Ceramics from San Lorenzo in Strada and from the Agolanti castle, Riccione (5th-18th cent.). A long diachronic perspective

Enrico Cirelli*, Carlotta Fontana*, Giacomo Borrini*, Kevin Ferrari**, Andrea Tirincanti***

enrico.cirelli2@unibo.it; carlotta.fontana@studio.unibo.it; kevin.ferrari@cultura.gov.it; Giacomo.borrini@studio.unibo.it; atirincanti@comune.riccione.rn.it

*Università di Bologna; ** Soprintendenza Archeologia Belle Arti e Paesaggio per le province di Ravenna, Forlì-Cesena e Rimini; *******Museo del Territorio, Comune di Riccione



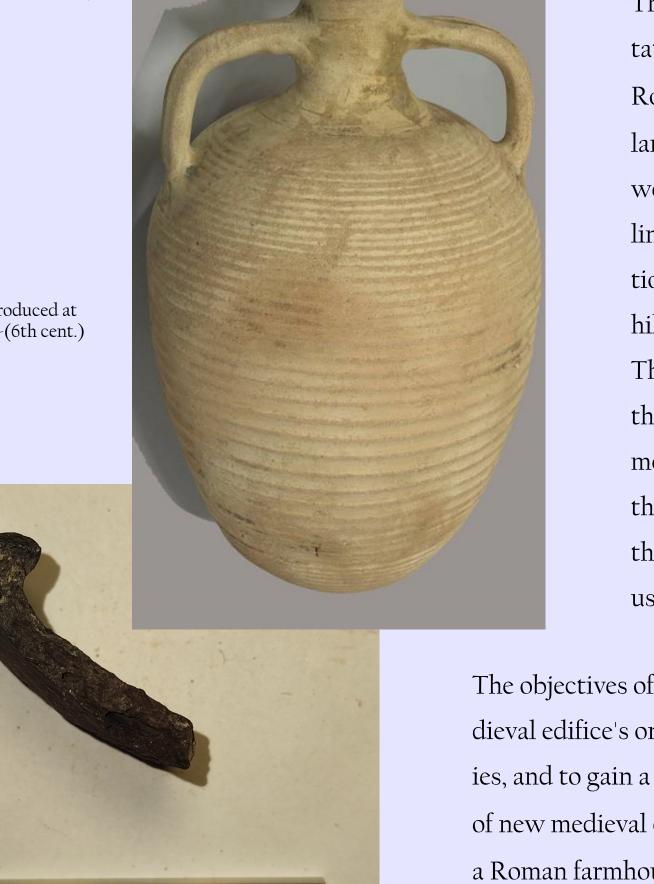
New archaeological excavations conducted on the hilltop of Riccione and the finds study of the pottery found at the rural site of San Lorenzo in Strada put a new light on the history and transformations of this coastal Adriatic settlement. The whole area was interested by productive activities since Roman age and several farms and small villas were built for wine and other products exploitations. These sites were also occupied by early medieval farms described by written sources and now highlighted by new discoveries. We present here the outcomes of research conducted on ceramic materials uncovered during the San Lorenzo in Strada and "Castello degli Agolanti" projects, a collaborative effort between the Department of Archaeology at the University of Bologna, the Soprintendenza dei beni culturali and the Museum of Riccione, carried out in 2022. The analysis for materials from the 2023 campaign is still underway. One of the most strategic settlements analyzed in Riccione is San Lorenzo in Strada, a rural site built along the Via Flaminia where prehistoric evidences and masonry structures from the Antiquity to the Middle Ages have been identified. The ce-ramics examined in this contribution come from these excavations and show some trends of the central Adriatic rural settlements representative of the changes in the organization of the territory even after the end of the Roman world. Extraordinary are the attestations of regional products (overall wine amphorae), transported in many Italian regions and in the Mediterranean in the middle and late imperial age. From the fifth century onwards, amphorae, on the other hand, were exclusively imported from East and North Africa, as well as minimally from southern Italy, and no Romagna products are documented. We found some LRA1, from south Turkey LRA2, from Greece and 7th



Scala 1:1

Forlimpopoli amphora, produced in Rimini-Pesaro territory (3rd cent.)

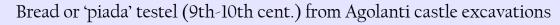
LR amphora 1, produced at Elaiussa Sebaste-(6th cent.)



Century amphoras from north Palestine (Cesarean Agorà M 334).

The amount of plain and coarse ware finds is also very rich, on both sites, indicating a frequentation of the site without significant interruptions even during the early Middle Ages. In the Roman rural site, perhaps an aggregate of dwellings associated to a big village (vicus Popilii ?), a large funeral area was cre- ated and some production structures (lime kilns, iron workshop) were set up nearby alongside a rural building with solid walls. Very close to that site, in Carolingian age, a religious building will be built, San Lorenzo, which per-forms the ritual functions of this open rural community composed of several settlement centers, among which the hilly site identified this spring below the medieval castle of the Tomba Bianca. This fortified farm is a site is situated on one of the initial hills marking the division between the south-eastern extremity of the Po Valley and the Tuscan-Romagna Apennines. Despite its modest elevation of 71 meters above sea level, the hill's strategic position offers dominion over the surrounding landscape—a likely factor in its continuous occupation from prehistoric through contemporary times, including the Middle Ages. The latter period has bequeathed to us a structure that stands as a testament to this enduring human presence.

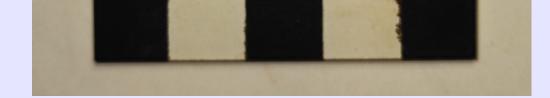
The objectives of the 2022 excavation campaign were multifaceted: to enhance our understanding of the medieval edifice's original architecture, to reassess previously excavated sectors for validation of earlier discoveries, and to gain a deeper insight into the site's context and environs. This exploration led to the identification of new medieval components of the Agolanti fortified farm (tumba), as well as to findings that likely pertain to a Roman farmhouse.





Green glazed pitcher from Agolanti castle excavations





North-adriatic casserole (5th-7th cent.)



Tunisian pitcher (5th-7th cent.)

Bibliografia essenziale:

Assenti G. 2015, Ceramica comune, vasellame fine da mensa e anfore dalle Marche fra IV e VIII secolo : il caso di Madonna del Piano-Corinaldo (AN), in Cirelli, Diosono, Patterson 2015, pp. 283-290.

Biondani F. 2005, Anfore, in L. Mazzeo Saracino, Il complesso edilizio di età romana nell'area dell'ex vescovado a Rimini, Firenze, pp. 263-282.

Cirelli E., Ferrari K., Tirincanti A. 2020, Nuovi dati sui rinvenimenti di San Lorenzo in Strada a Riccione, «Ocnus» 28, pp. 87-102.

Cirelli E., Fontana C., 2022, Le ceramiche di San Lorenzo in Strada (Riccione, RN). Prima classificazione e prospettive di ricerca, in «Facta. A Journal of Material Culture Studies» 16, pp. 41-88.

The core focus of this presentation, however, is the analysis of over a thousand ceramic fragments that have been meticulously catalogued in an Access Database, alongside artifacts from prior excavations. Through typological comparison, we have endeavored to construct a diachronic narrative of the site, bridging Roman, Early, and Late Medieval periods. There are early medieval coarse ware and Late Medieval Green Glazed pottery, or extraordinary pieces of Maiolica arcaica. Rich Is also the quantity of post medieval finds. We posit that this preliminary investigation lays a solid foundation for a comprehensive understanding of the site's historical trajectory. The integration of materials discovered in the most recent and upcoming campaigns promises to enrich our comprehension of the site's multifaceted history



Agolanti fortified farm (tumba)

Maiolica arcaica, from Agolanti castle excavations









SOPRINTENDENZA ARCHEOLOGIA,







