
**QUESITI COLLOQUIO**

**Elenco n. 1:**
1) La stazione totale: uso in archeologia
2) La geofisica per l'archeologia
Accertamento informatico: Ordinare i dati in un foglio Excel
Pompeii special issue

The excavation of the sequence preserved in front of the façade of the Sarno Baths, Pompeii

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1. Introduction and research aim

The research initiated in 2016 by the University of Padova at the Sarno Baths, Pompeii (Regio VIII, Insula 2, nos 17–21) has integrated a wide range of field methodologies in order to reconstruct the history of the large complex, located along the southern border of the vesuvian city.

Previous studies of this building, which was articulated in more than one hundred rooms arranged in six storeys, have been summarized in a recent article paying specific attention to the architectural features of the complex [1]; nonetheless, other aspects concerning the building [2–4] and its context remained unsolved.

The works recently undertaken, which involved some dozens of researchers presenting their reports in this issue, have the purpose of reviewing the past studies and starting a new systematic research, approaching with fresh perspectives topics which had not been already addressed for the Sarno Baths. Among the main tasks of this new project, a special consideration was given to the determination of the urban and natural framework in which the building was inserted, in order to fully understand its relations with the surrounding dwellings and especially with the little-known spaces outside the ancient city.

Using the data collected in one campaign of field research, this paper aims to reconstruct the layout of the spaces located immediately beyond the southern city walls and to discuss the relationship between this area, used today as an open garden nearby the southern entrance to the archaeological site (Fig. 1), and the Sarno Baths. This liminal area has so far received little attention in scientific studies and its environmental and archaeological features were substantially unknown. However, some specific hypotheses about its condition in antiquity had been proposed and needed a discussion and a direct verification. In particular, some research considered as possible the presence, in this sector, of a basin, which would have hosted a small port connected with the sanctuary of Venus; alternatively, the existence of a branch of the Sarno river, flowing along the city walls from NE to SW, has been proposed [5], but other scholars have sharply refused both these reconstructions [6,7].

To test these hypotheses, the morphology and nature of the area in the very proximity of the building has been investigated through the excavation of a trench, while the outer area (about 20–100 m) has been investigated through a series of mechanical cores. The details analysis of the cores allows to consider as highly unlikely the presence, in this suburban area, of a port basin nor of a branch of the Sarno river. Instead, beyond the tight strip of land close to the city boundary, the area was marked by the presence of a humid and unsafe terrain, which was periodically inundated and whose global extension cannot be precisely defined so far [8].

In this paper, we focus on the morphology, use and final burial, as a consequence of the 79 AD eruption, of the land strip located immediately outside the Sarno Baths, within a range of about 20–22 m from the façade of the building. The lack of substantial helpful archive documentation, led us to directly schedule preliminary topographical and geophysical surveys [9]. On the basis of the
Elenco n. 2:
1) Il matrix di Harris
2) I droni in archeologia
Accertamento informatico: creare una tabella in un documento Word
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