Here we have at last the final and complete publication of the important San Rocco Villa between the ager Calenus and the ager Falernus in northern Campania. The excavation itself dates back to more than twenty years ago, led by von Blanckenhagen, Ward-Perkins and Aylwin Cotton. The Villa with its numerous phases up to at least the 3rd century A.D. offers some fine archaeological material, in particular mosaics.

The publication is divided into eleven chapters, the first seven written by Métraux (pp. 1—128: the site, the different periods of the villa, mosaic and pavement catalog). Chapters VIII—XI are by Aylwin Cotton and various authors. They deal with the specific finds, pottery, assemblies of material and their dating (pp. 129—263). A detailed bibliography, an index and numerous plates, not to mention the illustrative figures in the text, complete this bulky work, though it is unfortunate that aerial photography from a balloon was not used in those days. All the same, the publication undoubtedly gives one a positive impression.

I do, however, feel that something very essential would demand a partial re-examination, and that is the dating problem of the Period I villa. Unfortunately, Métraux does not hesitate to base his datings of some structures/mosaics on various studies of Morricone Matini, well enough done for their part, but nowadays hopelessly out-of-date. I would dare to suggest that the earliest pavements and mosaics belong to the second half of the 2nd century B.C., as recently proved by important parallel finds at Fregellae (so far unpublished). Furthermore, a socio-historical analysis unfortunately seems to be lacking.

Overall this work is interesting, precise and solid, though it should be studied quite critically, particularly some datings.

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