

CHAPTER FIVE

PRE-HOUSE PERIOD II

(about 675 to the late 7th century BC)

In the 1960s, it was considered that San Giovenale changed dramatically from a rural, village-like, “hut-phase”, to a more or less sudden dynamic “proto-urban phase” of orthogonal stone houses with fired-tile roofs.⁶³ Axel Boëthius, the first excavator of Borgo NW, spoke on several occasions about the “revolutionary urban centres in Italic life”. In the view of some Swedish classical archaeologists in the 1950s and early 60s, such a transformation was seen as the result of the “arrival of the Etruscans” to San Giovenale. However, research on the Archaic houses in Area F East on the Acropolis, as well as the analysis of the Borgo NW evidence, tended to complicate this old, possibly too simplistic understanding. The Archaic Borgo NW buildings of the late 7th century BC had a preceding, modest building phase of House F, quite some time before the beginning of that “great enterprise”.⁶⁴

HOUSE F (Figs. 50–51)

House F was the successor to the Hut and was built on the bedrock (on stratum 4 and existing into stratum 3). It was placed in the very same area and also had the same location as the Hut: half of the building was set on the eastern rock-cliff, and half on earth in the north-west. It has been possible to establish the house’s rectangular dimensions. The exterior measured 7.70 × 5.40 m, and the interior 6.70 × 4.40 m. In the south, there is a rock-cut ledge, roughly 0.45 m in width and ending in cutting Q20, which is also 0.45 m wide. The ledge is a setting-bed for the blocks of the south wall and the cuttings in the eastern and northern sides of the rock allow the house’s walls to be placed in these. The entrance was most probably towards the west. Further cuttings in the rising rock in the east indicate the existence of further blocks, now missing. One tufa block (0.48 × 0.43 × 0.30 m), roughly aligned with these cuttings, may possibly constitute the north-eastern corner of House F, indicating that part of the back of the house may have extended some 1.10 m backwards,

⁶³ This was also the theme for an international symposium held at the Swedish and Norwegian Institutes in Rome in 1997, see *From huts to houses* 2001.

⁶⁴ This situation at the Borgo is very similar to Area F East on the Acropolis, where House I had a “rectangular hut-phase”, preceding the Archaic building phase, see Karlsson 2001 and *San Giovenale* IV:1.

towards the east, thus creating a recess into the rock of about 2.30 × 1.10 m.

House F was built in the lower part with traditional blocks measuring 1.5 feet, i.e. 0.45 m. Only a few fragments of roof-tile were found in the house area. Inside the house’s eastern there part was a slightly higher ledge, 4.40 × 1.40 × 0.13–0.16 m, cut with great care, close to the rising rock. It was cut with picks with a width of c. 5 cm. In the north-east corner of the ledge was a shallow cutting with a width of 5 cm. It made a quarter of a circle with a radius of 0.85 m and inside it there was a roughly circular depression, which no doubt was a fireplace (Figs. 48, 50, marked no. 1). A compact, grey-white clayish floor fill (stratum 4, c. 0.20–0.30 m thick) with some red traces of fire remained on the ledge’s bedrock. Two medium-sized fragments of a *dolium*, with a rim diameter of 0.25–0.30 m, soot-blackened on the inside, were still standing in the clay floor on the ledge and close to the east wall of the house when it was excavated in 1963. Pieces of this *dolium* were found also in the soil strata (strata 3 and 2)

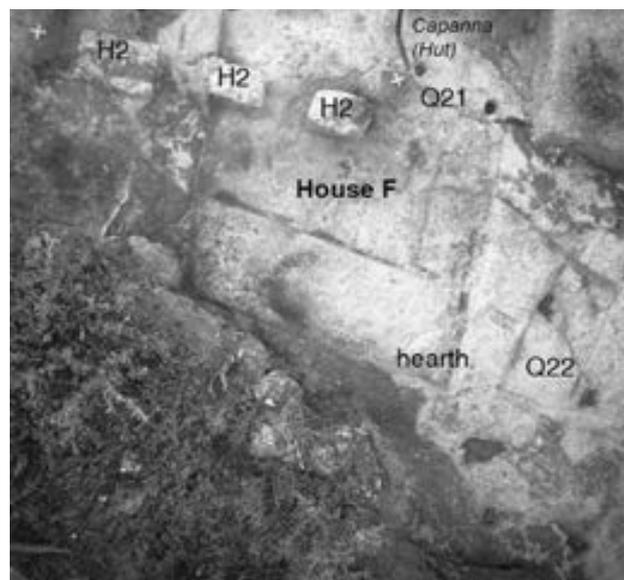


Fig. 51. The recess in the bedrock for House F and cuttings for oval Hut Q21.

above. There were also indications of a slightly higher, second floor level, at 0.05–0.08 m above the clay floor.

Close to the northern wall of House F, there is a shallow rectangular area Q22, measuring $0.85 \times 1.43 \times 1.05 \times 1.70$ m, and cut rather sloppily with a pick with a very rough surface. It was first thought to be a small quarry for a block. However, the shallowness of the cutting and the absence of the characteristic quarry canals, surrounding extracted blocks, made such an interpretation impossible. The cutting remains unexplained.

A date in the early or middle of the 7th century for House F seems to be indicated by the amount of early material in the deepest strata and by the complete lack of *Bucchero* among the some 130 sherds documented in and on the floor fill of the house.⁶⁵

CANTINA G (Figs. 52–54)

In the rock of the south-western area, there is a somewhat irregular cellar, called *Cantina G*, which in 1962 was excavated by King Gustaf VI Adolf and his assistants. In 1963, Lars Gezelius made a stratigraphic re-excavation.

The cellar was cut into the tufa rock to a depth ranging from 1.10 m at G1 to some 0.70 m at G2, 0.40 m at G3 and 0.50 m at G4. It has a north–south length of 4.10 m and an irregular east–west width of *c.* 2.40 m (rock floor at *uf.* 0.84–0.95 m = 170.23–170.34 masl). In its south wall and in the rock floor there are seven protruding, roughly circular, upwards tapering supports (with a diameter of 0.10–0.15 m and height of 0.25–0.30 m), constructed for two or three big *dolia*. At least another four such supports were built of less well-worked stones on the floor fill, in order to support another two or three big containers. This must indicate a need for increased storage facility, which would explain why the second row of supports was not cut out of the rock, but instead used loose stones on the floor. Many coarse *dolia* fragments, mostly of Red-slip ware, were found in the lowest strata. Some of these belong to big containers with estimated rim diameters of 0.50 m or more. The *Cantina* was excavated in four squares (3–4–6–7). It is interesting to note that squares 3 and 4, covering the area of the *dolia*-supports, produced 14 fragments of big *dolia*, but only four were found in the more distant squares 6 and 7. The *Cantina* may never have been more than a roofed shed without real walls, as indicated by at least one substantial post-hole in the G3 tufa ground.

STRATIGRAPHY AND FINDS

Initially, some of the squares were excavated irrespective of stratigraphy and according to conventional depth measurements: 0–10, 10–30, 30–60, 60–90 and 90–140 cm. In others, the apparent stratification was followed more closely, even though some of the strata observed in one square were not found everywhere. There is thus some difficulty in coordinating the notes and observations on the different squares and in correlating strata and finds. However, among the 13 strata noted in the stratigraphic pil-

lar in 1963, there were four floor levels, at times only partly preserved but observed also in other squares. Even though it is not always possible today to assign precisely the Find groups to the different floors, there is enough information to, at least broadly, follow the general stratigraphic ceramic sequence as recorded, with the following succession of the four floors (= strata 3, 6, 9 and 12–13):

Stratum 1 was a surface soil. Finds: *Bucchero* (5), Red-slip ware (6), roof-tile fragments.⁶⁶

Stratum 2 consisted of *tufetti*, earth and some clay. Finds: Kitchen ware (1), *dolia* (1).⁶⁷

Stratum 3 = Floor 4 (*uf.* 0.08–0.13 m) had a thickness of *c.* 5–10 cm, with rather closely-packed, flattish, *tufetti*-stones and hard clay. Finds: Etrusco-Corinthian (2), *Bucchero* (2), Various slipped ware (2), Kitchen ware (1).⁶⁸

Stratum 4 consisted of clayish earth and *tufetti*.

Stratum 5 was a thin, hard stratum with small stones and clay. Find groups roughly the same as for stratum 6 (= Floor 3).

Stratum 6 = Floor 3 (*uf.* 0.22–0.27 m) had a thickness of *c.* 5 cm, with *tufetti* and hard clay, partly very red (traces of burning?), with a thin layer of whitish clay on top. The finds reported here also contain materials from strata 4 and 5. Finds: Etrusco-Corinthian (8), Uncertain painted ware (1). Brown Impasto (2), *Bucchero* Impasto (2), *Bucchero* (18), Red-slip wares (36), Late Italo-Geometric (3), Kitchen ware (19), *dolia* (8), tiles (8).⁶⁹

Stratum 7 consisted of a sterile, clayish, yellowish earth with much small *tufetti*.

Stratum 8 consisted of about 5 cm thick, grey earth.

Stratum 9 = Floor 2 (*uf.* 0.41–0.50 m) had a thickness of *c.* 3–5 cm, and consisted of a yellowish, hard clay and *tufetti*, again with thin, whitish clay on top. Finds on floor: Etrusco-Corinthian (3), *Bucchero* Impasto (2), Red-slip wares (10), Kitchen ware (3).⁷⁰ Finds on a slightly higher level: Etrusco-Corinthian (11), Fine Various Coloured Advanced Impasto (1), *Bucchero* Impasto (2) *Bucchero* (10), Red-slip wares (18), Kitchen ware (15), *dolia* (2), roof-tiles (5).⁷¹

⁶⁵ *San Giovenale* V:2, 132–137, cat. nos. 1–127: Italo-Geometric (2), Brown Impasto (12) Faliscan Impasto (3) *Bucchero* Impasto (21) Fine variously coloured Impasto (1) Red-slip ware (30) Internal Red-slip ware (13) Internal Burnished Red-slip ware (1) Buff-slip ware (5) Kitchen ware (36) *dolia* (3).

⁶⁶ Find groups 62-140 and 62-153a and 153b; *San Giovenale* V:2, 154–167, cat. nos. 500, 503, 506, 516, 592, 788, 829, 967, 1011, 1045 and 1047.

⁶⁷ Find group 62-153b; *San Giovenale* V:2, 176, 182, cat. nos. 1260 and 1562.

⁶⁸ Find groups 62-141; with materials also from stratum 2: 62-153b; *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–176, cat. nos. 46, 152, 328, 519, 1117, 1123 and 1259.

⁶⁹ Find groups 62-142, 62-142a & 142b and 62-153c; see above n. 58.

⁷⁰ Find groups 62-143, 62-143a/b; *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–179, cat. nos. 38, 102, 105, 308, 312, 687, 704, 763, 764, 871, 964, 994, 1079, 1085, 1145, 1326, 1427 and 1480.

⁷¹ Find groups 62-144, 62-153d; *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–187, cat. nos. 43, 58, 99, 106, 111, 138, 141, 142, 143, 148, 149, 185, 271, 272, 428, 461, 476, 480, 544, 545, 582, 583, 596, 597, 660, 661, 712, 734, 782, 819, 896, 911, 916, 995, 999, 1014, 1056, 1065, 1092, 1094, 1147, 1150, 1266, 1277, 1315, 1347, 1356, 1399, 1413, 1455, 1460, 1464, 1485, 1489, 1526, 1536, 1548, 1586, 1628, 1695, 1708, 1714, 1728 and 1737.



Fig. 53. The excavation of *Cantina G* in 1962. Photograph by B. Blomé.

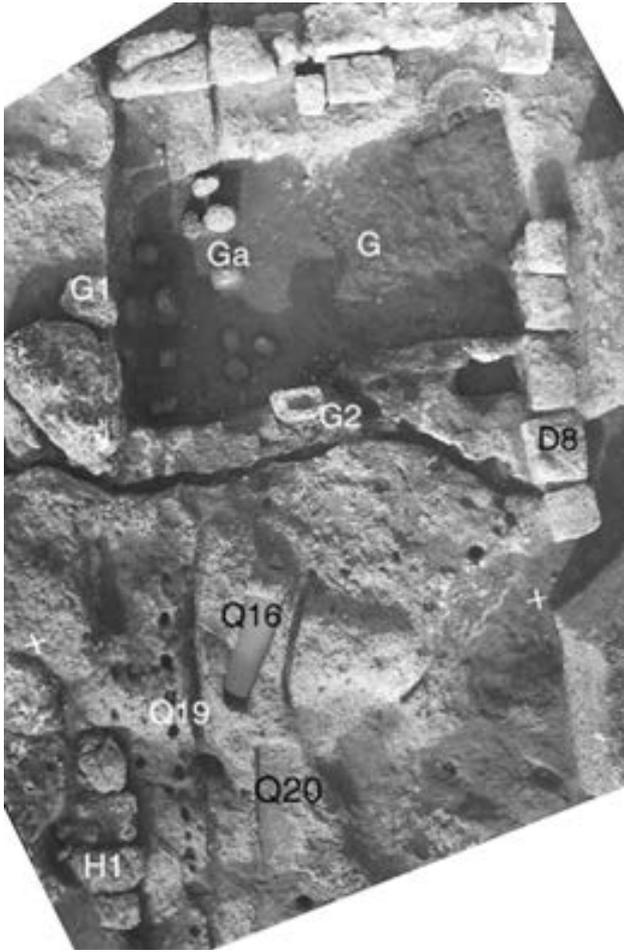


Fig. 54. *Cantina G* with stone supports *Ga* and fence cuttings *Q19*. Photograph by B. Blomé.

Strata 10 & 11 contained darkish earth, *tuffetti* and bits of (burned?) clay. *Strata 10–13* were a mixed group underneath stratum 9, Floor 2.⁷²

Strata 12–13 = Floor 1 (*uf.* 0.85–0.90 m) had a thickness of 5–10 cm, with *tuffetti* and black earth on bedrock with rock-cut and loose stone supports for *dolia*. Find groups 62-146 & 62-150 (= c), about 100 sherds. Context a: Etrusco-Corinthian (2), Fine Impasto (1), Brown Impasto (3), Buccheroid Impasto (1), Bucchero (3), Red-slip wares (13), Kitchen ware (4), *dolia* (4).⁷³ Context b: Fine Impasto (2), Brown Impasto (2), Buccheroid Impasto (1), Red-slip wares (2), Kitchen ware (5), *dolia* (7).⁷⁴ Context c: Brown Impasto (1), Red-slip wares (3), Kitchen ware (3), *dolia* (11).⁷⁵

The stratigraphy of 12/13 strata and four floors, the four walls and the ceramic evidence indicate that, in its first “cellar phase”, the *Cantina* (*uf.* 0.84–0.95 m = 170.23–170.34 masl) was, no doubt, contemporary with House F, located only 3.20 m away.

⁷² Strata 10/11: Find groups 62-145 and 62-147 and strata 10–12: Find group 62-153e; *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–184.5

⁷³ Find groups 62-145 and 62-147; *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–183, cat. nos. 44, 95, 179, 200, 207, 225, 257, 466, 470, 560, 646, 662, 688, 711, 759, 820, 896, 916, 989, 1006, 1035, 1076, 1100, 1190, 1196, 1227, 1540, 1573, 1574, 1619 and 1623.

⁷⁴ Find groups 62-153e and others (strata 10-13 mixed); *San Giovenale* V:2, 146–184, cat. nos. 173, 180, 207, 218, 285, 854, 1144, 1232, 1301, 1398, 1412, 1456, 1591, 1592, 1595, 1599, 1626, 1630 and 1636.

⁷⁵ Find groups 62-153e and others (strata 10–13 mixed); *San Giovenale* V:2, 149–183, cat. nos. 229, 685, 733, 890, 1281, 1360, 1414, 1579, 1585, 1591, 1594, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1618, 1620, 1628 and 1629.