

likanischen Zeit, der allein das Werk gewidmet ist, der Voturia gehörten. Desgleichen kennen wir Duoviri nur aus der Kaiserzeit, womit nicht gesagt werden soll, dass Antium früher keine Duoviri gehabt hätte. – Das Meiste, was in der Behandlung der vorrömischen Phase gesagt wird, gehört in die Zeit nach 338; und muss man sich wirklich damit abfinden, dass "unbekannt ist wo die Bürgerkolonie lag". – Die Küstenstraße, die spätere via Severiana, lief möglicherweise näher der Küstenlinie, wenn der von Lanciani bei Arco Muto gesehene Meilenstein von Antoninus Pius, wie das Fragment wohl zu deuten ist, von dort stammt. – Zur Hafensituation sei hinzugefügt, dass auch in Astura sich ein Hafen befand, der wohl nicht ganz bedeutungslos war. – Zur Literatur noch *Atlante storico-ambientale. Anzio e Nettuno*, a cura di G. Caneva e C. M. Travaglini, Roma 2003.

Zu Ardea, das 422 latinische Kolonie wurde (das als Alternative präsentierte Datum von 434 beruht auf einem Missverständnis): die Zeugnisse des Duovirats sind aus der Kaiserzeit und besagen nichts zum Titel der obersten Beamten der latinischen Kolonie. Und Verf. meint, mit Hinweis auf Kornemanns Kolonieartikel in *RE*, dass Ardea in sullanischer Zeit erneut Kolonie geworden sei; aber dieser beruft sich unvorsichtig auf Mommsens bekannten Hermes-Aufsatz von 1883, während Mommsen sich vorsichtig ausdrückt (in der Einleitung zu Ardea in *CIL X* sagt er kein Sterbenswörtchen von einer sullanischen Kolonie) und hätte besser Ardea nicht für eine sullanische Kolonie genommen, denn die Zeugnisse des kolonialen Status sind spät, aus dem 2./ 3. Jh., außer *CIL X 6766*, welche Inschrift etwas früher ist, vom Ende 1. / Anfang 2. Jh. (die Angabe des *Lib. col. imp. Hadrianus censuit* ist ohne Gewähr). – Das große Werk *Ardea. Il deposito votivo di Casarinaccio*, a cura di F. Di Mario (2005) und die Monographie von Di Mario, *Ardea, la terra dei Rutuli tra mito e archeologia alle radici della romanità* (2007) konnten wohl nicht mehr herangezogen werden.

Velitrae: Erwähnung hätten verdient die Meddices der Tabula Veliterna aus dem 3. Jh. v. Chr. Dass die Scaptia die hauptsächliche Tribus der Einwohner von Velitrae gewesen sein soll, bleibt offen (s. z. B. *Le tribù romane* [2010] 77. 175).

Einige Kleinigkeiten. Da Verf. bestrebt ist, lateinische Formen von Städtenamen zu gebrauchen, sollte sie auch Circeii statt Circei und Tarquinius statt Tarquinia (215) schreiben. Vaahtera, nicht Vaathera 220 Anm. 53. Im bibliographischen Verzeichnis fehlt M. Miller, *Befestigungsanlagen in Italien vom 8. bis 3. Jh.* (1995), worauf öfters hingewiesen wird. Ferner vermisste ich den Band *Atti del convegno int. "Nomen Latinum"*, Eutopia 1995, wo einige für das Thema wichtige Beiträge enthalten sind.

Heikki Solin

Geoff W. Adams: *Rome and the Social Role of Élite Villas in its Suburbs*. BAR IS 1760. Archaeopress, Oxford 2008. ISBN 978-1-4073-0249-2. XIV, 153 pp. GBP 30.

In 2006, Geoff W. Adams published his dissertation on suburban villas in Campania and two years later this volume discussing the villas in the suburbs of Rome appeared. The first volume introduced the analytical tools applied also in the second book: the central idea is to analyze the amount of entertainment space in relation to the whole ground area of the villa. The aim is then to draw conclusions on the type of the villa and the intentions of its owner regarding the function of the building. The *villa suburbana* is separated as a particular type of villa,

present in the surroundings of cities and intended to enhance the social status of its owner by affording varying possibilities for entertaining guests. Although the existence of a special *villa suburbana* can be questioned (see, e.g., my review of Adams' 2006 volume in *Arctos* 41 [2007], online [http://pro.tsv.fi/kfy/arctos/reviews/41/Review\\_41\\_\(Viitanen\\_190-194\).pdf](http://pro.tsv.fi/kfy/arctos/reviews/41/Review_41_(Viitanen_190-194).pdf)), the idea of applying the method to the ruins found in the surroundings of Rome, the real *suburbium*, is interesting.

The book is divided into an introduction and six chapters followed by plates featuring the ground plans of all the studied buildings. Chapter 1 introduces the key concepts and briefly discusses the terminology. The following four chapters discuss the villas and they are divided based on typology and topography: the coastal area close to Rome, hinterland of Rome, both private and imperial residences in Rome and, lastly, imperial estates in the *suburbium*. The last chapter contains the conclusions. Like its predecessor, the book would have required better editing – e.g., most of the books referred to in the beginning of Chapter 3 are missing from the bibliography. The methodological criticisms of the 2006 volume on the Campanian villas also apply here and will not be repeated. Instead, the archaeological material will be discussed: it forms the basis for the entire study and problems in its treatment and understanding are significant for the results.

Analysis of use of space requires a lot from the archaeological remains: it would be good to know most of the ground plan of the building as well as something of the decorative elements. Only in very few lucky cases are the contents of the rooms, such as furniture and other artifacts used or stored in it, known. The Campanian villas usually fulfill the two first requirements: the ground plans are well known, the walls survive often even to ceiling height and the decorative apparatus is generally well-documented. In the surroundings of Rome, however, only the ground plan is usually known sufficiently. The walls have often been razed to the ground and the decorative materials have disappeared more or less completely. Even recognizing some of the main elements of Roman architecture, such as the atrium or the peristyle, is often difficult, if not impossible.

Adams has chosen some 40 villas with sufficiently well-known ground plans for his analysis. The selection of villas could have been larger, had Adams studied the publications on the archaeology of the surroundings of Rome slightly better – the work of Thomas Ashby in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is most certainly not the most recent work conducted in the area. Consulting, e.g., Marina De Franceschini's catalogue on one hundred excavated villas in the area of the modern *Comune di Roma (Ville dell'Agro Romano. Monografie della Carta dell'Agro Romano 2, 2005)* would have offered a great deal of new information and a better basis for the study. The comparative material concerning the urban *domus* is also very limited – few private houses have been sufficiently studied in Rome – but the existence of Ostia seems to have been forgotten.

The central task of attribution of entertainment function – although regarded as only "potential" – is based almost solely on the ground plans. The decorative elements are not discussed even when they are available. Moreover, analysis of the six elements for recognizing a *villa suburbana* (p. 19: location at 40 km distance from Rome for access to the city, well-appointed facilities, large domestic features, entertainment rooms, some agricultural aspects, a pleasant view) would have required also a more complete analysis of the building, including topography, decoration and finds. In the end, the analysis is in most cases limited to recognition

of entertainment spaces and calculation of their proportion compared to the whole surface area, and the five other elements have been ignored.

Taking into consideration the location and the topography of the buildings would have benefited the classification of some of the sites. The villa at Anguillara Sabazia (villa 10), for instance, is regarded as an inland coastal villa. It is indeed close to the Lago di Bracciano, but in no way connected to the lake, as it is located several kilometers from the rim of the crater and the lakeshore. In fact, the famous semicircular portico opens southeast, away from the lake, towards the spring of Acqua Claudia, (e.g., online photographs in [http://www.acquaclaudia.it/acqua\\_claudia\\_la\\_villa.php](http://www.acquaclaudia.it/acqua_claudia_la_villa.php)). Its classification as a coastal villa is consequently not very accurate. A closer look at maps would also have revealed that Domitian's vast Albanum in the Alban Hills (villa 38) does face the Lago di Albano, but a sea view discussed is not possible from the buildings shown in Adams' plan as they are all located below the rim of the crater facing the lake.

The importance of taking into consideration the decorative elements is revealed by the analysis of the villa of the Volusii Saturnini at Lucus Feroniae (villa 17). Adams' plans and information on the villa is from the 1970's and 1980's and thus misses all the more recent work on the villa (listed, e.g., in the appropriate entry in De Franceschini 2005, villa 99). The richly decorated areas are concentrated around the small atrium (room 11 in Adams), but the large peristyle west of it is in fact decorated very modestly and regarded as part of the service quarters despite the family *lararium*. Even a quite complete looking ground plan can be deceptive if all the known elements are not taken into consideration.

The most serious problem in Adams' architectural analyses is, however, considering rooms inside villa platforms, *substructiones*, as living quarters. Many of the villas in the surroundings of Rome have been built over one or more artificial platforms thus creating flat surfaces for the actual buildings. In most cases, these platforms have been preserved, but not the actual villas built on them. The ground plans thus feature galleries and rooms inside the perimeter walls of the platform which were most commonly used as storage space and service routes. They are dark apart from possibly some galleries along the perimeter which could have functioned as walking spaces for the owners. The ground plans also often feature vast empty spaces in their central parts, which is probably either an unknown part of the villa or then the hill slope where the villa was built. Adams mentions sometimes that the spaces he is analyzing have been previously determined as substructures, but he chooses to ignore this and confidently assigns entertainment function to the various large spaces encountered in the plan. These include at least villas 19, 26 and 33 as well as the imperial palace of Domus Tiberiana in Rome.

This list of problematic analyses of architecture could be continued with many others. The poor understanding of the archaeological material makes it impossible to evaluate the results – if imaginary attributions of use of space are many times the basis of the statistical analysis, the results cannot be regarded as reliable. This book is a good reminder that thorough groundwork is the solid basis for all research and that understanding one's material is difficult, but necessary for obtaining good results.