

Preliminary Field Report of the 2014 Excavations and Ceramics at the Villa San Marco, Stabiae¹

Taco T. Terpstra and Franca Del Vecchio

The third and final excavation season at Stabiae of the Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art (APAHA) in 2014 intended to reach a better understanding of the architectural development of the Villa San Marco. To that end, two trenches were excavated. The first was located in a small, enclosed garden (viridarium) close to the atrium, suggested to be the Villa's original core. This room is one of only a handful where two different architectural alignments meet (that of the Villa's main part and that of its bathing complex) and where it is possible to excavate without removing mosaic flooring. In the adjacent architecture, signs of restructuring are visible, suggesting alterations to the arrangement of rooms. Those alterations notwithstanding, the results of the excavations showed that little rebuilding had occurred in this part of the Villa, except for a change to a system of drains related to a wall alteration.

The second trench was located just north of the threshold of the Villa's tablinum, where the threshold connects two sections of the Villa that have a different socioeconomic character: an undecorated working sector to the north and a decorated domestic sector to the south. Here as well the trench promised to be rewarding for investigations into architectural development. Together with the atrium, the tablinum is thought to have belonged to the Villa's original construction. A surprise in this trench was that the tablinum foundation did not show signs of Republican-era construction. Another surprise was the discovery of a wide and deep wall, either the outside face of a large, out-of use cistern or the foundation for a demolished loadbearing wall.

The goal of the 2014 excavations by the Advanced Program of Ancient History and Art (APAHA) was to reach a better understanding of the architectural development of the Villa San Marco. To that end, two trenches were excavated in areas of particular interest in that respect (fig. 1). The first was located in room 28, an unroofed, doorless, triangular space functioning as a small garden (*viridarium*) during the Villa's final phase. It is located close to *atrium* 44, suggested to be the Villa's original core². It is also one of only a handful of rooms where two different alignments meet (that of the Villa's main part and that of its bathing complex) and where it is possible to excavate without removing mosaic flooring. Finally, signs of restructuring are visible in the standing architecture. The western wall of room 31 shows a blocked doorway that once gave direct access to room 25, and the intersection of drains in the northern corner of room 28 shows signs of alteration as well.

The second trench was located in room 68 in the area between the threshold of *tablinum* 59 and the southern side of colonnaded open space 67. This area is interesting archaeologically because the threshold connects two sections of the Villa that had a different socioeconomic character: an undecorated working sector

¹ Profs. F. de Angelis and M. Maiuro (APAHA directors) and I thank prof. M. Osanna and dott.sse G. Bonifacio at the *Soprintendenza Pompei* for their support and collaborative efforts. We further thank the staff of the Foundation Restoring Ancient Stabiae (in particular prof. T. Howe and dott. P. Gardelli) for their help with the logistical and practical side of the project. Finally, we thank the Italian Academy at Columbia University and the H2CU consortium (Università di Roma La Sapienza) for their generous sponsoring.

² ROUGETET 1999: 53, 56.

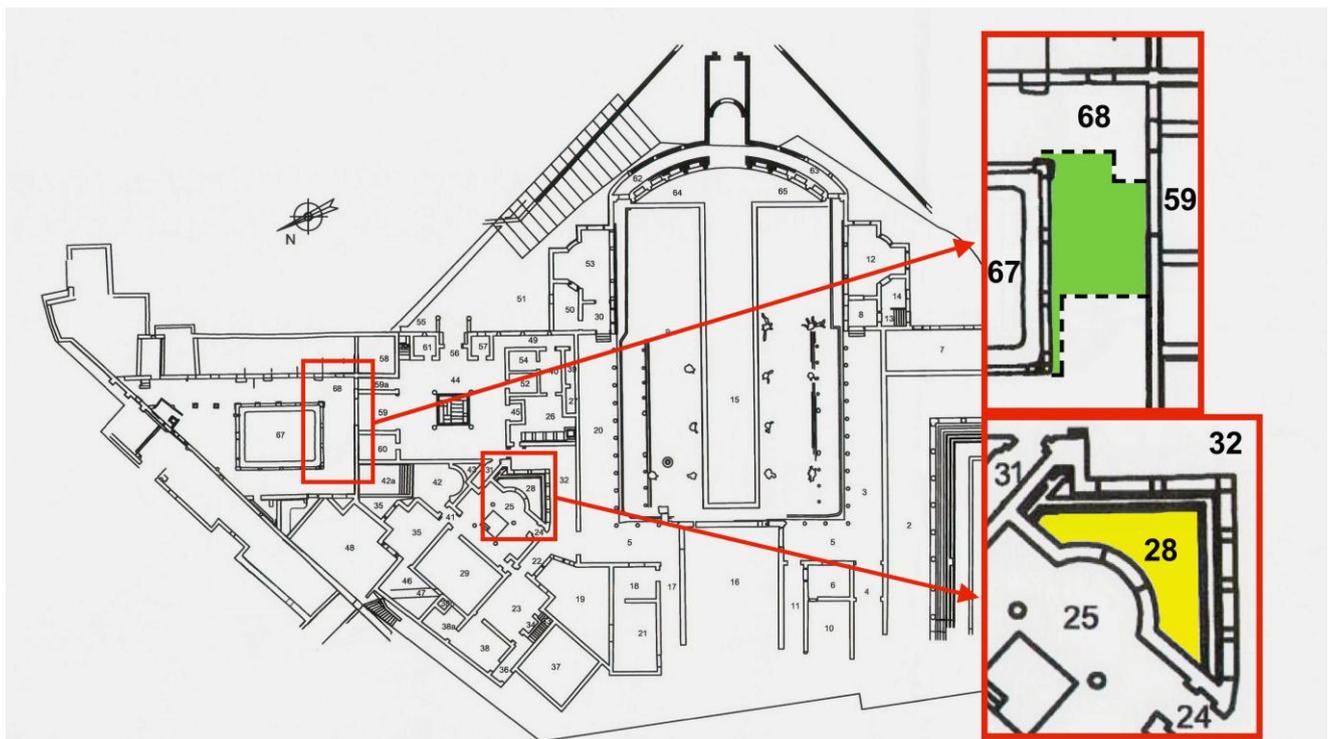


Fig. 1. 2014 APAHA season, extent of trenches in rooms 28 (yellow) and 68 (green).

in room 68 and a domestic sector in rooms 59 and 44³. Here as well the trench promised to be rewarding for investigations into architectural development. Together with *atrium* 44, *tablinum* 59 is thought to have belonged to the Villa's original construction.

Room 28: The *Viridarium*

Before excavation in room 28, two patches of modern concrete were visible on the surface. After removal of a thin layer of topsoil it became apparent that these patches were in fact casts of root cavities, poured at an unknown date following the methodology advanced by Wilhelmina Jashemski. It is all but certain that Jashemski herself did not make these casts, although she did investigate the Villa San Marco's gardens for her 1979 book. About room 28 she wrote: "The little triangular garden could be enjoyed either from the portico that enclosed it on two sides or through the large window in the apsed wall of the *frigidarium* that projected into the garden. The plants painted on the inside of the two enclosing walls of the portico were no doubt intended to suggest a continuation of the actual plantings in the little garden"⁴.

In her diary notes from the late 1960s and early '70s, Jashemski makes no mention of pouring plaster casts at Stabiae, so the ones found in 2014 must be the work of a different team⁵. They either postdate the 1990s or had been forgotten by that time, since Jacques Rougetet in a discussion of the Villa's architecture remarks: "Il faut enfin supposer que les espaces résiduels 19 ... et 28 avaient été plantés, mais on ne dispose d'aucune donnée pour 28"⁶. In any event, the APAHA team made the decision not to excavate the casts fully but to leave them in section, allowing them to be studied in context (fig. 2). This partial excavation left a small island of stratigraphy in the center of the room, which had the added advantage of facilitating access to the trench.

³ For the nature of room 68 as a production area, see TERPSTRA 2013a; 2013b.

⁴ JASHEMSKI 1979: 332. On the paintings in room 28, see MEULEAU, BARBET 1999.

⁵ Jashemski's diaries and field notebooks are held in the archives of the University of Maryland. A word of thanks to Kathryn Gleason for providing me with photocopies and transcriptions of the Stabiae-related sections.

⁶ ROUGETET 1999: 53.



Fig. 2. Eastern section with modern concrete casts of root cavities.



Fig. 3. Eastern section. Natural deposit at bottom, 4th/3rd century BC layer directly above.

Excavations focused on the western and northern corners of the room. The northern corner was brought to the greatest depth, almost 2.8 meters. At that level a sandy, yellow layer was found that did not seem to contain any cultural material (fig. 3). It was similar in color and consistency to the yellow layer encountered during the 2012 season in the trench in the street⁷. Given the absence of ceramics or other artifacts this is likely to be the same alluvial fan that forms the natural geology of the area underneath the Villa San Marco⁸.

On top of the sandy, alluvial soil a layer of thick, dark-gray soil extended up to a height of about one meter, representing the first archaeological phase in room 28. This layer was similar in color and consistency to layers found during the 2011 and '12 seasons⁹. The latter ones were roughly sixth-century BC in date, and that was the expectation for the age of the layer in room 28 as well. However, it turned out to be younger, dating to the fourth or third century BC. All the same, it did contain archaic sherds, confirming the evidence from the previous seasons for sixth-century BC activity in the area. The best explanation for this layer seems to be that it is old farmland, with the cultural material representing surface scatter. Agricultural use would not only account for the scant ceramic finds but also the lack of architectural elements.

The next phase is represented by a layer of about twenty-five cm in thickness consisting of white rounded stones – probably river pebbles – mixed with soil, found in the far northern corner (fig. 4). It continued into the eastern section, as is clearly visible in fig. 3. South of the layer of white stones a circular burn deposit was found, the result of an incidental fire rather than a permanent fire pit or ritual deposit (it contained no votive material) (fig. 4). The layer covering the pebbles and burn deposit had a general late second-century BC signature, providing an *ante quem* horizon for the phase below. The



Fig. 4. Northern corner, layer of white pebbles and circular hearth deposit.

⁷ TERPSTRA 2013a: fig. 8; 2013b: 142, fig. 7.

⁸ For the geology of the area, see SENATORE 2003: fig. 12.

⁹ TERPSTRA 2012: figs. 5-6; 2013a: fig. 9; 2013b: 142.



Fig. 5. Northern corner, remains of two superimposed cement surfaces.



Fig. 6. The walls of room 28, seen from corridor 32.

pebbles are likely to be the remnant of a pathway or walking surface, now mostly inaccessible because of the Villa San Marco's standing architecture.

The next phase is represented by the remains of two superimposed cement surfaces; the one at a deeper elevation was better preserved than the one at a higher level (fig. 5). Just as the pebble layer, both continued into the eastern section. It would seem that these surfaces are evidence of flooring, initially consisting of pebbles and subsequently raised twice and changed to cement. This flooring in all three cases extended towards at least the east, covering an area of unknown size, present before

the walls now visible were built. As figs. 4 and 5 show, the foundation for the wall separating rooms 28 and 25 extends much above the level of any of the three surfaces, showing that the wall postdates the floors. By implication, so does the eastern wall separating room 28 from L-shaped corridor 32, since that wall is a still later addition, as will be discussed below. Either the Villa San Marco had not yet been constructed during the phases in which these floors were in use or its architecture had a different shape.

The construction of the apsed wall on a deep foundation (c.175-185 cm) between rooms 28 and 25 represents the next phase. Almost certainly the longer, southern wall separating room 28 from corridor 32 (fig. 6, top) was constructed together with this wall and was never altered. Unfortunately it was impossible to investigate the relationship between the two because of the rain gutters (visible in figs. 2, 3 and 5) running on the inside of room 28.

Room 28 probably had a triangular shape already during this phase, but was larger in size. Both the line of the wall separating atrium 44 from swimming pool 42/42a and the restructuring evident in room 28's northern corner suggest that the eastern wall has been moved westward to widen corridor 32 (fig. 6, bottom)¹⁰. Additional evidence for that hypothesis is provided by the mosaic threshold between corridor 32 and atrium 44, which shows that the doorway has been

¹⁰ This clearly is also Rougetet's interpretation of the architecture: ROUGETET 1999: 53-54 with figs. 65a and 65b.



Fig. 7. Northern corner, intersection of drains. In yellow, the original course of the drain running north to south; in blue, its subsequent course east, with the added rain gutter coming in from the southwest.

widened¹¹. The short wall section separating rooms 28 and 31 together with an even shorter section turning southwest at an oblique angle (figs. 1, 3, 5, 7) are the architectural remains of the original wall.

With this restructuring the flow of the drainage system coming into room 28 from room 25 through a hole in the wall was altered as well. The new wall blocked the course of the pre-existing drain, and its flow was redirected from southwest to due east. To make the added rain gutters flow into the pre-existing drain the latter's cement floor was lowered. Fig. 7 shows the evidence for the restructuring event. The north arrow is located at the original level of the drain, while the meter rod is located at the subsequent, deeper level created to allow the added rain gutter to drain into it.

In the Villa's final phase the channel in the northern corner of room 28 drained wastewater coming from the bathing complex. It joined an underfloor drain coming from kitchen 26, running underneath *atrium* 44 towards the system of drains in room 68 and into the latrine sewers, ending up ultimately in the large drain in the street, investigated during the 2012 season¹². In this final phase, room 28 was an enclosed ornamental garden, a *viridarium*. The layer of garden soil, c. 40 cm thick, contained relatively little ceramics and building materials, but enough ceramic sherds were found to be able securely to date the garden to late Augustan times.

Perhaps filtered soil was used to create the garden, which would explain the paucity of finds. But it should be noted that almost all layers in room 28 contained little cultural material, a striking contrast with the stratigraphy in room 68 as gleaned from three APAHA seasons. If the filtering of soil for the garden caused the lack of cultural material for the latest phase, this absence is harder to explain for the deeper, pre-garden layers. The most parsimonious explanation would be that far less construction and reconstruction had occurred in this area of the Villa than in room 68, a hypothesis supported by the lack of any buried architecture or features.

An unexpected find is worth noting: the topsoil had been contaminated to the considerable depth of c. 20-25 cm, containing modern material including wire, glass, and plastic wrappers. Photographs from the 1990s show that at that time some modest replanting had been done (since reversed), which probably accounts for the depth of the disturbance¹³. The amount of trash can perhaps be explained by room 28 forming an attractive waste disposal area along the tourist route leading through the Villa. In any case, the degree of disturbance might be the reason why only two root cavities had been filled in with concrete prior to the APAHA excavations. It seems likely that because of the modern disturbance of the topsoil, these were the only two visible at the time.

When the APAHA team removed the level of contaminated topsoil in the northern and western corners several undisturbed, lapilli-filled root cavities appeared. A total of six were found, dispersed throughout the *viridarium* and showing no discernable pattern (fig. 8). It is possible that more still exist in the area left unexcavated (the central section between dotted lines in fig. 8). The presence of root cavities leaves no doubt about the function of room 28 as a *viridarium* during the final phase of the Villa, but one supporting find should not go unmentioned. It is the lower part of an amphora with the toe broken off to create a drainage hole, an artifact found in the far western corner of the room. Finds like these are typical of garden areas, where they were used for new plants¹⁴.

¹¹ PISAPIA 1999: 80 with fig. 160.

¹² ROUGETET 1999: 49-50 with fig. 68b; TERPSTRA 2013a: figs. 2-4, 9; 2013b: figs. 2-4, 8-9.

¹³ BARBET, MINIERO 1999: *Illustrazioni* I, Planche I, no. 1, and figs. 72, 84, 480-482.

¹⁴ JASHEMSKI 1979: 238-241.

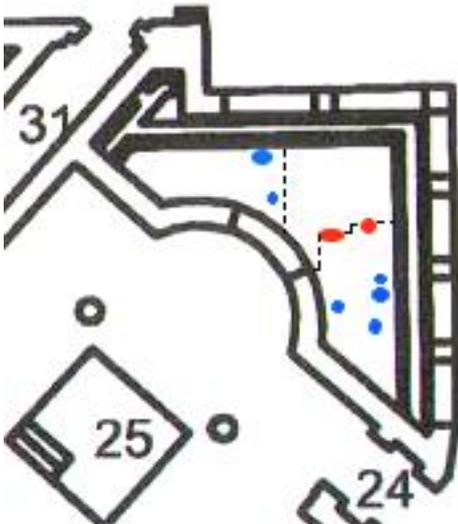


Fig. 8. Viridarium, pattern of root cavities. In red, the two casts poured at an unknown date; in blue, the six cavities found undisturbed in 2014.



Fig. 10. Northern section showing southern wall of collonaded open space 67, with horizontal band of wall plaster to the west.



Fig. 9. Northern part of the trench, eastern section, showing a thick layer of dark, dense soil at its deepest level.

In conclusion, the trench shows that room 28 probably always had a triangular shape and had from the beginning of its construction been a little garden area, a *viridarium*. Its surface area was reduced by a widening of corridor 32, but apart from that event the room seems to have been little affected by rebuilding. However, a significant alteration had been made to the drains disposing wastewater coming from the bathing complex. Those drains were redirected to the east where previously they had run to the southwest.

Room 68: The Industrial Area

Despite the fact that the trench in room 68 was excavated to a deeper level on its northern side – a full three meters – than even the trench in room 28, it never reached natural soil. The sandy alluvial deposit that forms the geography of the area must undulate considerably, seeing how it is quite close to the 79 AD surface underneath the street to the northwest, and at least three meters down underneath room 68¹⁵. With no geography in evidence the oldest archaeological phase discovered by the team consisted of a thick layer of dark, dense, clayey soil. It was at least 120 cm thick and contained little material of any kind; its smoothness in section is visible in fig. 9. Based on the team's previous experience the expectation was that this layer would date to roughly the sixth century BC, but it again turned out to be younger, dating to the Hellenistic period (fourth/third century BC). It did contain archaic sherds, however, once more showing sixth-century BC habitation in the general area. As with the similar-looking layer in room 28, it probably represents old farmland.

As was the case with the trenches excavated in previous seasons, the next phases were all determined by the Villa San Marco; the archaeology contained no trace of building activity demonstrably unconnected to the Villa. The stratigraphy and the buried architecture showed that significant restructuring had occurred.

In the northern part of the trench, work concentrated on excavating alongside the parapets of the collonaded open space 67. A considerable surprise was that they were built on a substantial wall, c. 45-48 cm thick and c. 280 cm deep (figs. 9, 10). This wall has the same width and alignment as the southern side of

¹⁵ Natural soil close to the surface in the street: TERPSTRA 2013a; 2013b. No natural soil reached in room 68: TERPSTRA, TONIOLO, GARDELLI 2011; TERPSTRA 2012.

space 67, but is too deep and heavy to have been intended only as a foundation for its parapets and piers, which are clearly also later additions (fig. 10). What the original purpose of this thick, deep wall might have been remains unclear. Apart from a sizable, horizontal band of plaster at its top level it had an untreated wallface and seems to have been intended to be buried. Two hypotheses come to mind to explain its presence in this location: either it is the foundation for a demolished, load-bearing wall or it is the outside face of a large filled-in cistern. The second hypothesis seems particularly attractive because of the evidence for substantial water use in room 68. Strengthening the idea of an out-of-use cistern is the system of lead pipes laid in Augustan times, which would have obviated the need for water catchment¹⁶. In addition, the inside of space 67 and the system of large drains found during the 2012 season are directly connected by a short channel¹⁷. It drained rainwater during the Villa's final phase, but seems too high and wide to have been built for that purpose. This section might originally have served as an overflow channel. In any event, only excavation inside space 67 can provide evidence to test these hypotheses.

The wall's construction date cannot be established with precision, but must be earlier than the Villa's final phase, when the parapets and piers of space 67 were added. The earliest layer on the northern side of the trench showing traces of building activity (roof tile, nails in iron and bronze) dates to c.100 BC. It seems to have served as a leveling fill, and was covered by a surface of cement mixed with soil at a depth of c. 130 cm from the 79 AD level. The surface seems unlikely to have belonged to the same phase as the wall, as it would have left almost half the wallface exposed. If it indeed belongs to an earlier phase, its fill layer can serve as a *terminus post quem* for the wall's construction.

As for the band of plaster, this might be the side of a partly sunken, destroyed tank. It shows signs of horizontal lipping at the bottom, indicating where the original floor will have been. Its top was clearly shaved off, so its sides will originally have been higher. A potential parallel is provided by the tank discovered during the 2012 season in the northwestern corner of room 68¹⁸. It, too, had been constructed partly buried, was lined with plaster and had been shaved off at the top when it went out of use. If correct, this interpretation would be in line with the evidence found in 2012 for a previous phase of room 68, when there was more industrial activity involving liquids than there had been in 79 AD.

The tank feature was ultimately destroyed in an event that left a wide cut, roughly parallel to the southern side of space 67 and filled with soil, rocks and large chunks of rubble (fig. 11). The cultural material filling the cut could be dated to the mid-first century AD. It comprised an extremely wide variety of finds: ceramic wares of local production, imported Aegean wares (Rhodian and Cretan), sherds from various lamps, marble fragments, iron nails, glass, worked and unworked bone, decorated and undecorated wall plaster, charcoal and seashell. The event that created this cut and fill is likely associated with the restructuring of space 67, which previous APAHA seasons had already shown to be a late event, potentially postdating the earthquake of 62 AD.

A southern window trench along the wall separating rooms 59 and 68 produced more evidence for architectural restructuring. An earlier phase of room 68 was represented by a surface of hard-packed soil mixed with



Fig. 11. Cut along southern wall of collonaded open space 67, filled with soil and rubble.

¹⁶ TERPSTRA, TONIOLO, GARDELLI 2011; TERPSTRA 2012; 2013a; 2013b.

¹⁷ TERPSTRA 2013a: figs. 1-3.

¹⁸ TERPSTRA 2013a: fig. 6; 2013b: fig. 6.



Fig. 12. Wall separating rooms 68 and 59. Foundation wall in *opus incertum*, wall in *opus reticulatum*, doorway in brick. The yellow tufa stones to the right are the modern fill of a Bourbon-era robber hole.



Fig. 13. Palmette antefixes found in room 68.

cement, c.140 cm below the 79 AD level. This is likely to be the same surface found at a comparable depth on the trench's northern side. Only some 20 to 30 cm below it, the bottom of the wall foundation appeared (fig. 12) so it clearly predates the wall. The layer below the surface was excavated c. 40-50 cm. It contained little datable ceramic material; only one diagnostic sherd suggests a post-second century BC date, but that single datum obviously leaves much chronological uncertainty. Further excavation might have yielded more precision, but work in the southern section of the trench was halted at the level shown in fig. 12 for fear that the foundation of the *tablinum* wall would collapse.

This wall supports many heavy modern additions, including a concrete lintel over the doorway, substantial wall reconstruction and a concrete roof (visible in the back in fig. 15). Excavating further below its foundation seemed ill advised.

Thick leveling fills rich in finds covered the cement floor, reaching almost to the ledge of the wall foundation. They could be dated sequentially from late Republican to late Augustan times. The fact that the top of the *opus incertum* foundation, c.140-180 cm in depth, comes up almost to the 79 AD surface (fig. 12) suggests that its construction is a late event, coinciding roughly with the youngest, early imperial leveling fill. This finding is surprising seeing how *tablinum* 59 and *atrium* 44 are usually thought to have been the Villa's original core, in part dating to the late Republican period¹⁹. It might have

been expected that certainly the foundations of the rooms around the *atrium* would have been of that age.

The youngest leveling fill included two ceramic palmette antefixes (fig. 13), ornaments intended as the "[d]ecorative termination of the row of covering tiles (*imbrices*) laid over the joints between two rows of flat tiles (*tegulae*) of a roof"²⁰. Such ornaments have been found in considerable numbers at the 79 AD level by previous excavations. In the Villa's final phase they had been employed in the *atrium*, as well as the large colonnade 1, 2. They fall into four distinct categories, described and analyzed by Paola Miniero²¹. The two found by the APAHA team are incomplete, but almost certainly belong to Miniero's type IV, which does not have close parallels anywhere in the Vesuvian area and seems to be unique to the Villa San Marco. On stylistic grounds, Miniero ascribes this type to a post-62 AD time period. In light of the APAHA discoveries, that date needs to be

¹⁹ ROUGETET 1999: 53, 56.

²⁰ BOËTHIUS 1978: 241.

²¹ MINIERO 1999.

revised to late Augustan times. The four examples of type IV antefixes found during previous excavations probably all came from colonnade 1, 2. The APAHA finds show that this type was used also in other parts of the Villa.

The antefixes were not the only evidence for the demolition or restructuring of preexisting, roofed architecture. Other finds included pieces of cement with the impressions of thatch, wooden beams and covering tiles (*imbrices*). The fill layer also contained a large number of roof tile fragments, confirming the evidence from the antefixes and cement pieces for a demolished, tiled roof. In all likelihood all this evidence was produced during a rebuilding event of the *tablinum* and *atrium*. The antefixes in any case point to a high-end type of architecture, similar to the luxurious style found in that part of the Villa in its final phase.

A beaten-earth surface postdating the Augustan period covered the fill layers just described, coming up almost to the level of the offset of the *opus incertum* wall foundation. West of the threshold it contained a line of amphora sherds (fig. 14), perhaps the remnant of a longer ledge laid down to protect the earthen floor from rainfall erosion. If this interpretation is correct, it would suggest a lack of roofing over the southern side of room 68. Several superimposed surfaces in cement with thin lenses and repair fills covered this floor and incrementally raised the floor level, but at the time of the eruption of Vesuvius the area was covered with a beaten-earth surface again. The lack of evidence for high-end, decorated floors shows that the wall between rooms 59 and 68 always separated a decorated sector to the south from an industrial, servile sector to the north.

Initially that separation may have been absolute. The doorway connecting the two sectors seems to be a later addition, although it may have been created by widening an preexisting one. Either way, both its quoins in brick (figs. 12, 14, 15) and the archaeology of room 68 suggest that it has been restructured. Leveling fills north of the threshold just below the 79 AD level contained a large number of loose black and white *tesserae*, bits of cement flooring with embedded *tesserae*, several brick fragments, a segment of white marble revetment, a large number of white marble chips and fragments of painted wall plaster in red, blue, black and green, some showing geometric and vegetal motifs (see below: Del Vecchio fig. 3). This construction rubble was probably produced by the creation of the doorway and the associated adjustment of room 59's mosaic flooring, an event that the ceramic data show to have taken place in the mid-first century AD.

Given the different socioeconomic character of rooms 59 and 68 it seems puzzling that the broad doorway connecting them existed at all. Room 68 in its 79 AD phase was a storage and industrial area also containing two latrines, so the view towards it from the *tablinum* and *atrium* cannot have been particularly enticing. It is possible that the doorway was closed permanently by wooden panels that were intended to be decorative on the *tablinum* side. If so, we are perhaps witnessing an intermediary architectural phase. Given the evidence for work in progress in other parts of the Villa it could be that room 68 was slated to be refurbished and decorated,



Fig. 14. Layer of amphora sherds in hard-packed soil along the wall between rooms 68 and 59.



Fig. 15. Southern side of colonnaded open space 67, with brick doorway towards tablinum 59 behind.

but that work had not progressed to that stage yet by the time of the eruption²². All this of course can be no more than speculation.

In any case, impressions in the *tablinum*'s wall plaster suggest that the doorway was framed by wooden doorjambs. As to the question of what the door panels might have looked like, lack of documentation from the Bourbon excavations make this impossible to determine. Wooden doors would have left voids in the volcanic deposit, while metal locks, nails and fittings would have completed the picture. Unfortunately if information of that nature ever existed it is forever lost. Complicating the task of reconstructing the doors is another modern interference. The concrete strip that now serves as a threshold prevents an assessment of what its ancient predecessor might have looked like (fig. 12). It is possible that the original was made of marble, in which case it might have been prized up and carted off by the Bourbon excavators. The square limestone block in the western corner of the doorway (figs. 12, 14) might contain a socket for a hinge pin, but the modern concrete covering makes it impossible to be certain.

Together with the creation of the doorway the last architectural alteration to room 68 was the construction of the colonnaded open space 67 in its center. From both the wallface that appeared in the northern side of the trench and the wallface visible on the inside of space 67 it is apparent that the piers of space 67 were constructed first, with the parapets added later (figs. 10, 15). The tank feature discussed above, which had probably already gone out of use before the piers were constructed, was further destroyed in the process (fig. 10).

The floor level inside space 67 is lower than the level in room 68; it was clearly excavated deliberately to slope down towards the southwestern corner. Gutters running along the inside of all four walls of space 67 directed rainwater to that corner, from where it was channelled into the large drain found during the 2012 season (the drainage hole is visible in the lower right corner of fig. 15). During the final years before the 79 AD eruption, room 68 was still used for productive purposes, shown by the industrial area in the southwest corner²³. In addition, the room seems to have served as a storage facility, suggested by the series of small rooms on the eastern side, still largely filled with lapilli and eighteenth-century backfill.

In conclusion, the trench on the one hand confirms the large amount of rebuilding that had occurred in room 68 while on the other leading to new questions about the original purpose of colonnaded open space 67. In combination with the trenches from the previous two seasons the archaeology shows that the general area served industrial and probably storage purposes. The most important find is that water management in the area had changed considerably over time, coinciding with the construction of a network of lead pipes fed by an aqueduct. Tanks went out of use, showing that there was either less production over time or a shift in what was produced. Nevertheless, up until the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius the southwest corner of room 68 continued to be an industrial space.

Taco T. Terpstra

I materiali da Villa San Marco (scavi 2014)

Lo studio dell'*instrumentum domesticum*, restituito dallo scavo delle due ultime trincee della campagna APAHA 2014 a Villa S. Marco, offre la possibilità di dare conferme ai dati raccolti nelle precedenti campagne ed, insieme, approfondire e puntualizzare nuovi aspetti. Entrambi i contesti analizzati, sia nella villa sia nell'area esterna, relativa al giardino, per l'età antica, offrono una sequenza cronologica che va dall'età ellenistica all'epoca dell'eruzione.

La fase più antica dei materiali dallo scavo 2014 di Villa S. Marco restituisce numerosi frammenti di ceramica d'impasto databili entro la fine del VI secolo a.C. Si tratta soprattutto di olle e forme chiuse²⁴, in alcuni casi le pareti presentano una decorazione a costolature e/o applicata con motivo a cordoncino. Anche negli strati stratigraficamente più bassi, però, queste forme di impasto sono associate a ceramica a pareti di vernice nera più tarda, seppur ancora non di produzione Campana A, ma sicuramente non attribuibili a produzioni di VI

²² Post-62 AD work in progress, interrupted by the eruption of Vesuvius: ROUGETET 1999: 56.

²³ TERPSTRA 2013a; 2013b.

²⁴ ALBORE LIVADIE 1990: tav. 40, B2.

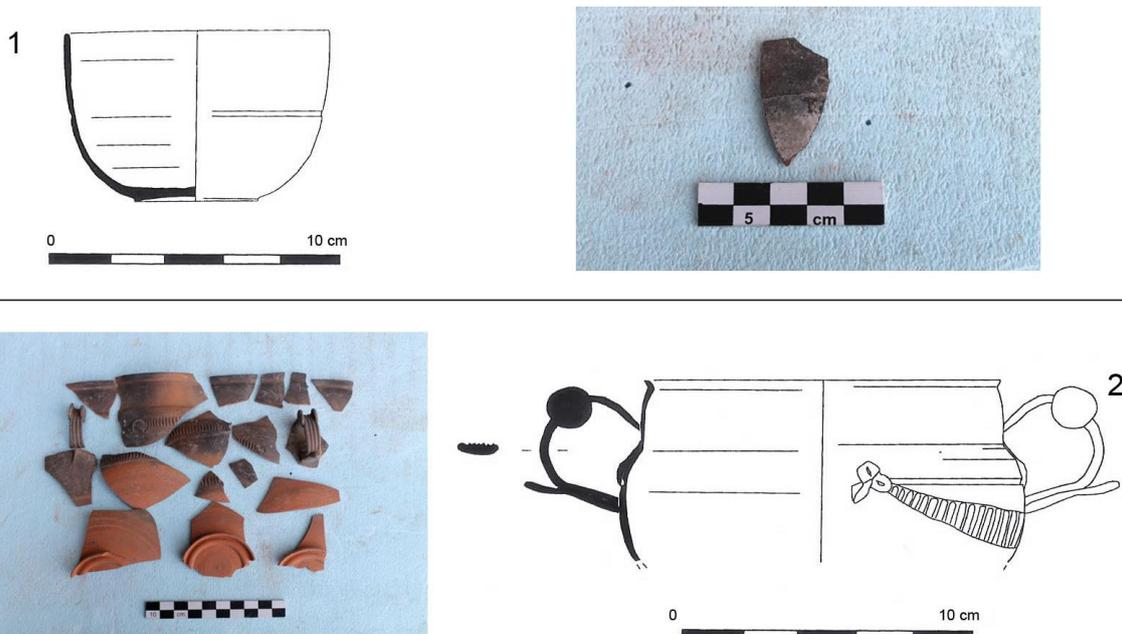


Fig. 1. Coppa di pareti sottili di probabile produzione neapolitana.

Fig. 2. Coppa biansata con decoro à la barbotine e motivo applicato.

a.C. Per questo motivo, la suddetta fase sembrerebbe inquadrabile almeno a partire dal IV-III secolo a.C.

Al di sopra di queste evidenze è ben attestata una serie di attività inquadrabili tra la fine del II e del I secolo a.C. In questi strati vi è una buona presenza delle forme più tarde di vernice nera Campana A, di comuni tardo ellenistiche perlopiù di produzione locale, ma anche di importazione egea, di pareti sottili (soprattutto il boccolino Mayet I e II, spesso decorati à la barbotine)²⁵, e molte anfore di tipo Dressel 1 nelle varianti A, B e C, quasi tutte di produzione vesuviana.

Per quanto riguarda le comuni da fuoco, sono ben attestate le olle con orlo a mandorla, molto diffuse tra la fine del II secolo a.C. e l'età augustea, perlopiù di produzione locale²⁶.

Alcune unità stratigrafiche sono riferibili ad una fase intermedia relativa ad una fase antecedente alla prima età augustea, in cui perdurano molti degli elementi diagnostici suddetti, ma vi si affiancano le prime attestazioni di anfore del tipo Dressel 2-4, tegami a vernice rossa interna, con una vernice molto coprente, di probabile produzione Cumana (tipo Goudineau I), fino alle prime attestazioni delle sigillate della Baia di Napoli, di produzione A, che introducono alla prima età augustea.

Gli strati datati all'età augustea restituiscono, oltre a qualche frammento di sigillata orientale A e di sigillata della Baia di Napoli, una grande quantità di pareti di terra sigillata italica, anche decorata a matrice, e qualche orlo di piatto *Conspectus* 4.2. e *Conspectus* 21.2. La sigillata italica è sia di produzione aretina che di probabile produzione puteolana e/o del golfo di Napoli, almeno dal solo esame autoptico ed in assenza di bolli.

Ad esse sono associate le anfore con anse bifide (tipo Dressel 2-4) e qualche importazione dalla Betica (anfore da *garum* tipo Dressel 7-11). Risulta ben attestata, in questa fase, la coppa di pareti sottili databile a partire proprio dall'età augustea, di probabile produzione neapolitana e frequente proprio nei fondali augustei del porto di *Neapolis*²⁷ (fig. 1). Compagnano le prime lucerne a volute ed i vetri attestati sono ormai spesso prodotti con la tecnica della soffiatura, intrapresa proprio in quegli anni, a fronte della più laboriosa colatura in matrice, di antica tradizione²⁸.

²⁵ Per le produzioni delle pareti sottili rinvenute nei diversi siti campani, cfr. FAGA 2008, FAGA 2010a, MANGONE 2011.

²⁶ OLCESE 2003, tav. VIII.

²⁷ FAGA 2008, fig. 5, 1-4; FAGA 2010a e 2010b.

²⁸ DEL VECCHIO 2004.



Fig. 3. Frammenti di intonaci dipinti e decorati.



Fig. 4. Coppetta ad orlo indistinto con residui di pigmento rosso all'interno.

A partire dalla tarda età augustea compare il piatto *Conspectus* 21.2 in sigillata italica affiancato dalla coeva attestazione di un esemplare in pareti sottili, in frammenti ma ricostruibile, di coppa biansata con decoro à la barbotine e motivo applicato²⁹ e che diverranno più numerosi a partire dall'età tiberiana (fig. 2), insieme alla coppa in terra sigillata e con decoro applicato, *Conspectus* 37.1, data dal 15 al 100 d.C. ed alle prime attestazioni di pareti sottili decorate con la tecnica della sabbatura, che perdureranno almeno fino all'epoca dell'eruzione.

Per i contesti della seconda metà del I secolo d.C., sembra opportuno segnalare la presenza di un boccalino a pareti sottili, con ansa orizzontale, la cui produzione avveniva nella vicina città di Pompei, in una bottega nei pressi di Porta Ercolano ove è stata rinvenuta e scavata di recente una fornace di pareti sottili, la cui ultima produzione era proprio quella relativa a questi vasi rinvenuti ancora in argilla cruda e pronti per essere infornati nella fornace della bottega stessa³⁰.

Accanto a questi manufatti, è da segnalare la presenza di monete ellenistiche, seppur residue negli strati di rinvenimento, oltre ad una buona quantità di marmi di provenienza varia e, soprattutto, di numerosi frammenti di intonaci decorati (fig. 3), oltre che di due antefisse. Curioso il rinvenimento dalla medesima US delle antefisse, di una coppetta ad orlo indistinto con residui di pigmento rosso all'interno, probabilmente adoperato per i restauri in antico degli intonaci che decorano la villa (fig. 4).

Alta la attestazione di reperti malacologici, evidentemente per la prossimità del bacino marino.

Lo studio dei suddetti materiali conferma i dati relativi al consumo dell'antica *Stabiae*³¹, tra l'età ellenistica ed il 79 d.C.

Villa San Marco era sicuramente parte di un circuito di scambi economici, sociali e culturali relativo alla fervida area vesuviana e, molto probabilmente, fino a *Neapolis*, il cui porto testimonia assidui scambi e frequentazioni con i contesti pompeiani e le relative produzioni dell'intera area vesuviana³².

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²⁹ FAGA 2008, Fig. 5, 12; FAGA 2010a e 2010b.

³⁰ CAVASSA 2013.

³¹ TONIOLO 2011.

³² GIAMPAOLA *et al.* 2005; GIAMPAOLA, CARSANA 2007; GIAMPAOLA *et al.* 2015 c.s.

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