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The countryside around Rome is currently experiencing a very lively research period. Many
excavations and surveys provide new archaeological information on old and new sites, and
even literary sources concerning the area have been reanalyzed. One of the most important
types of ancient monuments found in the area is definitively the Roman villa, which has been
documented in great numbers since the Renaissance period. We are getting close to the point
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in her catalogue of one hundred excavated villas found inside the borders of the modern city of
Rome also tried to create a synthesis of the data she presents. She has a history of writing
catalogues concerning Roman villas (Villa Adriana: mosaici, pavimenti, edifici from 1991, see
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HISTRIA): catalogo e carta archeologica dell'insediamento romano nel territorio, dall'età
repubblicana al tardo impero from 1999). Thus, she is an expert in collecting and organizing
data, which is also evident in the volume at hand, which has better organized, referenced and
indexed information than is usually available in publications of this kind.
The book has been divided into three major parts. The first part contains the catalogue
of the villas and it covers a little over half of the whole. The second consists of ca. 45 pages
of short, analytical and synthetic chapters drawing some conclusions on various aspects of
the villas. The third deals more or less with the same matters as the second part as it provides
the indices for various materials and finds as lists – not in prose text as in the previous part.
The book ends with a large section of colour plates reproducing the ground plans with
various aspects (e.g., presence of cisterns, water channels, porticoes, building phases)
highlighted in color. The catalogue part is naturally equipped with a great number of
photographs, drawings and maps. The locations of the villas have been presented only on a
1:80,000 scale map attached to the volume.
The aim of the book has been defined as the reconstruction of the typology and
evolution of the villa in the territory of Rome (p. xiii). In order to achieve this aim, MDF has
selected one hundred sites based on two criteria: location inside the modern city of Rome and
existence of a sufficiently detailed ground plan. MDF considers the fairly limited number of
such sites as a sufficient sample of all types of villas found in the area, but does not argue her
case statistically. Additionally, the completely artificial limitation of the research area has
little to do with the realities of ancient villeggiatura. She does not comment on the total
numbers of known sites and the state of research in the area except to lament the poor state of
excavation and documentation. This is a pity, as she has had to plough through a great deal of
literature and archival material, and would have thus been in a perfect position to comment
on the possible needs for further research. She could also have drawn conclusions on the
formation processes of the sites, the way in which the material has come about, having read
through a great quantity of excavation reports. These kinds of insights would have added
greatly to our knowledge and understanding of the archaeology of this important area. The
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The catalogued villas are presented in a consistent manner – one of the strengths of
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and date. This is followed by a description of the building techniques, installations connected
to water, baths and agricultural production, decorative elements and finds. Then the text
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and structure of the whole site. Each entry finishes with a bibliography. The plans are, in
general, reproductions of published ones with a minority of original plans. The maps seem to
have been scanned and partially treated with some kind of computer-aided drawing program.
Some of the scenes are quite smudgy and difficult to read and the situation is not helped by
MDF's overlaid highlights by particularly in the black and white text section. The situation is
better in the color plates. Most of the plans have been printed with north towards the top of
the page, but there is also plenty of variation to this, which sometimes makes connecting
plans to each other a bit difficult. The photos rarely contain any kind of information on
direction and sometimes lack references to room numbers. Bibliographical data also show
some gaps, particularly when it comes to integrating survey data with the excavated finds.
MDF has not always bothered to check the survey records – which almost invariably exist at
least in the eastern part of her research area (e.g., sites 17 and 33, among others). Despite
these shortcomings, the general quality of the text is mostly better than in the original
evacuation reports due to the author's insight based on her wider view of the data set.
What I would have perhaps wished to see in the descriptions is a more accurate
system of indicating location. The way this data is given in the current Italian system is by
using place names derived from roads, houses, farm names, etc. The exact location is
indicated by distance along the road, by house/plot numbers and sometimes by direction and
distance from major buildings. These are all unsatisfactory, as all can change and be
forgotten. I would think that the hundreds of archaeological and epigraphical pieces found in
soltanto nel 1940; tuttavia i risultati delle indagini eseguite non furono mai resi noti. 
L’autrice offre nel volumetto, dopo l’introduzione, un Catalogo dei reperti, tra cui una 
trattazione della Tabula Rapinensis (Vetter 218), seguito da qualche conclusione relativa al 
contesto storico. Auguriamo alla collana un buon proseguimento. 

Heikki Solin

MARGHERITA CATUCCI – LORENA JANNELLI – LUCIA SANESI MASTROCINQUE: Il deposito 
vottivo dell’acropoli di Cuma. Corpus delle stipi votive in Italia 16, Regio I, 2 = 

Un ulteriore volume della collana delle stipi votive. I materiali analizzati nel presente lavoro 
appartengono a un deposito votivo scoperto a Cuma nel 1911 durante indagini archeologiche 
condotte sulla terrazza inferiore dell’acropoli, rimaste inedite e pubblicate ora nel presente 
volume. All’introduzione segue il Catalogo, a cura di tutte e tre le autrici; il libro finisce con 
considerazioni sulla topografia dell’area sacra e sulla tipologia del culto dalla mano di 
Jannelli. 

Heikki Solin

MARINA DE FRANCESCHINI: Ville dell’Agro Romano. Monografie della Carta dell’Agro 
b/n, 70 ill. col., tav. f.t., 1 pianta b/n. EUR 300.

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excavations and surveys provide new archaeological information on old and new sites, and 
even literary sources concerning the area have been reanalyzed. One of the most important 
types of ancient monuments found in the area is definitively the Roman villa, which has been 
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De novis libris iudicia 265
vigna this or that, whose location has already been unknown for centuries would have raised a need for more accurate ways of indicating location. Now, if the general location map attached to the volume disappears, the only way to locate the sites is to find another copy of the book with the map still included or to remake the map oneself by finding and using the original publication or other documentation of each villa. This also applies to all the basic archaeological survey publications, e.g., the Forma Italiae series. One answer to the dilemma could be the use of national grid coordinates derived from the Istituto Geografico Militare’s topographical plans. These would also be an independent means of checking the location information in addition to the verbal descriptions. The volume at hand features sites such as, e.g., the Villa della Cecchignola (Nr. 84) which was excavated in the 1930s and the exact location of which is quite uncertain. It should also be noted that the sites Nr. 56 and 85 are inaccurately placed in MDF’s general map; Nr. 85 is actually Villa dei Centroni (Nr. 56) and Villa di Casal Morena (Nr. 85) is located south of it. This is by far the most serious mistake in the locations of the villas.

The second part of the book features the synthetic and statistical part. As mentioned earlier, MDF does not discuss the statistics for the whole settlement archaeology of the Roman countryside and so the representativeness of her sample remains unknown. The Forma Italiae and Latium Vetus series cover most of her research area and even territories outside the city of Rome. If areas included in both MDF’s book and in the survey reports are considered, ca. 1000 sites that can be classified as villas are known and this figure excludes all aree di frammenti fittili (scatterings of tile and pottery), which are also potential settlement sites. Slightly more than half of the sites listed by MDF are from that particular area, which would mean that they represent ca. 5-6 % of the known sites. When certain classes of material are discussed, comparative figures would have also been quite informative. For example, MDF cites productive spaces or installations for ca. 80 % of her sites whereas the same figure is ca. 10 % or slightly higher when all settlement sites are included. Considering the amount of space she uses to discuss villa economies in the synthetic section (ca. 8 pages), it might have been a good idea to consider the representative sites of the sample more carefully. Excavated material is, of course, more detailed and informative than most survey materials, but it would also be very important to compare it to the known survey material. Distribution maps and a simple table with figures of the different features might have also been more efficient in illustrating the material than the many lists she produces in notes and in the Repertorio section.

MDF’s insights, particularly concerning the development of the building types and their various parts, are very worthwhile and they will be important for future research. Her lengthy economic synthesis mostly repeats what has been said by others. The book will certainly be an important reference volume for many years to come, but I feel that many of the conclusions presented need to be considered as working hypotheses to be tested with more representative materials. The corpus of excavated and published villas from the surroundings of Rome is much larger than the one hundred sites featured here and their number increases all the time.

Eeva-Maria Vitanen


Il primo fascicolo comprende un dettagliato resoconto delle ricerche condotte nel territorio delle antiche Cubulteria e Caiatia, a cura di G. Celetti (per Cubulteria) e G. Renda (per Caiatia); secondo il modello della Forma Italiae. A fine libro D. Nomis ripubblica in modo più corretto una lamina di bronzo opistografo del III secolo a. C. ritrovata in località Cacciapaglia ad Alvignano, importante quale testimonianza dell’adozione nel III secolo del latino in questo comprensorio. I ricchi materiali raccolti da Cera e Renda contribuiscono in modo notevole alla ricerca storica di questo distretto sannita-campano. Nelle schede anche l’apporto dei documenti epigrafici viene rilevato in modo adeguato. – Due formalità: p. 108 nt. 249 scrivi CIL X 533* invece di 533 (Mommesen ritenne falsa l’iscrizione, che invece sembrerebbe genuina). – p. 222 nt. 653 HVG., non igc. – Per le iscrizioni, Renda cita correttamente solo Solin, mentre omette spesso CIL.

Il secondo fascicolo non comprende un’analisi dettagliata di tutto il territorio dei comuni in questione, ma consiste in due saggi: Fr. Guandalini, Il territorio ad ovest di Capua, e R. Benassi – S. Prisco, La necropoli capuana di IV e III sec. a.c. Nella prima parte è offerto un simile resoconto della zona occidentale del territorio dell’antica Capua, simile a quello presentato nel fascicolo precedente che sarà di grande utilità per ulteriori ricerche nel campo della storia campana (anche i ritrovamenti epigrafici sono stati trattati in modo adeguato, es. p. 46). Aspettano la pubblicazione di altri fascicoli che investano zone non ancora incluse in queste minuziose ricerche.

Heikki Solin


Con la presente riedizione (non si tratta di una mera ristampa: il testo è inalterato, ma stampato di nuovo e provvisto di una nuova impaginazione) Umberto Pappalardo ha reso un gran servizio ai cultori della storia degli studi antiquari campani. La classica Descrizione del Fiorelli uscì nel 1875. Nonostante la sua età è ancora oggi utilissima. Dobbiamo veramente essere grati alla Casa Editrice e all’autore per questa iniziativa. Porto un esempio concreto per illustrare la sua importanza ancora oggi. Nella bottega VII 6, 35 Fiorelli 438 (= 160 della riedizione) ci presenta un larario "a guisa di edicola addossato alla parete, con un solo serpente e l’ara in rilievo di stucco, presso cui è graffito MARS". Prima di questa