, *c.* 0.03 m high and 0.12–0.15 m wide, along its northern side indicates the former existence of thin, vertical slabs constituting its demarcation against the north and niche Ak. Such thin, vertical slabs are still preserved on the eastern and southern sides leaning against walls A9 and A11.

Measurements of pavement blocks

(1) 0.85×0.45 m; (2) 0.85×0.45 m; (3) 0.85×0.45 m; (4) $0.80 \times 0.44 \times 0.37$ m; (5) $0.80 \times 0.49 \times 0.37$ m; (6) $0.83 \times 0.45 \times 0.37$ m (the third measurement on some blocks refers to the thickness). Side walls: thin, vertical slabs of varying lengths: 0.20, 0.36, 0.40, 0.55 and 0.80 m, *c.* 0.57 m high and 0.11–0.14 m wide.

Niche Ak

This construction, connected/related with Ag and with a clear hearth function, was built in the extension of the former wall A10 of room Ac and rests partly on some fill, partly on the rising tufa rock. It now consists of two pavement-like blocks; there is some indication, however, that there may have been two more blocks in front of the present ones. Its upper, pavement level is identical with that of Ag (*uf.* 1.26/1.27 m) and the two were, quite obviously, related, using the vertical slabs of Ag as a joint demarcation. At the back, towards east, it leans, in part, on the rock-cut wall A9 of the former room Ac and, in part, of the now blocked entrance to rock niche Af behind it to the east.

Hearth construction Ak presently consists of only two blocks: (1) $0.96 \times 0.45 \times 0.20$ m; (2) (fragmentary) $0.96 \times 0.45 \times 0.20$ m. On its upper surface there was a hearth consisting of broken tiles and big fragments of broken *dolia*.

AREA C

For the reconstruction of House C, Well P1 and reorganizations in Area I, see discussion under these headings in Chapter Eight. For the construction of the new higher building K, see Chapter Nine. Well P2 was never fully excavated.

LANE K

Walls K2-K3-K4 belong to a post-earthquake reconstruction of House B/C. For a description of the K walls, see Chapter Nine.

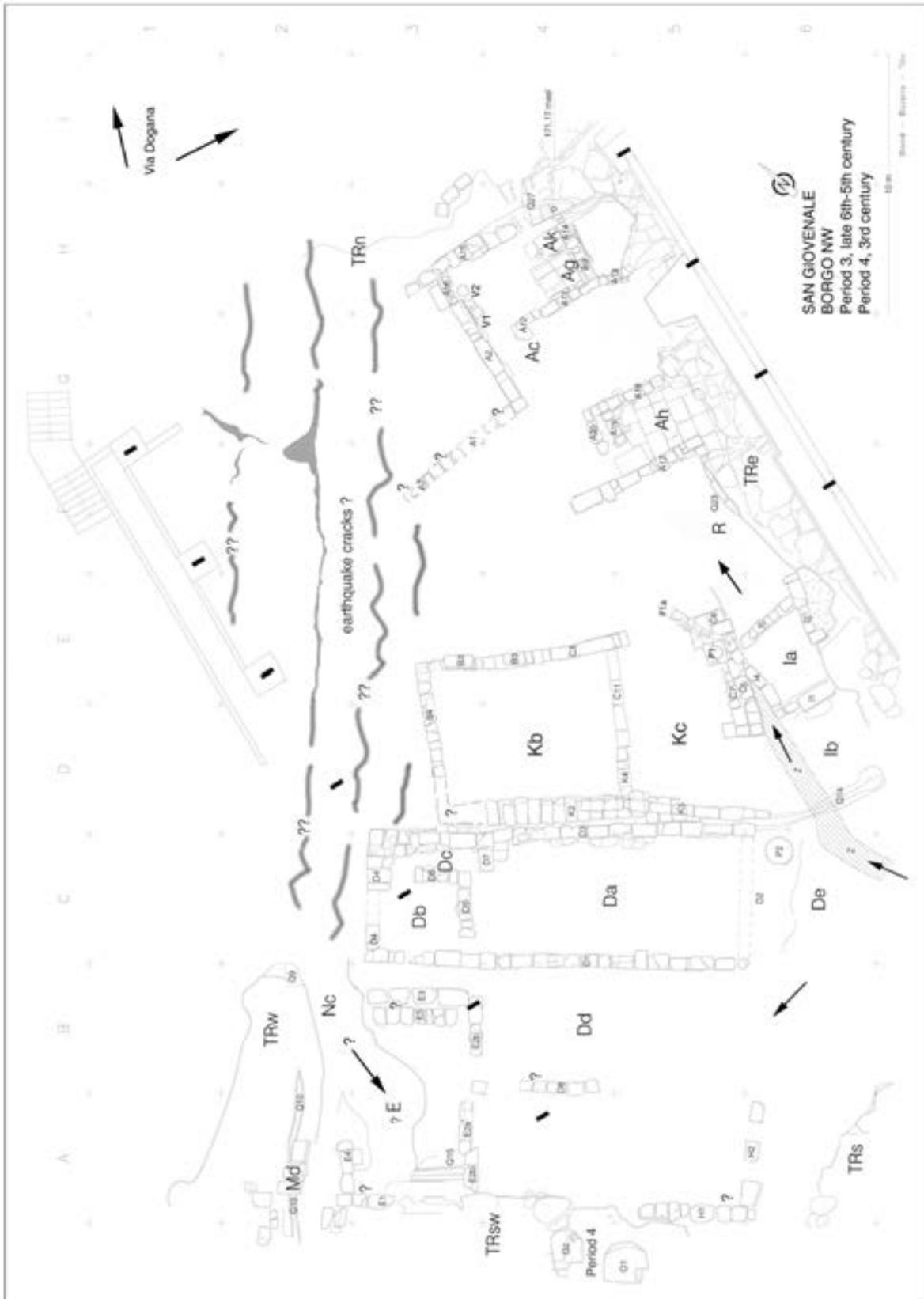


Fig. 128. Plan of Periods 3 and 4.

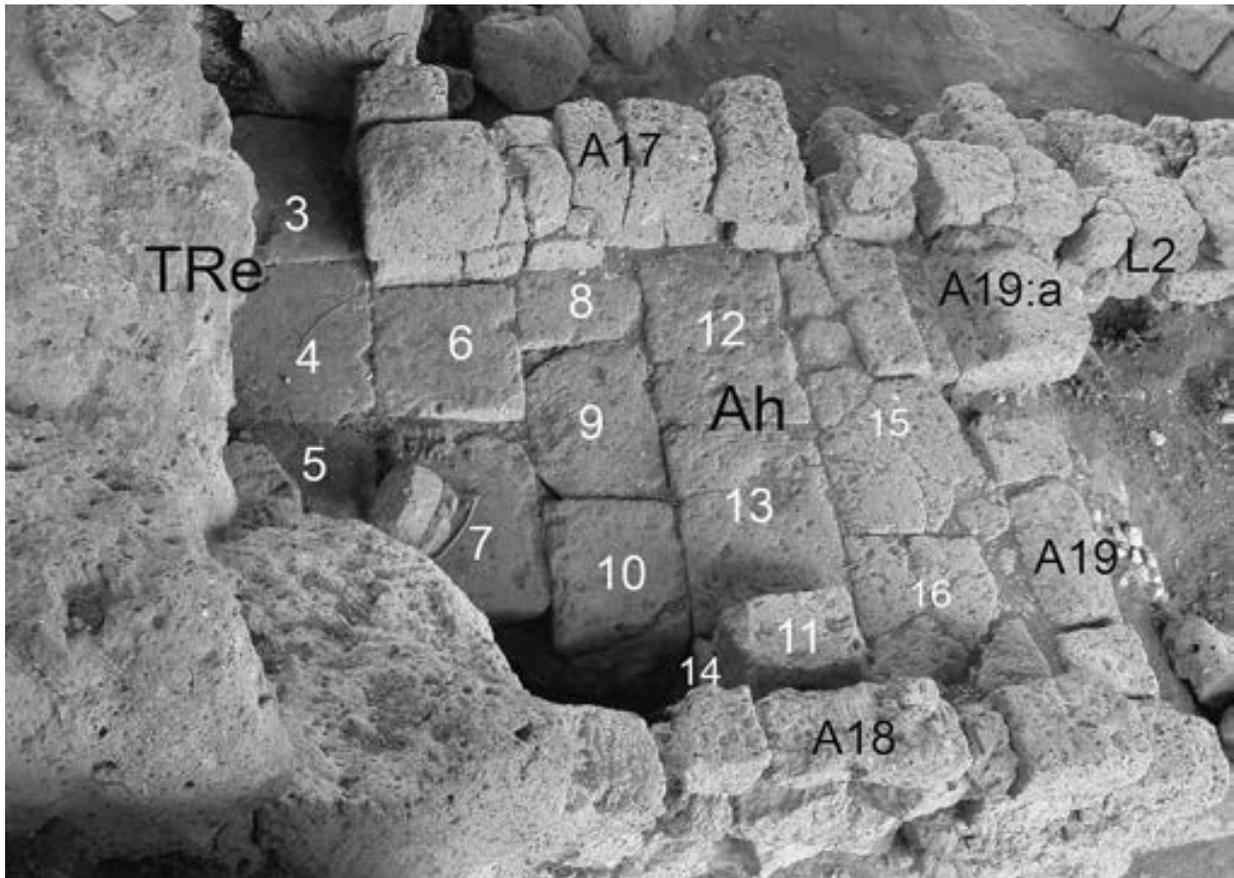


Fig. 129. Niche Ah3 with new pavement blocks from the north.

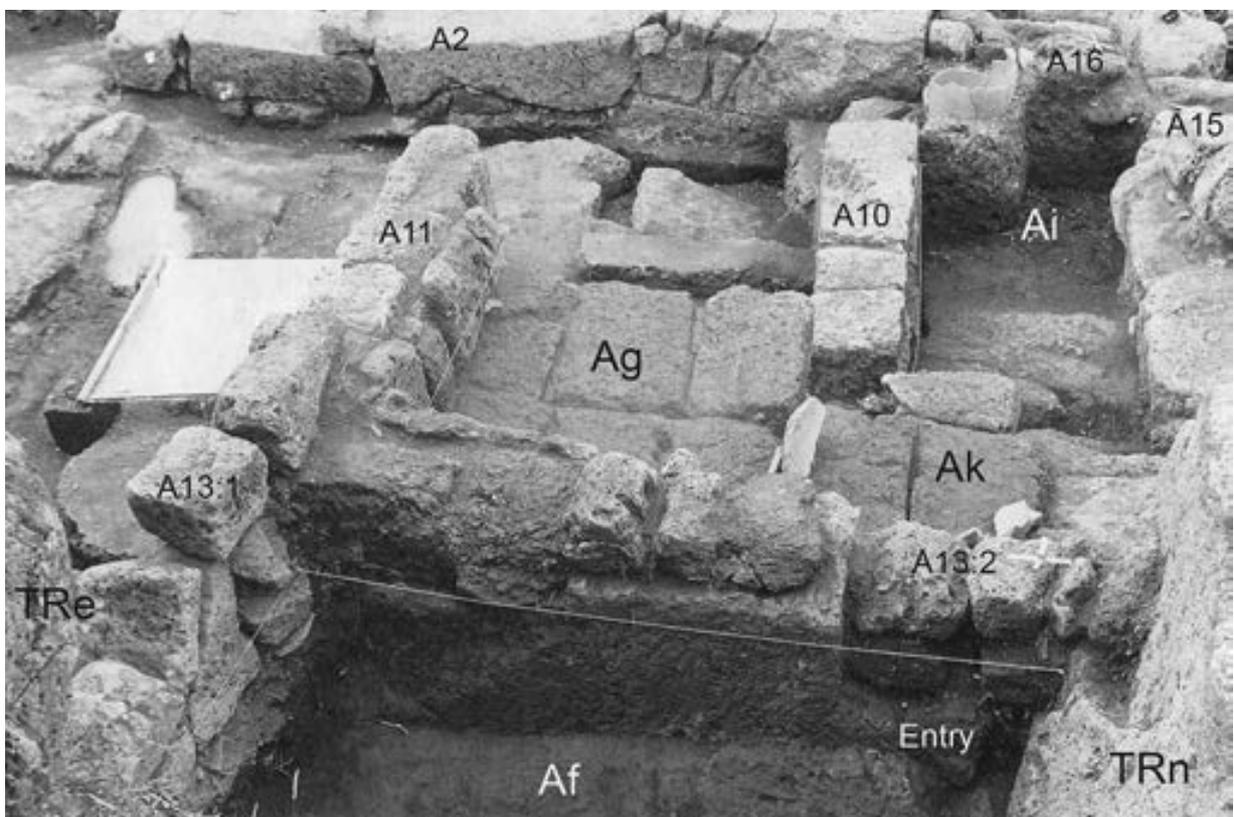


Fig. 130. Niches Ag and Ak from the east.

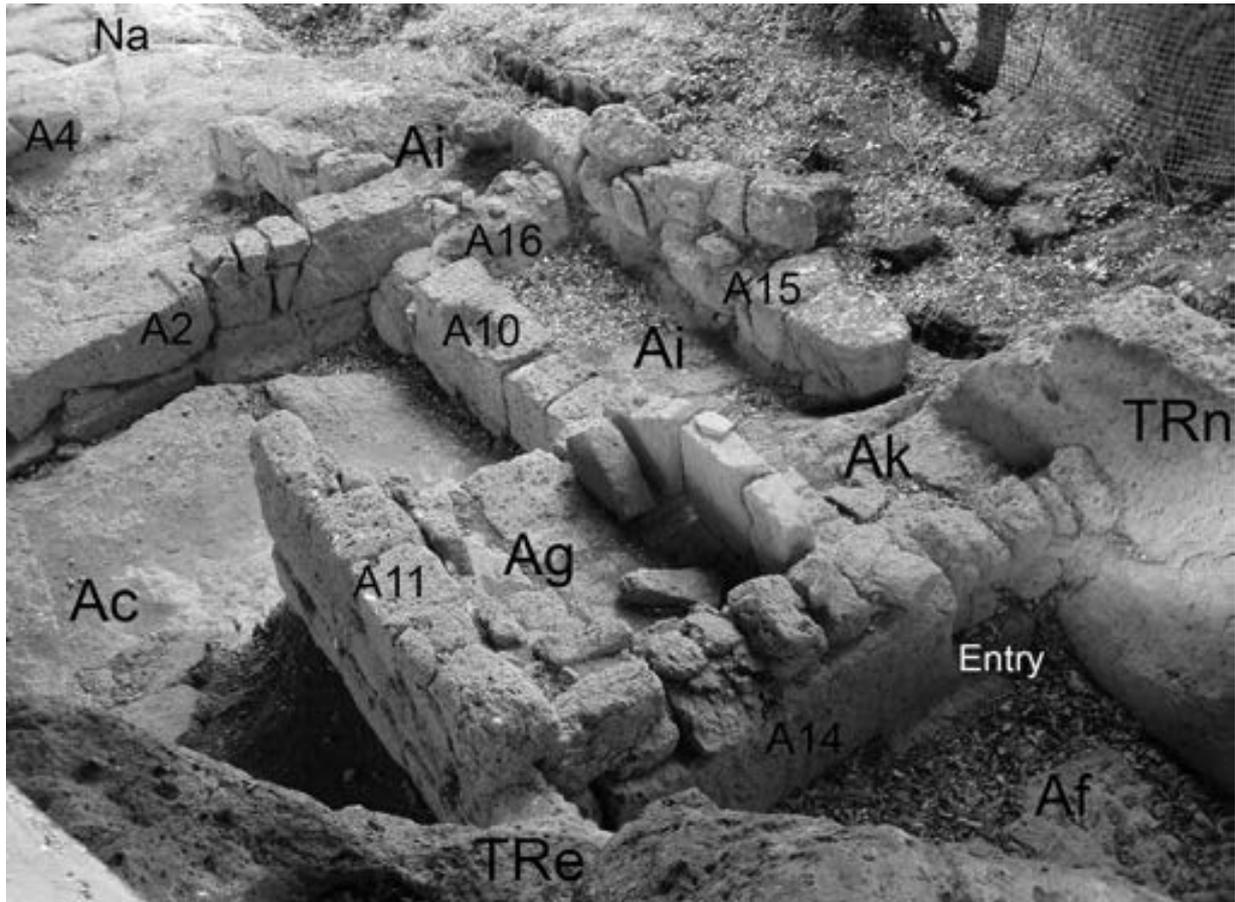


Fig. 131. Work area Ac and niches Ag-Af-Ak from the south-east.



Fig. 132. One-metre thick fill and new walls at House C after the earthquake. (a) tufa rock; (b) floor stratum; (c) fill; (d) late wall C11-K4-K2; (e) modern earth surface; Well P1. Photograph by B. Blomé.

CONCLUSION

In the north-western part of the area (Ad/Na) erosion, denudation, stone robbing and, to some extent, archaeologists have obliterated most of the traces of this phase in the history of Area A. This, however, is compensated for by the interesting and well-preserved remains found in the eastern part close to the rock TRe. Such remains are, above all, the very impressive final stage of niche Ah and the two similar but smaller niches Ag and Ak, all most probably used in the activities of a metallurgical workshop. The level of courtyard Ad in front of niche Ah was made higher to coincide, roughly, with the floor level of Ah, partly by means

of a kind of “fill” or rough level of rather densely arranged huge tufa blocks, some shaped, others not, and partly by earth, *tufetti*, tiles and many sherds (*Fig. 132*). The level thus constituted will have served as the Period 3 Floor or, rather, working surface in the Ad-area. Its upper levels (*uf.* 1.56 m and, further down, *uf.* 1.88 m) are also traceable outside the entrance of room Aa but have disappeared further down the slope towards the west.

The study of the pottery seems to indicate that the duration of life and activity in the area, as in the rest of Borgo NW and on the Borgo as a whole, ended some time towards the end of the 5th century BC.