

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

# SUMMARY

by

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The excavations in the north-west slope of the Borgo NW area in San Giovenale were initiated by Axel Boëthius, Erik Berggren and Birgitta Tamm in 1957–1958. During the years 1961–1963 and in 1965, Carl Nylander was responsible for the work 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 2002–2004) (see *Figs. 30–31*).

### PRE-HOUSE PERIOD I (late 8th century to about 675 BC)

The earliest remains in the excavation area are the cuttings in the bedrock for wooden palisades and post-holes. The earliest palisade canal, Q1, is also the deepest one (see *Figs. 41–43*). It is 12 m long and goes under House B and Drain L. It indicated that the earliest settlement did not include the northernmost corner of the excavation area. It is likely that this canal is associated with the bedrock cuttings for an oval Hut (Q21. See *Figs. 48–49* and *50–51*), similar to the oval huts on the Acropolis. Other possible hut canals can be seen under the south wall of House D. The earliest pottery found at the site is Burnished Impasto ware of a type that has been dated to the 8th century in the other excavation areas of San Giovenale. It is uncertain whether this palisade goes back to the Protovillanovan period.

### PRE-HOUSE PERIOD II (c. 675 to the late 7th century BC)

In this period the palisade was extended to include the tip of the northern bedrock outcropping, including the canal sections Q5–Q8 (see *Figs. 36, 44* and *63*). It is likely that the bedrock cuttings for a square building, House F (see *Figs. 48* and *50–51*), belong in this period, contemporary with the rectangular House I in Area F East on the Acropolis. House F measured 7.70 × 5.40 m. The cistern Q12, located to the south of House F belongs in this period, as well as *Cantina* G, located only 3.12 m from the house. *Cantina* G measures about 4.10 × 2.40 m and has a depth of about 0.70–1.10 m. Canal Q11, cutting diagonally through House D, is

a water channel possibly from this period (see *Fig. 41*). The level of House F contained no *Bucchero*, but several fragments of pottery from the middle of the 7th century: *Bucchero* Impasto and Etrusco-Corinthian sherds.

### THE GREAT FILL PROJECT (late 7th century BC) (see *Figs. 60* and *62*)

The Great Fill Project describes the work of shaping the bedrock and filling up levels for the masonry houses of Period I. A large amount of bedrock was cut away in the areas Ah-Ae-Af-Area R to create a level about three metres below the level of the Borgo *Spina*. At the same time, a new masonry terrace wall to contain the filling was created along the western and northern sides of the area. This terrace wall is called Ma-Me and it was placed right above the palisade canal from Pre-House Period II (see *Figs. 64–65*). This indicates that also the new masonry wall functioned as a defensive wall. The main support for this interpretation is the fact that both the wall and the canal continues up on the higher levels of the Borgo bedrock in the west. This was confirmed through excavations in 1999 along the edges of the Borgo bedrock plateau: the masonry/terrace wall Ma-Me continues uninterruptedly up along the edges of the Borgo. Setting beds for the blocks of the wall can be seen in areas where the wall has disappeared (in the north, at walls Ma-Mb; see *Fig. 35*). Wall Ma-Me is built with ashlar blocks laid as alternating rows of headers and rows of stretchers in the technique called *la maniera romana* by G. Lugli. The width of the wall is thus one block, c. 1–1.10 m. A small gate in the wall has been proposed below Lane K, although no trace of it is visible today.

In connection with the construction of walls M, a new drain had to be built through the area. It is called Drain L and was probably covered with blocks (see *Figs. 71–72*). The drain is 13 m long. At the lower level of the area several large substructures were built for the upper houses. Drain L stands on the foundation N1 and House D stands on the foundation walls D3/D4, described in detail in Chapter Six.

Three soil layers, called Fills A, B and C could be traced in the lower levels of Borgo NW. Fill A is the lowest. It is a dense and compact mass of clayish earth with almost no stones. It has a maximum thickness of 0.70 m. The excavator believed it had a floor-like surface, sometimes called “Floor 0”. The pottery

included a Buccheroid Impasto spiral amphora, a Faliscanizing *amphoriskos* and Fine Bucchero. Fill B consisted of a greyish-white soil and was found only in a few places in courtyard Ad and contained no finds. Fill C has a varying thickness with a maximum of 0.65 m and is a darker brown stratum with many *tuffetti*. It contained much pottery such as Ordinary Bucchero as well as a few roof-tile fragments. The date of the latest fill C underlying the architecture of the Borgo Building Programme of Period 1 was suggested in Chapter Six to be “in the late part of the 7th century BC.”

## PERIOD 1 (late 7th century to 575 BC) (see Fig. 66)

The Borgo Building Programme consists of three main building areas named after the largest houses in those areas, starting from the north (Houses A, B/C and D/E). However, there are many other structures surrounding those houses.

House A was laid out in the east–west slope and measures 12 × 4.83 m. It consists of three rooms, Aa, Ab and work area Ac (see Fig. 80). The house stands on the three fillings, Fills A–B–C. South of the house, there is yard Ad and to the north, between room Aa and the terrace/fortification wall Ma, there is a small passage Ai. Room Aa is the best preserved space. The walls surrounding this room measure (on the inside): 3.57 m (wall A1), 3.90 m (wall A2), 3.85 m (wall A3) and 4.15 m (wall A4), giving the room a free space of *c.* 15 m<sup>2</sup>. The walls are preserved in two courses. The door opening in wall A1 of room Aa has a width of about 0.90 m. Room Ab is not bonded to the house. Work area Ac covers 21 m<sup>2</sup>. The work area for metalwork contains niches Af and Ah1, as well as cistern Ae. Niche Ah had a width of 5 m, a depth of 1.30–1.50 m and a height of 1.90–2 m. The niche has a pavement which measures 5 × 3.2 m (16 m<sup>2</sup>, see Fig. 93). Cistern Ae measures 2.5 × 0.85–1 m and has a depth of 1.10 m and could probably contain about 2,500 litres of water (see Fig. 91). This area was changed after the earthquake, in Period 3.

House B measures 12.5 m in length and 4.53 m in width (at wall B2). It has three original rooms Ba, Bb and Bc (later room Ca, see Fig. 101). There was a large yard Be (later divided into two: Bc–Cc). Room Ba is the best preserved room and covers 14 m<sup>2</sup>. The surrounding walls stand up to two metres in four courses. The interior measurements are 4.10 m (wall B1) × 3.59 m (wall B2) × 4.10 m (wall B3) × 3.62 m (wall B4).<sup>228</sup> The door opening in wall B3 measures *c.* 0.90 m. The small room Bb covers a space of 7 m<sup>2</sup> and measures internally about 3.58 m (wall B4) × 1.95 m (wall B7). Room Bc (later Ca) measures internally 3.62 m (wall B2) × 4.60 m (wall C1). House B was divided in Period 2 into two separate buildings, House B and House C.

Lane K is an irregularly sloping, *c.* 15 m long passage between Houses B/C and House D. Its width diminishes from 2.70 m at wall C2 to 2.20 m at the bottom. It is built along the drainage canal Q14 and probably ended in a small gate in the terrace/fortification wall Mc (the wall here is destroyed).

House D measures about 14.4 × 5.20–5.57 m (see Fig. 121). It is built on the flattest part of the Borgo NW; the area slopes about 1.60 m from the south-east to the north-west and covers the early cuttings for the oval Hut of Pre-House Period I and the rectangular House F of Pre-House Period II. House D consists of

two rooms Da and Db surrounded by walls D1, D3, D4, while wall D2 can be traced through setting beds. The house had the same shape in all three periods. Room Db has an inner width of 4.10 m (along wall D5) and a length of 3.70 m (along wall D3). In the bedrock below the eastern part of room Da there are traces of a small quarry of ashlar blocks. The blocks still *in situ* measure about 1.60 × 0.57 m.

Well P2 is located just east of wall D2. It was never fully excavated.

House E is connected to passage Nc which probably ran down to a possible small gate in line with Lane K (see Fig. 121). The bedrock here is very soft and *pozzolana*-like and the area is not good for housing. It was suggested that House E functioned as a small gate house, controlling the passage Nc, which ran immediately inside the terrace/fortification wall Mc. The badly preserved walls of House E were built with stretchers only. House E measures approximately 6.30 × 5 m.

## PERIOD 2 (575 to *c.* 530 BC)

House B consists of rooms Ba and Bd from Period 1 and a new yard Bc. The measurements of rooms Ba and Bb were given under Period 1. Room Bc of Period 1 becomes Ca when a House C is added to the east side of House B (see Fig. 119).

House C consists of rooms Ca (earlier Bd), Cb and yard Cc (which takes a part from the old yard Bd of House B). Room Ca measures internally 4.60 m (wall C1) × 3.62 m (wall B2), and room Cb measures 4.30 m (wall C2) × 1.73 m (wall C4). Yard Cc measures 6.40 m (wall C3) × 2.68 m.

Well P1 is 9.80 m deep and could possibly belong in Period 3.

At Lane K, walls K1–K3 were probably built to support a walking level of the lane along the north side of the drain in connection with the construction of House C.

Area I (measuring about 5 × 3 m) and Area R (about 6 m long) are located next to the bedrock in the east. Together they were originally an open area that provided access to the lower-lying parts of the Borgo NW (walls added in Period 3).

## THE EARTHQUAKE

Sometime between 550 and 530 BC San Giovenale seems to have been hit by an earthquake. There are several signs of this in the Borgo excavations. A number of cracks in the walls continue down into the bedrock surface in a north-east–south-west direction (see Figs. 123–128). Four of these major fractures are described in Chapter Eleven. Perhaps as a result of these, the Borgo NW area received a new major fill, raising the floor level of the houses. In this fill under House C was found pottery and a number of chunks of mudbrick-like clay and tiles, some of them fairly well preserved. The latest date of the pottery in this fill is about 530 BC.<sup>229</sup>

<sup>228</sup> The exterior measurements are: 4.90 m (wall B1) × 4.50 m (wall B2) × 4.90 m (wall B3) × 4.50 m (wall B4).

<sup>229</sup> This date can be compared to the suggested date, *c.* 525 BC, for the destruction of the Etruscan city at Acquarossa, the other Swedish archaeological excavation site north of Viterbo. Acquarossa was not rebuilt after this destruction; see *Architettura etrusca* 1986, 32.

### PERIOD 3 (c. 530 to c. 400 BC) (Fig. 128)

Due to its exposed position in the slope, nothing can be traced of any rebuilding of House A after the earthquake (except wall A2). At the rock face in the east, however, niches Ag, Ah and Ak show several signs of rebuilding. Obviously, the working of metal was resumed. The level of yard Ad was raised to coincide with the level of niche Ah, in line with the floor of Period 3. The pavement of niche Ah3 is built with large blocks towards wall L2. Niche Ag is a new construction built in the earlier room Ac against the pre-existing walls A11 and A9. Niche Ak is related to niche Ag, built in line with and above the earlier wall A10. Its upper level is identical to that of niche Ag.

House B was partly rebuilt and is now called House K. The now large Room Kb consists of the earlier rooms Ba and Ca. The new wall C11 from Period 2 forms together with wall K4 the new dividing wall of the house. Room Kc is the earlier room Cb. The earlier level of House C was thus raised and a new dividing wall C11 was built in room Ca.

In Area I, walls were built to contain the raised fill of the post-earthquake activities. The two small spaces built, Ia and Ib, were bordered by badly preserved walls (walls I1–I5). In Area R, wall R1 was built with the same function.

Houses D and E seem also to have been restored. The date of the pottery in these levels is believed to extend as far as about 400 BC.

### PERIODS 4 (4th–2nd centuries BC) AND 5 (medieval)

Except for the approximate date of the two burials discovered at rock TRe (see Fig. 134), as suggested by the grave gift of a simple, monochrome little jug roughly datable to the late 5th to the early 6th centuries AD, little can be said about the appearance of the Borgo NW in these periods. *Pestaruole* and cellars took the place of the buildings that previously had occupied the *Spina*.

