

The 2011 Excavation Season at the Site of the *Vicus Martis Tudertium* (PG)

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In summer 2011 a fourth season of excavation at the site of the Vicus Martis Tudertium was conducted in the area to the north of that already investigated. Building remains exhibited similar preservation as that already found to the south, and small finds were also consistent with those from previous seasons. The earliest material found pushes back the site's date slightly, into the late second century BCE. Despite a rising ground level, excavation again reached the water table.

Introduction

Three previous seasons of excavation have confirmed the presence of a Roman-period settlement along the western branch of the ancient Via Flaminia, near the modern town of Massa Martana¹. In 2011 a fourth season of excavation was conducted at the putative site of the *Vicus Martis Tudertium*. Although the site appears to have disappeared completely in the Late Antique period, to be marked only by the medieval church now called S. Maria in Pantano, its identification with the ancient settlement by that name is based on several forms of evidence. Most importantly several epigraphic attestations of the name had been found locally, along with references in several ancient itineraries². These led Giovanni Becatti in 1938 to suggest this location for the *vicus*, and subsequently several other confirmatory inscriptions have been found in the vicinity³, though none since the beginning of this project⁴.

The Area

The church of S. Maria may be dated as early as the 9th century, and seems to have been built in an extant late-antique structure⁵. A building attached to the church bears a re-used funerary relief in its façade and several other ancient architectural features may be found underlying the building and nearby⁶. There are otherwise no other ancient structures visible in the immediate vicinity, but not far from the church are several well known sites along the Flaminia, including the city of Carsulae (ca. 13 km away), the remains under the church of San Giovanni de Butris (8 km), the viaduct of the Ponte Fonnaia (4 km), another viaduct substructure near the Massa Martana train station (nearly 3 km), and the villa of San Faustino (2 km), where the church incorporates numerous Roman-period *spolia*⁷.

¹ MUCCIGROSSO 2010, MUCCIGROSSO 2011.

² These itineraries include the *Itinerarium Gaditanum* (CIL XI 3281), the *Tabula Peutingeriana* (LEVI AND LEVI 1967), and the *Itinerarium Antoninum* (CUNTZ AND WIRTH 1990).

³ BECATTI 1938 and BRUSCHETTI 1994.

⁴ Other reports on the excavation have been delivered at the 2009-2015 annual meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America.

⁵ PEPPUCCI 2005, for an analysis of the church and its place in a regional context.

⁶ BRUSCHETTI 1993.

⁷ ASHBY AND FELL 1921 for a more detailed exploration of the entire length of the Flaminia.

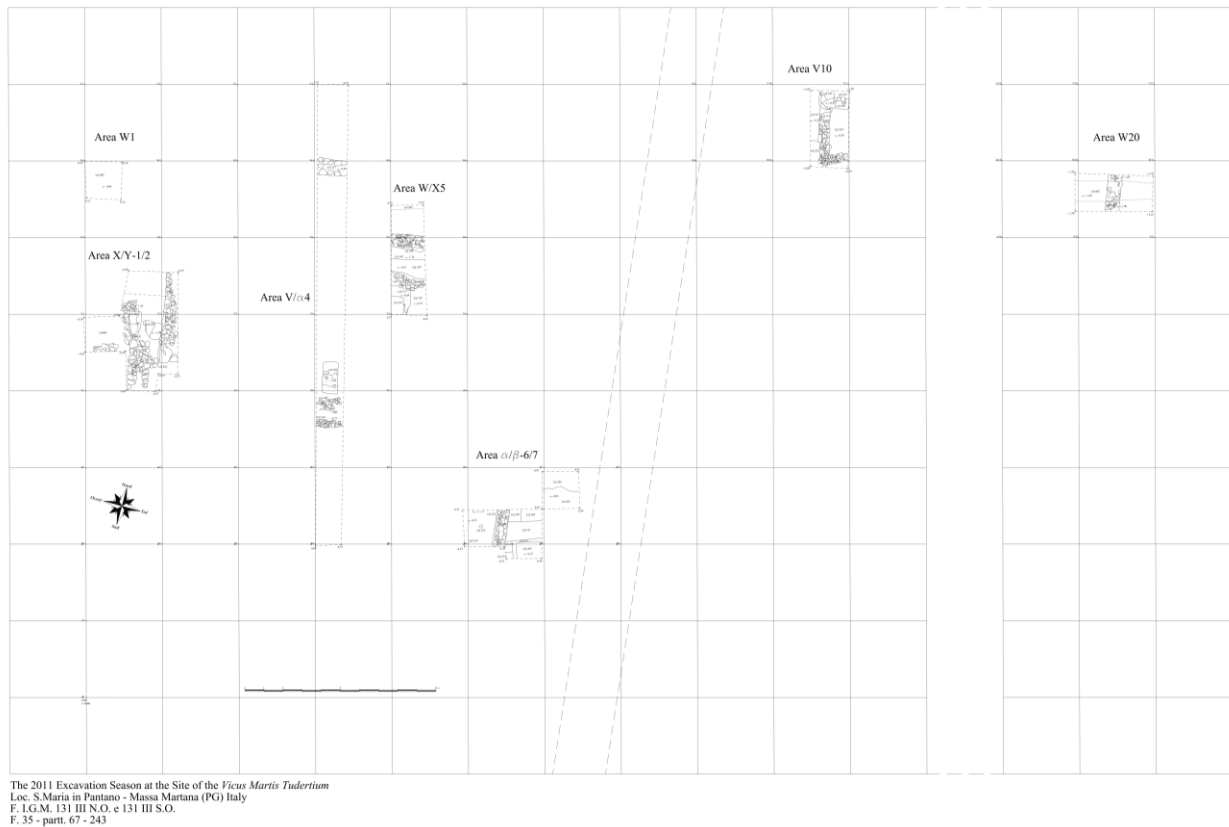


Fig. 1. Site plan showing areas under excavation in 2011.

To this we may add the presence of four Roman-period inscriptions (referred to above): one incorporated into the tower of the church, two inside the church proper, and one from a neighboring field, all of which provide the name *Vicus Martis Tudertium* in some form⁸.

The 2011 Season

Excavation in the summer of 2011 was located in the fields north of the church, beyond where we had explored in the first three seasons. This work had three main objectives. The first was related to the problems we had had in the previous two seasons with a rising water table. Since the elevation of the ground rises slowly and steadily to the north of the church, we hoped that the water table, which had now for several years remained at the higher level it had risen to after our first campaign, would be in this area at a relatively lower level with respect to the ancient remains. Second we were eager to further test the reliability of the geomagnetic survey that had been conducted in previous years⁹. Finally we were curious about the state of preservation of the site in the areas further away from the church, not only because the church and its history might have played some role in the evolution of the site over time, but also because the rising ground level offered the possibility for different preservation patterns. Based on these objectives and our relationship with the various landowners in this area, we decided to change our previous excavation strategy and open up several smaller test trenches, rather than only one or two larger ones. We left open the possibility that we might modify this approach if the on-going work warranted it.

In order to maintain an easy connection with previous years' work, we extended our existing grid to the north and east, and we initially laid out most areas of excavation using 2x2 m squares, which were in several cases extended. (See fig. 1 for an overall plan of the areas under excavation).

⁸ In the church: *CIL* XI, 04751 and 04748; in the tower: *CIL* XI, 04744; also, found recently in the vicinity: *AE* 1994, 00579. See BRUSCHETTI 1994. One of the Vicarello cups as well as the *Tabula Peutingeriana* use the label "ad martis."

⁹ Survey was completed in collaboration with the Centro di Eccellenza - Scientific Methodologies Applied to Archaeology and History of Art (SMAArt) of the University of Perugia in a geomagnetic survey of the area in the immediate vicinity of the excavation. It was coordinated by Prof. Maurizio Gualtieri and directed by Dott. Tommaso Mattioli of the Dipartimento Uomo & Territorio dell'Università degli Studi di Perugia. Mattioli presented some partial results of this research in a poster at the 2011 AIA Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX.



Fig. 2. Left: Striations from agricultural activity. Right: Same area after excavation, showing absence of beaten earth surface under area of striations.

Area α/β -6/7

Furthest south of the trenches opened up this season, this area lies some 80-odd meters to the north of previous excavation and was chosen based on the results of the geomagnetic survey which indicated the presence of a buried structure. The area lies only a few meters west of the putative continuation of the internal road uncovered in previous seasons, which is itself very visible as crop marks in satellite and aerial photographs of the area. The original excavation square was in the northwest corner of grid $\alpha 7$. It was joined by another to its immediate southwest (in $\alpha 6$), which was subsequently expanded to the west to explore further a wall discovered in its western section.

Despite the higher elevation in this part of the field, remains lay fairly close to the surface (~40 cm) as was typical of the areas excavated this season. Immediately below the topsoil in the 2x2 m trench excavated in $\alpha 7$, we uncovered a stratum of greenish soil very reminiscent of mortar found in various locations in previous seasons. Below this in the southern portion of the square, a hard-packed beaten earth surface was found. The edges of this surface were ill-defined, suggesting that it originally was more extensive and was subsequently damaged. The appearance of this feature in $\alpha 6$ (**204**) along with striations in the soil which we take to be marks left by a plough or even modern excavation machinery¹⁰ is consistent with this interpretation (fig. 2). The activity that created the striations is also perhaps evident in the deeper stratigraphy, which is similar in the areas to the north and south of the striations, while different immediately below them. A small portion of a beaten earth surface, barely visible in the southern section of the area and very similar to **204**, was also found, again consistent with the destruction of the higher strata by agricultural activity. Extending across the entire area two further strata were excavated (**210** and **211**). Both contained fragments of ceramic and wall plaster, and the earlier of the two also contained a few pieces of worked stone. The latest datable material from **210** was from the early imperial age.

In the west section of this area a wall (**208**) ~58 cm in width was discovered. It consisted of a single course of dressed stones, well bonded with a greenish mortar, and running parallel with the line of the interior road which lies to its east. In order to fully reveal the width of wall **208**, the trench was extended another 2 m to the west. In this area (still within the grid $\alpha 6$) the stratigraphy was markedly different from that found east of the wall and strongly suggestive of a building interior: several hard-packed, clayey strata were found in succession. The highest (**216**) contained numerous fragments of pan tiles lying flat within it. These seem unlikely to have been used as a pavement. Instead the stratum just below this one (**218**) seems a better candidate, and we ought perhaps to understand the overlying stratum with its associated tile fragments as debris from the final abandonment of the site. The presence of a narrow soil feature lying up against the western face of the wall next to **218** and into **219**, appears to indicate the presence of some wall covering, now absent, whether of plaster or another friable material or even a more substantial material carried away from the site. This feature was however covered by **216**, again strengthening the idea that **216** was deposited after the structure was no longer inhabited. Finally a small area of superficial burning in **218** is also consistent with its use as the final pavement. Within this stratum we also discovered a small hole (**223**) that had been dug through it and into the underlying stratum (**219**). The hole contained numerous fragments of what was likely a domestic amphora, not precisely datable (fig. 3).

¹⁰ Though we have not encountered them, we are aware from our own survey work as well as from official maps that there are several places where trenches have been dug to lay cables and pipes across the fields where the site is located. We have encountered numerous hand-dug drainage trenches, surely post-antique, but not precisely datable.

That underlying stratum (**219**) was very similar in nature to **210** discovered to the east of the wall and likely should be identified with it¹¹. The wall foundation (**217**) also appears to have been cut into **210**. Thus this area presents a history familiar from earlier excavations: the most recent structures, dating to the imperial period, appear to have been constructed over a significant amount of fill, which covers in places the earlier phases of occupation (not reached this season). In many areas these walls from these latest structures were sizable in width, but hardly preserved in their elevation, unsurprising given their proximity to the modern surface.

Area W20

Furthest east of the areas excavated this season, W20 lies some 50 m east of the internal road and ~20 m north of area α6. It too was chosen based on the results of geomagnetic survey. Here the original cut was 4x2 m.

In this case after the removal of the topsoil, pale yellow mortar was immediately visible and the top of a wall, ~74 cm in width, emerged running roughly N-S (**604**). Bisecting the wall and roughly perpendicular to it was a feature (**602**) consisting of numerous medium-sized stones which were fairly loosely packed and ran the entire 4 m length of the trench, placed within a cut that was evident in both the soil and the wall itself. Though less well constructed than the post-antique drainage trenches found in previous seasons, this seems to be another of them. Where the drain cuts through the wall, many of the stones that were removed were likely reused as fill.

The strata to the east and west of the wall were very similar and no hard-packed soil or other type of surface was found on either side. The wall itself is founded in a layer of gravelly soil which seems consistent with strata found on either side (**608** west of the wall, **612** to its east). Its greatest preserved height is ~60 cm, and while substantial in width, its courses are not as neatly laid nor the stones as finished as other walls from the site. With the exception of the appearance of gravel in the lowest strata, the soil was fairly consistent in composition and appearance throughout the trench and strata were therefore arbitrarily defined.

The artifacts which were recovered included pottery sherds, mostly locally produced domestic wares, but also transport amphorae and some finer wares; glass, wall plaster and a fragment of marble were also found. Finds were for the most part heavily worn and decreased in quantity with deeper excavation. The highest stratum, just below the topsoil, contained material datable as late as the 4th century CE, and the fill of the drainage trench material from the 3rd (though again, we believe this to be a much later feature and is certainly close enough to the surface to have been disturbed by agricultural activity as the disposition of the stone fill suggests). The two deepest strata adjacent to the wall contained material from the late-first/early-second centuries, and the early-mid first century, respectively. Strata below the bottom level of the wall were sterile.

This absence of clearly identifiable strata including any floor surfaces above the sterile soil below the wall suggest that either the structure associated with this wall was never finished or never had any significant pavement. The heavy wear on the ceramic sherds indicates that we do not have any sealed deposits here and so the dating, based on a fairly small number of pieces, may be more reflective of the chronology of the overall use of the site, or of this area of the site, than of this particular structure.

Area W/X5

In order to explore the putative interior of a rectangular structure which had been identified in the geomagnetic survey, two 2x2 m trenches were opened up in the southwestern corners of grids W5 and X5. These two were ultimately joined to form a 2x6 m area. While excavation did reveal several walls and what we have interpreted as remnants of floors, the area is notable for the extent to which it shows the effects of later activity on the site.



Fig. 3. Floor with (post?) hole in grid α6.

¹¹ In the western portion of the trench, a thin, clayey stratum with numerous inclusions of plaster was found between **218** and **219** and may represent the preparation of the gravelly **219** for the final pavement material of **218**.



Fig. 4. Cut of pit 316 through floor feature 317 visible in section. Floor 317 is white layer.



Fig. 5. Floor surface 332 between walls 311 to the left (south) and 331 to the right (north).

At the northernmost limit of this trench a post-antique drainage channel, similar to those found elsewhere, was discovered. The cut made for the channel is clearly visible in section as a brown soil, contrasting with surrounding matrix, especially where it removed the greenish clay stratum **302**. In the south, two features (**316** and **318**) appear interpretable as pits dug through existing floor levels (**317**; cut for pit visible in section in fig. 4).

The most substantial of the possible floor levels (**332**) in this area was found in the area between the two original trenches. It lies at approximately the same elevation as **317** to the south, which lends more weight to the interpretation of that latter feature as a floor. Lying ~10 cm above this floor, and left *in situ*, was a feature composed of medium-sized stones and tile fragments (**311**). While we initially thought this might have been another drainage channel or even a wall, it became apparent that this was fill or debris resting on top of the floor.

To the north of this floor we detected a series of three features, vertically imposed. The highest (**320**) appeared as a mostly stone feature, similar in composition to **311**, though ~20 cm higher in elevation. Below it ~20 cm lay a soil stratum (**330**), very similar to the soil that had previously been excavated in the 2x2 m square just to the north, and containing, among other items, fragments of wall plaster. Below that, a more substantial stone feature, likely a wall (**331**), though built of irregularly shaped stones and with little mortar (fig. 5). This wall formed the northern limit of floor **332**, which lay just below the wall's preserved top and was fairly degraded along the wall. The foundation of the wall lay ~60 cm below and rested on a thin layer of soil, which in turn covered what appeared to be another wall, constructed of well dressed stones (**345**, fig. 6). Unfortunately we also came upon the water table at this depth and excavation was halted. The three visible stones forming the southern edge of this wall are well aligned and it is clear that their orientation is not the same as **331** above them which runs more directly E-W. The very fragmentary material found in the strata below the floor **332** was datable to the 1st century CE, while a silver Antoninianus of the late third-century emperor Gallienus (inv. 536117, fig. 7) was discovered in the overlying stratum.

This small area thus again demonstrates the multiple phases of building at the Vicus. In particular this stratigraphy, while not conclusive, suggests that at least one of the building phases should be dated sometime



Fig. 6. Small ashlar stones of wall 345 underneath wall 331 at bottom.



Fig. 7. Silver Antoninianus of the emperor Gallienus (obverse, inv. 536117).

between the first and third centuries, as postulated previously¹².

Area W1

Not far north of the previous area, another 2x2 m trench was opened up. Although several strata of soil were identified and some small finds were discovered, there were no obvious structures or features found. The area was closed after reaching a depth of ~70 cm.

Area V10

A second area was opened up near the internal road, but adjacent to its eastern side. Area V10, a 2x4 m trench, lies just off the line of the road to the east and approximately as far to the north as area W20 (described above). As in other areas, several wall features were exposed very near to the surface. Also as elsewhere even this small area shows evidence of several ancient phases of construction as well as more modern agricultural activity.

The best example of the latter is yet another example of a drainage trench (**508**), which may well be an extension of **602** from W20. (The uncertainty is due to the relatively long distance between them, ~40 m, and the sometimes meandering paths these features take through the fields.) This feature lies close to the surface like **602**, and is composed of loosely packed stones and roof tile fragments.

The wall features themselves provide evidence of the ancient phases. Running E-W in the northern part of the area is **502** (fig. 8), which is composed of medium-sized stones with worked flat surfaces on the wall's exterior. Some wall plaster was preserved on its northern face, suggesting that this was an interior space. Running northward from the westernmost end of **502** is a line of mortar, which was not excavated further, but likely indicates the presence of a NS-running wall, consistent with the notion that this area was originally enclosed.



Fig. 8. Walls of Area V10: 502 running top to bottom (E-W) at left, 512 running left-right in center, and 521 at right, parallel to 502. Change in composition of 512 is clearly visible.

Running southward from **502** is a wall of a clearly different construction, **512**, lacking in particular the finished stones and large amount of mortar seen in **502**; in fact this feature is itself of two different types. The change in construction to the use of smaller stones occurs slightly past the halfway point of the excavated portion of this wall, and is aligned with a similar change of features to the west of the wall, on the side of the road. To the west of **502** and the northern part of **512** there is a stratum composed mainly of gravel, not dissimilar to some part of the road surface excavated previously. In line with the change

in **512** however, this gravel disappears. Running under **512** at this point is a second EW wall, **521** (fig. 8), similar in construction to the northern part of **512**, though with a top surface lying some 10 cm lower. It is not clear whether this change in **512** represents an effort to close off a previously open space or some other kind of re-working of this area.

Within the space formed by **502** to the north, **512** to the west and **521** to the south, the strata were generally similar with some important exceptions. Lying fairly high in the stratigraphy, about even with the drainage trench **508** and perhaps partially destroyed by it, was a feature composed of medium-sized stones (**515**). Lacking any

¹² MUCCIGROSSO 2010: 5.

mortar, this may well have been the result of post-antique activity.

At about the depth of the preserved tops of the three enclosing walls a stratum composed primarily of a greenish clay was discovered (**517**, fig. 9). Visible as a light-colored layer in the photograph of the eastern section of the trench, this stratum was present throughout the area with the exception of an area just south of **502** where a line of stones (**519**) lay at approximately the same elevation. North of that feature the clay was absent. The stones seem deliberately placed, but no cut for them is visible in section. We therefore believe that they formed part of some feature that was subsequently dismantled. A single stratum (originally identified as two, **518** and **520**) underlies the clay of **517** as well as the line of stones **519** and the soil to its north. This stratum also seems to underlie the E-W wall **502** as well.

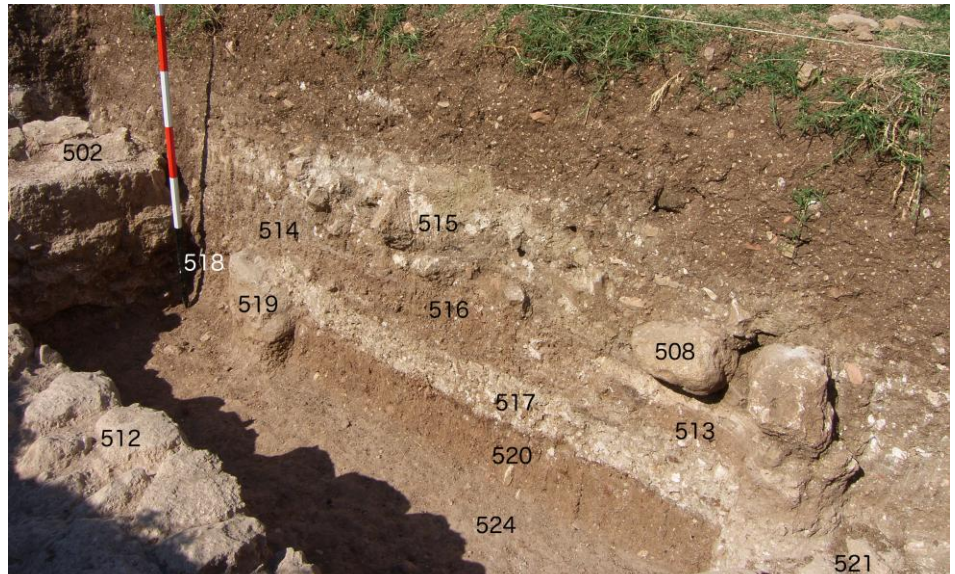


Fig. 9. Labelled eastern section of Area V10.

As a final observation, it is worth noting that a significant amount of greenish clay, very similar to **517** and at a similar elevation, lay in **522** to the west of the wall **512** in line with the E-W wall **521**, in the area where the small-stone feature was absent. This suggests that this greenish clay may have been used here, as elsewhere, to level out or even waterproof some of the areas of the site. It is also possible that the clay is the remnants of collapsed *pisé de terre* walls¹³.

With regard to the dating of the various features, here as elsewhere most of the ceramic material was heavily worn and precisely datable material in short supply. Caution is warranted. That said, the lowest stratum from with the area of the three walls (**524**) provided latest datable material from the late Republic, while the clay stratum of **517** was Claudian and **518** to the north of the line of stones **519** Julio-Claudian.

Area X-Y/1-2

This area was furthest west and therefore furthest from the internal road. It too began as a 2x2 m trench and was expanded to continue exploring certain features as well as for safety, as it reached a depth of over 1.5 m. This area is notable for two related reasons. First we were able here to excavate deeper than in other areas (except for the small area around **345**), partly due to the absence of surfaces at higher elevations as found elsewhere, and second it provided the earliest datable material from the project so far.

Discovered later in the season after expansion of the area, a wall running roughly N-S in alignment with other similar features on the site lies on the eastern edge of this area (**418**, fig. 10). Similar in size, construction method and elevation to the E-W wall **331** in W/X-5, both these walls could belong to the rectangular structure visible in the geomagnetic survey data. At its southern end were found two very large and irregular stones, not clearly joined to it, but perhaps part of a later phase of the feature (figs. 10 and 11). The wall certainly does not continue south of these stones and may have a corner here and turn east.

To the west of this wall was found a feature of stones arranged in a rectangular shape with a more or less flat upper surface, ~60 cm deeper than the top of the wall's southern end (**413**, fig. 12). The edges of this feature are somewhat irregular, but it seems to be fairly in line with the orientation of **418** and most of the other features on the site. The northern edge of the feature is also fairly even, suggesting that it ended here, though that is not certain. To its north lie a number of similar stones (**422**), but irregularly scattered in the soil, along with two much larger stones, like those found in the southern part of **418** (visible in fig. 10). This feature may well be the remains of a sidewalk of sorts, and it suggestively lies mid-way between the internal road and the modern road further west upon which the church faces (though the latter road is fairly wide which provides significant leeway for "mid-way"). It may also be the top surface of a wall, and if so, is significantly wider than others on the site. Excavation was halted at this

¹³ We owe the suggestion of the *pisé de terre* walls here and below to an anonymous reviewer.



Fig. 10. Wall 418 at right running roughly N-S in Area X-Y/1-2 (north at top).



Fig. 11. Profile of wall 418, looking east, showing large stones at its end.

depth due to the presence of the water table.

In the lower strata in this area were discovered several items datable to the 2nd or 1st centuries BCE, the oldest datable objects discovered so far. These include fragments of an Esquiline-type cylindrical lamp (inv. 536123) and black-glaze pottery (inv. 536110, fig. 13).

A final feature of the stratigraphy is worthy of note here. West of and some 20-30 cm above the elevation of the surface of **413** was found a fairly large deposit of roof-tile fragments (**407**, fig. 14). It was possible to reconstruct one complete tile along with several large portions of others. Given the finds of previous seasons (and now subsequent ones as well), it is possible that this is the much disturbed remains of a burial in the *a cappuccina* style, even though no human bones were found. An alternative possibility of course is that the tiles resulted from a roof destruction.

Area V-α/4

The final area under investigation was a long trench, ~1m wide, that ran along our grid, aligned roughly N-S, for 20 m from V4 to α4. This placed it between Areas X-Y/1-2 and W/X 5, running N-S across the entire area under excavation this year. We were hoping with this area to get a better overall sense of stratigraphy across the site than we could with the other, smaller areas. As a result, after removal of the topsoil excavation was mostly limited to simply clearing off the succeeding strata, with one notable exception.

As expected there were several changes in soil across the area along with several architectural features. Taking them from north to south, at the southern border of grid square V4 the top of a wall was discovered immediately below the topsoil (**327**, fig. 15). Constructed with stones dressed on their external faces, and about 70



Fig. 12. Top surface of feature 413.



Fig. 13. Fragment of black-glaze pottery with rosette stamp (inv. 536110).



Fig. 14. Deposit 407 of roof tile fragments in Area X-Y/1-2.



Fig. 15. Top of wall 327 in grid V4, with green clay stratum (3) visible at right (south).

cm wide, it appears to follow the same orientation as most similar features on the site. While the soil to its north (**326**) was reddish, that to the south seemed to be the same green clay found elsewhere (e.g., **302** in Areas W/X 5). ~2 m further south the clay was replaced by another reddish soil. It is worth nothing that this change corresponds fairly well to the line of the drainage channel 4 m to the east (**305**) which, as we noted above, cut through the clay stratum there. This change is also in line with the stone feature **320**, but there was no evidence of any similar feature here, even at roughly the same elevation. Continuing south, the soil remained quite red and we noted the presence of a number of stones and fragments of roof tiles in the matrix, again not dissimilar to other areas. Beginning at the north end of grid Y4, we excavated the stratum that underlay the topsoil (**337**). For most of the area in this grid, a hard surface (**344**) was evident with tile fragments lying horizontally in it, reminiscent of the surfaces in $\alpha 6$ (**216** and **218**) and elsewhere on the site. An area of soil with a dense accumulation of stones and tile fragments followed in the southern part of Y4 at the same elevation, interrupted in Z4 by two separate drainage channels which crossed E-W (**340**, **341**, fig. 16). The two channels lie at nearly the same elevation, but their location so close together suggests that they were constructed at different periods. We did not excavate them further. South of the channels the green clay returned for the remaining ~6 m of the trench.

It is worth noting that no similar wall was found south of and parallel to **327**. This may mean either that such a wall lies even further south (unlikely as the span is already ~20 m), that it was spoliated or rebuilt in a different fashion (paralleled elsewhere on the site), or that wall **327** is the southern wall of a structure lying to the north.

One very small area was chosen for further excavation. This was a rectangle within **338**, just south of the surface **344**, in line with the end of the wall **418** in Area X-Y/1-2. In other words, it was chosen so that if **418** did make a turn to the east, as suggested by the survey, we would intercept it here. The agglomeration of stone and tile



Fig. 16. Drainage channels (340, bottom, and 341, top).



Fig. 17. Top of wall 346, north to right.

fragments within 338 was also reminiscent of the vertical stacking of the similar feature 320, 330 and ultimately the walls 331 and 345 in W/X-5 to the east. A soil layer below 338 covered the anticipated E-W-running wall (346, fig. 17). While not dissimilar to 418 in composition, this wall is narrower by at least 20 cm and found at a greater depth (~20 cm), though the height of 418 is far from consistent over its exposed length. Note that both lie below the level of the exposed surface of wall 327 in the north of this trench.

Finds

As mentioned above, the vast majority of finds were heavily worn locally-produced pottery sherds. A number of fragments of transport amphorae were also found. This is all consistent with the finds from previous seasons and seems to indicate that the majority of structures were reused and/or despoiled in antiquity. Also consistent with previous seasons is the chronological span of the artifacts, ranging from the 2nd century BCE till the 4th century CE, with sporadic medieval and modern material in the upper levels of ploughsoil.

To the ceramics may be added several fragments of marble revetment or pavement, numerous, often heavily worn, bronze coins, small bronze objects, small iron objects, particularly nails, and fragmentary bone pins or needles.



Fig. 18. Partial stamp of OCK potter 1107, A. Ma(nnius?) Pru(dens?) in planta pedis (inv. 536140).



Fig. 19. Partial stamp in planta pedis: "...EREN" (inv. 536120), possibly OCK 1391, M. Perennius.

Several individual finds are worth noting. As in previous seasons, several stamped fragments of *terra sigillata* were found. This includes a fragment with the partial stamp of OCK potter 1107, one A. Ma(nnius?) Pru(dens?) in planta pedis (inv. 536140, fig. 18). Found in Corinth as well as several other central Italian sites, this workshop has been putatively assigned to Arezzo and dated to sometime from 30 CE onward. The second stamp, also in planta pedis, reads "...EREN" (inv. 536120, fig. 19) and is not so easily pinned down to one potter (though OCK



Fig. 20. Silver denarius of Hadrian (obverse, inv. 536129, RIC 268, RSC 1328).



Fig. 21. Irregularly shaped gaming die (inv. 536116).



Fig. 22. Back of wall plaster preserving imprint of building material.

391, M. Perennius working from 20 BCE – 20 CE, is attractive due to his activity in Arezzo). In addition to the bronze coins two silver ones were discovered: the Antoninianus of Gallienus mentioned above, and a denarius of Hadrian (inv. 536129, RIC 268, RSC 1328, fig. 20) from fairly high in the stratigraphy. Two more dice were added to those already found, including one whose practicality seems questionable (inv. 536116, fig. 21). Several fragments of wall plaster preserve impressions, perhaps from the pisé walls or similar material used in construction (fig. 22). Finally we note a stone object, perhaps a mold, from the area of the 2010 excavation, visible but left *in situ* at the time (inv. 608475, fig. 23).

Conclusion

Excavation this season was able to confirm the utility of the geomagnetic survey and the consistency of both the site's state of preservation across a wide area and its chronological history. Unfortunately also consistent was the presence of the water table at the level of the oldest strata so far excavated. Its greater depth relative to the surface in some areas (like X-Y/1-2) does bode well for future excavation in these more northerly areas.

Work this year also revealed that some areas that clearly lie within the bounds of the vicus pre-serve no obvious ancient strata, as evinced by



Fig. 23. Mold from area of 2010 excavations (inv. 608475).

area W1, or no ancient floor levels despite the presence of walls (e.g., wall **604** in area W20). The most reasonable explanation seems to be that they were either using simple hard-packed earth or these structures remained unfinished. Robbing of the floors seems unlikely as there are clear signs of it in other areas of the site and it seems likely that such activity would have left some traces. Areas W1 and W20 lie not only further north (in which case the area around the church may be a more developed area), but also further east and west, respectively, from the internal road, which may speak to the changing density of construction on the site. Further work, especially in the form of remote sensing, should help answer these questions.

Credits

As always thanks our colleagues at "Intrageo - Impresa Archeologica" for introducing us to the site of the vicus, acting as our liaisons in the off-season, and their excellent work during the excavation season. The Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Umbria, particularly in the persons of former Isp. Dott. Paolo Bruschetti and Isp. Giovanni Altamore, continues to offer the project its excellent support and assistance. The government and people of Massa Martana have year after year welcomed each new excavation team, giving us both material and personal support. The project continues to be run as a field school by Drew University, which thereby provides our chief form of financial assistance.

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