

- Kay, S., Alapont, L., Albiach, R., Ceccarelli, L. and Panzieri, C. (2016) Pompeii: Porta Nola Necropolis Project (Comune di Pompei, Provincia di Napoli, Regione Campania). *Papers of the British School at Rome* 84: 325–9.
- Spano, G. (1910) Scavi fuori Porta di Nola. *Notizie degli Scavi di Antichità*: 385–99.

STEPHEN KAY, LLORENÇ ALAPONT MARTIN AND ROSA ALBIACH
(*British School at Rome; Ilustre Colegio Oficial de Doctores y Licenciados en Letras y Ciencias de Valencia y Castellon, Departamento de Arqueología; Museu Valencia de la Il·lustració i de la Modernitat, MuVIM, Diputació de Valencia*)
s.kay@bsrome.it; llor.alapont@gmail.com; rosa.albiach@dival.es

SANGRO VALLEY PROJECT: REPORT ON THE 2016 EXCAVATIONS AT ACQUACHIARA AND SAN GIOVANNI DI TORNARECCIO (PROVINCIA DI CHIETI, REGIONE ABRUZZO)

doi: 10.1017/S0068246217000332

The Sangro Valley Project (1994–; www.sangro.org) aims to explore through a range of interlinked disciplinary pathways the interaction between humans and their environment in the Sangro river valley, in the Abruzzo region of central Adriatic Italy, between 1000 BC and AD 300. In 2016 excavations were conducted in two different locations — Acquachiara and San Giovanni — on the southern slopes of Monte Pallano.

ACQUACHIARA

ACQ T11000

In 2016 ACQ T11000 (2014–) was reopened with the aim of exploring the relationship of the new walls and structures revealed in 2015.

Work in the central portion of ACQ T11000 continued to clarify the phasing of a series of monumental terrace and retaining walls located on the south side of the site. These walls would have been visible from the ancient road in the valley below, where the Atessa torso, a funerary sculpture similar in type to the Capestrano warrior, was found. The necropolis in which it was displayed has yet to be located, but it was not far away from the site of Acquachiara.

Excavations in 2016 proved that Structure C is associated with the latest phase of the site (fifth century BC). Its northwest–southeast orientation is suggestive — in the Archaic Abruzzo, this orientation is most often associated with tombs and temples.

The 2016 season also saw the completion of excavations of a hut, first discovered in 2015, containing the remains of an oven and grinding-stones. A cache of unprocessed cereal grains was discovered on the edge of this structure in 2015. Known parallels for similar huts in central Italy are mainly of eighth-century BC date, but the ceramic vessels, including fine-ware painted kylikes, and the loom weight found on the floor of the hut all date to the sixth to fifth centuries BC. While the founding of the hut likely pre-dated the construction of the largest extent of the terraced podium, the finds within it suggest that the hut remained in use (possibly changing its role) through the considerable expansion in extent and material expression of the Acquachiara complex over time.

As in 2015, a large number of fragments of fine black-figure skyphoi and kylikes were discovered across the site. While study of these vessels is in a preliminary stage, they have parallels with ones found in funerary contexts in Alfedena and Capua; all may have been imports from Campania or Etruria (Falcone and Ibelli, 2007).

The monumental character of the terracing, the variety and high quality of the ceramics and small finds (including a *bulla* and an inlaid fibula, again with parallels in Alfedena) are suggestive of both sacred and elite usage — such mixed usage could be possible in the Archaic period. One might therefore question whether the site of Acquachiarra might have been an *anaktoron*? Although grander in scale, the *anaktoron* at Torre di Satriano is the best parallel to date for the overall character of the site of Acquachiarra (cf. Osanna and Sica, 2005).

Dating of the complex from the late seventh through the fifth centuries BC is based on a consistent set of carbon samples from the 2005–7, 2014 and 2015 excavations.

SAN GIOVANNI

SG T11000

SG T11000, first explored in 2014 and 2015, was reopened in 2016 to continue the excavation of Bronze Age Structure 2 (Fig. 1). SG T11000 was expanded on the north and south sides in order to determine the eastern extent of the structure. The hillside on which the site of San Giovanni is located has been subjected to periodic, high-energy erosion events, mainly caused by the regular downward movement of water and soil.

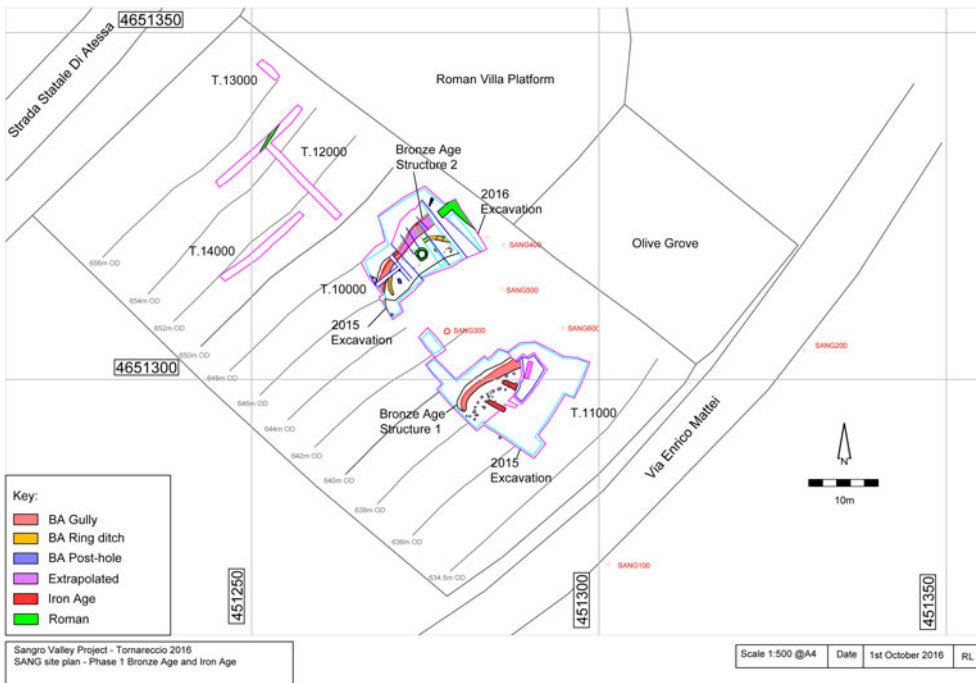


Fig. 1. Plan of San Giovanni.

Excavations in 2016 focused on the removal of the colluvial soils that were deposited directly over the structure by these rapid erosional events. These deposits most likely represent infill events after the structure went out of use, as they contained a series of dumped or washed-in materials that probably came from nearby middens.

The material recovered from these fills is mixed and representative of household refuse, with evidence of burning throughout. There is a large quantity of pottery associated with the preparation and eating of food, as well as the notable discovery of a rare miniature impasto cup (SF 414). The bronze age ceramics from the San Giovanni site are currently under study. Their forms are typologically homogeneous and attributable in style to the end of the Early Bronze–beginning of the Middle Bronze Age, consistent with the 2014 and 2015 C-14 analyses for the site, with parallels to forms of a similar period from other areas of the Adriatic coast and south–central Italy.

Evidence for household industries includes spinning and weaving (spindle-whorls SF 433 and SF 436; loom weight SF 424), bone working, flint knapping (flint arrowhead SF 37; flint scrapers SF 29 and SF 425), butchering (a quantity of burnt, butchered bone fragments), and food preparation (charcoal and burnt seeds). Some pieces of ochre (one piece measuring 50 mm) were also found in these deposits. A fragment of a copper age hammer axe (SF 443) provides evidence for even earlier activity in this area.

Excavations in 2016 ended just above potential *in situ* deposits on the floor of Structure 2, which may provide evidence for the latest occupation levels of the site. About 50% of Structure 2 has now been excavated and its basic external shape and eastern extent can be extrapolated. The remainder of the deposits overlying Structure 2 will be removed in 2017.

Foundation for the platform of a Roman villa

The eastern extent of the 2016 excavations exposed a massive foundation wall and drain that are part of the western edge of a large villa platform belonging to an unexcavated Roman villa previously identified during the 2014 field survey. This Roman platform may have helped to protect Structure 2 from erosion. A double radiate coin (SF 419; diameter 2.5 cm+; weight 3 g) of the Aequitas type belonging to the Emperor Florianus, who ruled for only three months in AD 276, was found in the upper colluvium covering the platform (cf. Dearing, 2007).

Roman cistern

A Roman cistern that cuts through the middle of Structure 2 and that was partly excavated in 2015 was reopened in 2016. Its fill contained layers of building debris, roof tiles, and fragments of coarse- and cooking-wares, as well as some regional fine-wares (Italian *terra sigillata* and black gloss). A sherd of Pompeian internally red-slipped cook-ware, datable to the late second century BC–first century AD, was found in the lowest level of the cistern. The upper levels of the fills contained sherds of colour-coated ware that date from the first to third centuries AD.

To the west of Structure 2, test sondages revealed a number of Roman features (SG T12000, SG T13000, SG T14000) that could belong to outlying structures of the villa. These features had been truncated by modern plough action and hydrological erosion.

The two bronze age structures at the San Giovanni site, of transitional date between the Early Bronze and Middle Bronze Ages, are an important discovery for the southern Abruzzo where few bronze age sites have been identified.

References

Illustrated preliminary reports from all seasons may be found at www.sangro.org.

Dearing, P. (2007) A double radiate of Florian. *The Numismatic Chronicle* 167: 165–9.

Falcone, L. and Ibelli, V. (2007) *Ceramica campana a figure nere. Tipologia, sistema decorativo, organizzazione delle botteghe*. Pisa/Rome, Fabrizio Serra Editore.

Osanna, M. and Sica, M. (2005) (eds) *Torre di Satriano I. Il santuario lucano*. Venosa, Osanna Edizione.

SUSAN KANE, ALEXIS CHRISTENSEN AND ROSS LANE
(*Department of Art, Oberlin College; Department of Languages and Literature,
University of Utah; Canterbury Archaeological Trust Ltd*)
susan.kane@oberlin.edu; alexis.christensen@utah.edu; ross.lane@canterburytrust.co.uk

EXPLORING THE ROMAN IMPERIAL ESTATE AT VAGNARI, PUGLIA (COMUNE DI GRAVINA IN PUGLIA, PROVINCIA DI BARI, REGIONE PUGLIA)

doi: 10.1017/S0068246217000344

EXCAVATIONS IN THE VICUS

Excavations by the University of Sheffield in the central village (*vicus*) of the Roman imperial estate at Vagnari continued in the summer of 2016. Since 2012, excavations have shed light on the economy of the emperor's estate, demonstrating that a wide range of cereal crops were grown and processed here, and that specialist industries included iron-working, lead processing and tile-making, with a peak in production in the second century AD. The 2015 excavations revealed the first evidence for wine-making at Vagnari. Testament to this was a wine fermentation and storage room (*cella vinaria*) of the late first and second centuries AD in which very large ceramic wine vats (*dolia defossa*) were fixed in the ground (Fig. 1).

Trenches were opened in 2016 to investigate an area adjacent to and east of the winery, and they shed important light on the early phases of settlement activity at Vagnari. The most exciting new discovery was a partially excavated building with storage facilities that pre-date anything found thus far in the Roman *vicus*. The pottery, loom weights, ceramic oil lamps and iron implements that were retrieved in a reused storage shaft here can be dated to the Hellenistic period, to the second century BC at the latest. This structure was reused and enlarged for the very first Roman building in the early first century AD, almost certainly when the land became an imperial possession. This new structural and artefactual evidence enables us now to address a range of crucial questions regarding the nature of human activity, changes in population and site use in the centuries following the Roman conquest of Apulia.

The new imperial building complex of the early first century AD was a relatively high-status structure, with floor coverings of white and grey marble slabs. Several very large panes of window-glass retrieved here also suggest a well-appointed structure. Some of the stone walls of this Roman building were preserved, although in places they later had been removed down to the foundations. A bronze coin of Titus, minted in his father's reign in AD 74, was found on top of one of the robbed-out walls, indicating