Excavations in the Territory, Metaponto, 1980

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Front cover and page 1.
Terracotta antefix from the excavation of the late Roman farm house at San Biagio. SB 80-86T. Height 16.8 cms.

Plans by Michael Guarino.
Drawings by Ellen Simmons.
Photographs by Chris Williams.
Design by Tom Cunningham.
Excavations in the Territory, Metaponto, 1980
With Gratitude

The University's excavation has been made possible in 1980 by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the James R. Dougherty Jr. Foundation of Beeville, Texas. It has been supported by the University through the Institute of Classical Archaeology. We are extremely grateful to the private donors who have so generously given to the project, in 1980 and for the past seven years. They are individually acknowledged on the inside cover.

In a recent article celebrating the centenary of the Archaeological Institute of America, "In Pursuit of the Past: The American Role 1879–1979," Professor Homer Thompson mentioned four American excavations in Italy. One of these, "the exploration by the University of Texas at Austin of a rural area with dwellings, industries, sanctuary and cemetery near Metapontum," he described as "a valiant effort to add to our woefully meager knowledge of rural life in South Italy." Though the job is far from completed those who have worked, and those who have supported the work, can take pride in this recognition by one of the world's most distinguished classical archaeologists.

As always our efforts in 1980 were given warm support by the Superintendent of Basilicata, Dr. Elena Lattanzi, and her staff. The Region of Basilicata became under her predecessor, Professor Dinu Adamesteanu, one of the archaeologically most exciting areas of Italy. The excitement and the huge responsibilities, as recent discoveries show (see Epilogue), continue to grow. We are grateful that Dr. Lattanzi, despite the myriad demands on her time, has always found the opportunity to share her advice, concern and expert knowledge with us. We look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration.

The farmhouse at Casa Teresa, outfitted by the Superintendency as a deposit and laboratory, and the azienda at Pizzica-Pentanello are where we work, cataloguing, photographing and drawing—in suitably rural surroundings. For this hospitality we are deeply indebted to the Superintendency and the Ente Irrigazione di Bari, and to Leonardo Torraco and his wife, who for seven years now have welcomed our big group into the family.

The results of the season's in the field were the most varied and extensive of any of our seven years in the territory—which is all the more noteworthy in that our staff and excavation crew was comparatively small. The results are the proof of their dedicated hard work and professionalism. They are individually acknowledged on the back cover of this publication. We were greatly assisted, as in 1979, by a crew from the Archaeological Cooperative of Metaponto.

I wish to acknowledge here also the kind cooperation of the Sig. G. Stigliano, the Santoro family and the Corpo Forestale of Montescaglioso who permitted us to excavate in their respective domains, and to Antonio Indice, the assistant of the Superintendent, whose expert knowledge of local conditions and regulations once again proved indispensable.
Author's Note

This is the first in a projected series of publication by the Institute of Classical Archaeology at the University of Texas at Austin. Its purpose is to bring our donors, colleagues, and the interested public up to date on the principal activity of the Institute, archaeological excavation in the Territory of Metaponto. It is not intended as a preliminary scientific report. That will be found in a forthcoming volume of Notizie degli Scavi of the Accademia dei Lincei, the official journal of the Italian archaeological authorities, and in various publications in English language journals. (A complete bibliography will be furnished upon application to the Director of the Institute).

It is hoped that through this report and subsequent numbers news of the University's work on the historical-archaeological problem of the ancient rural population will become more widely diffused, and will bring about an interchange of ideas, results, and hopefully publications dealing with this and related research.

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Department of Classics,
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FIG. 1: Satellite photograph of Ionian Coast of Apulia, Lucania and Calabria and Southern tip of the Apennine chain. Metaponto is located near the center of the photo under the clouds. (courtesy of NASA).
Aims and Results in 1980: A Brief Summary

A major aim of the project has long been to find and excavate a well-preserved farmhouse. In the previous seasons we had dealt with a variety of rural sites (cemeteries, sanctuaries, rural ceramic industries), but the farmhouse was disappointingly elusive. This year we found and excavated two.

We arrived in Metaponto on June 1, and began excavation on June 4 at Sant’Angelo where much had been done in the 1979 campaign. Our aim here was to explore further the area of the necropolis and kilns. A test trench was dug in the area of a suspected rural sanctuary, with negative results. On June 15, we were called upon to salvage a possible archaic farm site at Ponte Fabrizio. Three weeks’ work there revealed a large intact section of a farmhouse of the fourth century B.C. Finds of storage amphorae, mortars, and single fine terracotta relief plaque reflect the everyday life of a Greek farm family of modest means.

For much of July our efforts were focused on a second ancient farm site, also in danger. It had been disturbed by mercifully shallow plowing and the foundation had miraculously survived. It was possible to trace nearly the whole plan of the building. Two coin hoards, one of which appeared in the heating arrangement (hypocaust) of the bath, date this building to the end of the third and beginning of the fourth century A.D. The farms at San Biagio and Ponte Fabrizio are separated by about two kilometers, and six hundred years. The remarkable similarity of their plans is witness to the force of tradition and its continuity in rural settlements at Metaponto.

Simultaneously a crew continued the exploration of an important deposit of pottery, misfired pottery ("wasters"), animal bone—detritus from the Roman tile factory at Pizzica. The results will help to establish a chronology for "greyware"—an archaeological key to the problem of the Roman penetration of Southern Italy, and it should tell us much about animal husbandry in this crucial period in the transformation of the countryside.

For the past three years considerable attention has been given to the relation of settlement patterns to the geological features of the territory, and to evidence for agriculture and animal husbandry at sites, representing various periods in the development of the territory. Pot sherds are essential in establishing the chronology of rural settlement but bones, seeds and other preserved organic material, and the relation of sites to natural features are equally, if not more important. The changing patterns from site to site which have begun to emerge will hopefully begin to reveal to us the real history of the land.

In addition to our activity in the field, we were engaged this year in the study and restoration of materials from previous campaigns. Particular attention was given to that from Incoronata, an important pre-colonial site. In 1977 and 1978 the University team discovered, in addition to a structure and various deposits of pottery of the eighth and seventh century B.C., a sanctuary of the coloniaal era (more precisely dated about 530 B.C.). A special exhibition of this material was prepared for display in the Antiquarium of Metaponto, inaugurated for the International Congress for the study of Magna Grecia, October 1980.
Geology and Settlement Patterns

For the past several years we have directed our attention more and more to the overall distribution of ancient settlement in the territory of Metaponto and the physical setting, generally, of the rural sites around this Greek (and latter Roman) center. In this we have been greatly assisted by Professor Robert Folk of the Geology Department at the University and by Dr. Lorenzo Costantini of the Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali.

The major geological data which have affected the patterns of human habitation and their interpretation in the area immediately outside of Metaponto are two: (1) The great eastward moving overthrust sheet which corresponds to most of the southwestern part of the peninsula, including the Appennines, is responsible for a fracture pattern with a general orientation of 50° West of North observable at Metaponto in surface outcrops in the sandstone (cigar-shaped concretions). A sudden shift of a relatively small part of this sheet was probably responsible for the tragedy of November 23, 1980. (2) The down dropped block (referred to as the Bradano trough or fossa bradanaica, which runs from the arch of the boot toward the Gargano, was covered in the early Pleistocene period with marine clay. By the end of this period, about 2 million years ago, the sea was at its maximum level, equal to the altitude of modern Pistici (15 kms. to the NW of Metaponto). It receded about 200 meters to its present level, about 5000 years ago, leaving a series of northeast oriented terraces. This established the soil conditions that have shaped the patterns of land use ever since. The sand and gravel beds of the coastal terraces are excellent for agriculture. Behind it are hills of blue clay which are considerably less desirable.

How did human habitation adapt to the geological situation, and exploit the opportunities it offered? We are fortunate that the territory of Metaponto is archaeologically very fully documented. Aerial photography and surface surveys have revealed the existence of more than four hundred rural sites and there is also evidence to suggest an extensive system of parallel land divisions (similar to that discovered around another Greek colonial city, the Black Sea territory of Chersonesos). In reality, the lines, which have left the traces on aerial photographs, are thought to have been a network of country lanes or drainage canals. These data are the results of pioneering work by the Superintendency of Antiquities and teams of archaeologists and surveyors from the University of Aix-en-Provence. Few ancient Greek cities have had their immediate environs so completely and systematically studied (by comparison, we know relatively little about the inhabited farmland around Athens).

When the archaeological plan is superimposed on the geological map several very important results emerge. First, the Greek settlement in the territory, the hundreds of farmsites, occupy most of the area of the marine terraces, and do not go beyond them. The ancient historian Antho-

ochos of Syracuse tells us that the natives put up a fierce
resistance when Greek colonists arrived in the seventh century B.C. Now, we know better why. They were being pushed off the good farmland into an area where a square kilometer, by modern estimates, could only support about \( \frac{1}{400} \) the population of an equal area of coastal land.

Archaeological features in the territory, such as tombs and farmhouses, are often aligned, with the same orientation as the division lines. Surprisingly, both have the same orientation as the geological fracture pattern, approximately 50° West of North. This discovery emphasizes the necessity of distinguishing clearly the contributions of nature and man to the overall appearance of the Metapontine landscape. To what extent the man made features of the landscape were imposed or simply took advantage of the natural contours and drainage, which was conditioned by the underlying fracture pattern, is a question of fundamental importance, and one which will require a continuing cooperative effort by geologists and archaeologists.

Four hundred may seem like an exaggeratedly high number for the farmsites outside, and dependent on the urban center, Metaponto. Further detailed survey has indicated that this is probably a lower limit, and that the true number may have been twice as large. The sites cluster in most cases along the valleys created by secondary streams and torrents running off into the major rivers, the Basilento and the Bradano, or around springs. This is clear from contour maps. Walking over the ground with an eye both to the position of ancient farmsites and the geology of the territory has revealed a further correlation. Dwellings and slopes are placed near the interface between the marine clay and the overlying sand and gravel of the terrace. Water filtered by the upper layer of sandy soil is trapped by nearly impenetrable clay and it leaves the ground today as it undoubtedly did in the past, in springs located at the interface. The availability of fresh running water was thus (understandably) a major factor affecting distribution of ancient farmsites in the territory. (It should be noted that some sites were located in the plain relatively far from a stream or spring. They seem to have been larger than those along the slopes, and may have had their own wells.)

In 1980 in collaboration with the Archaeological Cooperative we surveyed a small area of the territory at its greatest distance from Metaponto (some eleven kilometers to the NW). Known as Sant’Angelo Greco, it was chosen because of the possibility that a very high percentage of the ancient farmsites are preserved there, and that we might obtain an idea of the original density of settlements. It is covered by old and valuable olive trees and thus deepening and other practices destructive of the evidence (and of olives) have not so far been employed. We identified eight sites in close proximity to a spring and the Basilento river. In several cases, the discoloration of the soil caused by the disintegration of mud brick walls made it possible to trace the perimeter of the ancient buildings.

Surface material indicated that many of the sites were of similar construction and coeval. None was more than three hundred meters from the spring or less than fifty meters from its nearest neighbor. The cluster of buildings so far is without parallel elsewhere in the territory. It may be that here a “village,” in contrast to the isolated “homesteads” nearer the city center, was the pattern of settlement. It is a problem worth pursuing and it could be approached using the results of surface surveys and analogies from ethnographic or agricultural literature, or by actual excavation of limited areas. Ideally, both methods, time and financial resources permitting, could produce an extremely detailed picture of a microcosm of a classical landscape.
Toward a History of Rural Settlement at Metaponto

Whether closer to four hundred or eight hundred, the farms and other kinds of sites, must have made the Metapontine countryside a truly impressive vision. There is no reason, however, to believe that this was a unique phenomenon. Other Greek cities, like Gela in Sicily, show evidence of having had a similarly dense rural population. Ancient farmsites at Metaponto have been more fully documented, and they have had the great good fortune—for archeologists and students of the past, at least—of having been less disturbed than most. (Modern agricultural development is changing this situation rapidly).

What are the underlying reasons which attracted the proverbial polis-dwelling Greek into the countryside? To answer this, the two dimensional map of the settlement pattern must be given the added dimension of time which only excavation can provide. One is never safe in assuming that a site's whole history is told by the dateable pot sherds found on the surface (See the report on the farm at Ponte Fabrizio, below).

When did the Greeks move into the countryside? Was there continuous growth, or instead periods of intense activity and prosperity, alternating with periods of stagnation or abandonment of farmsites? Did the Romans follow the Greeks into the countryside, and if so how did their establishment differ (in type and distribution) from the Greek? These are fundamental questions regarding the nature of the ancient agricultural economy, questions for which our limited historical evidence, particularly limited in this area of the world, can provide no answers. Reliable answers nevertheless can be found by digging with a plan.

Only about twenty of the hundreds of possible excavation sites have, so far, been explored. Nearly a third of these have been the work of the University of Texas since 1974. They illustrate the diversity of rural site—ceramic industry, sanctuary, cemetery, and, of course, farmhouse—and equally important, they document the principal periods of the development.

The first great wave of settlement of the Metapontine territory was in the second half of the sixth century B.C. (though some sanctuaries and perhaps some farmhouses belong to the late seventh or first half of the sixth centuries). The second was in the second half of the fourth century B.C., and more limited revival occurred in Roman times (second century B.C., early Empire). What happened in between and afterward? During the late fifth and early fourth century there is almost no evidence (with the notable exception of two rural cemeteries) for occupation of the territory. It appeared to have been quietly abandoned. The tremendous flowering of the fourth century, corresponding in time and scope to the Timoleonic revival of the territory of Gela and other cities in Sicily—the great majority of the sites so far excavated are of this period—seems to have come to quite a different end with the evident signs of destruction or hasty abandonment (this, it should not be forgotten, was the time of the Lucanian incursions). It is known that a Roman colony was established at Metaponto in the second century B.C. The University's excavations have revealed two important industrial sites which represent the earliest signs of life in the countryside after the Roman conquest of the South. Roman agricultural establishments are large and widely separated (see the report on the farm at San Biagio, below).

A clearer picture of the development of the territory emerges with every year of excavation and as it does, one can begin to see the manifestations of major social and economic changes over the roughly thousand years from the arrival of the first Greeks (Incoronata) to the final years of the Empire. The discovery of a fourth century A.D. farm in 1980 fills another gap (San Biagio).

Other evidence from the earth is essential for truly definitive answers. The fortunes of the countryside and those of the city are inseparable. That is symbolized by the coins, whose reverse figure is a six-rowed head of barley. Only at Metaponto is a systematic attempt being made through excavation to reveal how they worked together. The results of our Italian colleagues of the Soprintendenza and their collaborators from the German Archaeological Institute in Rome have already done much to clarify the development of the city.

One of their recent and most exciting discoveries relates to the question of the rural population. Under the theatre of the fourth century B.C. has been discovered a round building which seated perhaps as many as eight thousand people. It has been identified as an *ekklesiasterion*, or meeting place of the assembly. In its earliest phase it dates to the period of the first great population of the territory. Since the free, adult, male (basic requirements for citizenship among the ancients) population of Metaponto in the mid-sixth century is estimated at considerably less than eight thousand, a tantalizing hypothesis—at this stage it must remain just that—is that the inhabitants of the territory were also citizens. Clearly, the investigation of the relationship between a city and its territory is in the early stages. It has begun to yield results, but the important ones are yet to come.
FIG. 5: Map of the Territory of Metaponto with the rural sites excavated by The University of Texas shown in relation to the city and extra-urban sanctuary of Hera known as Tavole Palatine.
The Evidence for Metapontine Agriculture (Seeds and Bones)

The growth of Metaponto and her territory, as that of many Greek and Roman cities, was almost solely a reflection of the farmers’ success with their crops and animals. Surprisingly little attention has been paid by classical archaeologists before now to the actual evidence of ancient agriculture and the environment in general. At Metaponto, the evidence does exist and is even plentiful. This preeminently agricultural colony, with the wide chronological spread of its rural habitations, therefore, offers an unparalleled opportunity to study the changing patterns.

An important aspect of the University’s project is the recovery from stratified contexts of ancient seed and bone (as well as artifacts) and their analysis in the laboratory. The strategy has been to collect the material from a number of sites, representing the different historical periods of the territory, and within the site to concentrate on those areas where there appears to be no evidence of disturbance and therefore of contamination by later material.

The collecting basin at the center of the rural sanctuary at Pizzica (Pantanello) where the University has been excavating since 1974, produced a uniquely well preserved sample of ancient seeds. The clay which held them was sealed between a stone pavement and a layer of roof tile and contained numerous decorated pot sherds which date the context and the seeds to the last half of the fourth century B.C. The whole area had been continuously underwater and the anerobic environment prevented the decay not only of the seeds, but also of segments of grapevine and fragments of worked wood. Similarly, at Incoronata we can be confident that the bone from undisturbed pits, like B, is contemporaneous with the pottery, and therefore dates in this case to the first half of the seventh century B.C.
### PALEOBOTANICAL ANALYSIS: CHORA OF METAPONTO

(Preliminary Results 1978–1980)

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<tr>
<td><strong>GRAMINEAE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hordeum vulgare</td>
<td>Barley</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hordeum Sp.</td>
<td>Emmer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triticum dicoccum</td>
<td>Wheat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triticum aestivum compactum</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triticum Sp.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avena Sp.</td>
<td>Oat, etc.</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lolium Sp.</td>
<td>Rye, etc.</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td><strong>LEGUMINOSAE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cicer arietinum</td>
<td>Chick Pea</td>
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<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pisum Sp.</td>
<td>Pea</td>
<td>+</td>
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<td>Vicia faba var minuta</td>
<td>Broad Bean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicia Sp.</td>
<td>Vetch</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lathyrus Sp.</td>
<td>Vetchling</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VITACEAE</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitis vinifera</td>
<td>Wine grape</td>
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<td>(Uncultivated—various families)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galium</td>
<td>Bedstraw</td>
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<td>Rubus</td>
<td>Blackberry</td>
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<td>Ceratophyllum demersum</td>
<td>Goonail</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Polygonum</td>
<td>Kneetweed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centaurea</td>
<td>Star Thistle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cirsium</td>
<td>Thistle</td>
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<td>Euphorbia helioscopica</td>
<td>Spurge</td>
<td>+</td>
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**FIG. 7:** Table containing results of a preliminary analysis of preserved seeds and plant material from the University’s excavations at Incoronata, Pizzica and Sant’Angelo Vecchio. The analysis was carried out by Lorenzo Costantini.

The identification and study of this material has been carried out by Mr. Gene Wooldridge, formerly of the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory [reports on faunal analysis, Incoronata 1978, Sant’Angelo 1979] and Dr. Costantini [reports on paleobotanical analysis, Pizzica 1978, 1980, Sant’Angelo 1979, Incoronata 1980, faunal analysis, Pizzica 1980, Incoronata 1980]. The preliminary results can be seen in the tables presented here (figs. 7–9).

Though this work is still at an early stage we can already see interesting similarities and differences between material from Incoronata and Pizzica and even some significant variety in the two chronologically distinct phases at Incoronata—the pre-colonial settlement of the late eighth and early seventh century B.C. and the area of the votive deposit which belongs to the colonial expansion of the territory dating the second half of the sixth century B.C. (see reports in 1977 and 1978).

Barley (L. hordeum, lt. orzo), the symbol of Metaponto, can be found in all the sites and in all periods so far studied, but it is particularly significant that it appears at pre-colonial Incoronata. It may have been the stimulus for the earliest contacts between Greeks and indigenous peoples in this area. Grasses, like wheat and barley, take nitrogen out of the soil: legumes like vetch put it back in. Barley, as the Roman agricultural writers tell us, was often mixed with legumes as fodder for animals, and the fact that both are found at all sites may be an indication that the principal crop of the Metapontine plains was not always ins...
### FAUNAL ANALYSIS: CHORA OF METAPONTO

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Determined</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>Juvenal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bos</td>
<td>Cow</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>Equus</td>
<td>Horse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cervus</td>
<td>Deer</td>
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<td>Elaphus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ovis</td>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capra</td>
<td>Goat</td>
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<td>Canis</td>
<td>Dog</td>
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<td>Reptilia</td>
<td>Reptile</td>
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<td>Avis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodentia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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**FIG. 8:** Table containing preliminary results of an analysis of the faunal material from the University's excavations at Incoronata, Pizzica and Sant'Angelo Vecchio (analysis by Lorenzo Costantini).

**FIG. 9:** Table with the preliminary results of a detailed minimum number analysis of faunal material from several areas of the University's excavation at Incoronata. Material from Pit B can be dated to the period 700-650 B.C., and that from the area of the votive deposit to the third quarter of the sixth century B.C., 550-525 B.C. (analysis: Gene Wooldridge).

### FAUNAL ANALYSIS: INCORONATA 1978

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excavation Area</th>
<th>Sus sp.</th>
<th>Ovis/Capra</th>
<th>Bos sp.</th>
<th>Cervus sp.</th>
<th>Lepus</th>
<th>Canis</th>
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<td>Pit B</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Pit C</td>
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<td>Pit E</td>
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* (1 Ad. Capra)

### Combined Site

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<tr>
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<th>Ovis/Capra</th>
<th>Bos sp.</th>
<th>Cervus sp.</th>
<th>Lepus</th>
<th>Canis</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
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* One Diagnostically Identifiable Capra sp., Does Not Change The Minimum Number Evaluation.
tended for human consumption, though it was highly recommended by these same writers as an ingredient for bread and porridge. In the Mediterranean it is generally difficult to combine sedentary agriculture and animal husbandry. Forage crops were one way of extending the pasture. In any event, the combination of grasses and legumes at all sites implies a fairly developed agricultural technique, in all periods of the Greek occupation of the territory, including the pre-colonial phase.

The collection of weed seeds, as well as barley and chick peas (It. ceci) and wine grape seeds from the collecting basin of the fourth century B.C. spring at Pizzica is truly a rich one. The presence of coontail indicates slowly moving, but not stagnant, water. The other plants are the typical spontaneous flora which occur in areas where intense human activity has been followed by a period of abandonment. (Some weeds like bedstraw and blackberry, while not cultivated can serve man’s needs.) The combination of plants, the barley, grape, and indirectly all the other species, testify to human activity in the territory surrounding the collecting basin (Costantini).

The quantity of the faunal remains from Incoronata and Pizzica analyzed to date is sufficiently large to reveal general trends, though much still remains to be identified and studied. A comparison between the two sites shows a similarly high proportion of cow and calf bones from the early and later site, but a dramatic increase in horse bones later on. The cow it should be remembered was largely used in the ancient world as a draft animal, though our evidence shows that it was also a source of protein. The horse, on the other hand, was not normally a working animal. In the later period, conversely, the goat, sheep, and pig population fell off precipitously.

It is interesting that goat and sheep, (their bones are not easily distinguished) and pig bones occur in equally higher percentages in the early period. “Goat and sheep are important sources of meat, milk, and wool for clothing. Pigs, being prolific breeders, are ideal reservoirs of meat, especially during the late winter when the ruminants are in their poorest condition. Swine eat a variety of foods and would be in better shape and more favorable for slaughter than either sheep, goats, or cattle. This balance in the domesticates argues for a sophisticated knowledge of population dynamics and animal husbandry.” (Wooldridge) From where and at what point might such ideas have come?

A look at the detailed analysis of faunal material from Incoronata gives us a clue. The material from Pit B shows a balance between all types. The pottery from this pit dates it to the first half of the seventh century (700–650 B.C.), that is to the period just before the founding of the colony at Metaponto. There is a high percentage of sheep, goat, and pig relative to all others in the area of the votive mater-

rial from the sanctuary, which belongs, as noted above, to the early years of the expansion of Metapontine colonists in the territory (550–525 B.C.). This strongly suggests that the colonists were responsible for introducing improvements in animal husbandry to this area of Italy. It is an hypothesis which deserves further testing.

The continuous presence of deer in all periods is a striking fact and it is no less surprising that all recovered bones were of fully grown animals. Several inferences may be drawn: hunting for sport, or as a diet supplement, was not eliminated by agricultural prosperity, and substantial forest areas must have continued to exist in close proximity to the fields. This confirms what later Roman writers had to say about the primitiveness of the region. (The presence of forest and thus abundant firewood can also be inferred from the existence at Pizzica of a metal working, since this industry until relatively modern times required ready supplies of charcoal.)

It would be an understatement to say that a vast amount remains to be done with evidence of this sort. The University has excavated a stratified deposit of pottery at Pizzica (see below) covering the period of the Roman penetration and domination of this area of Italy (third century B.C. to the first century A.D.). With the pottery an enormous quantity of animal bone came to light; it is awaiting analysis. Historians have maintained that the Roman domination brought with it the introduction of new and improved plants and animals stocks. It will be interesting to see if the evidence from this area of the Roman world bears out the generalization and if so, at what point the inhabitants began to enjoy these benefits of Empire.

While the excavations of the University at Pizzica-Pantanello have been revealing archaeological evidence for man’s basic life sustaining activity, agriculture, some two hundred yards away the same problem is being studied using different means. An experimental field contains samples of hundreds of different types of grain from all over the Mediterranean basin and Near East. It is known as a germplasm “bank” and is one of the only three such projects in Europe (there are others in the United States) where the different strains are maintained for study and possible future hybridization. Scientists from the Ente Irrigazione and the Centro Nazionale per la Ricerca are also studying the historical diffusion of grain in the Mediterranean, and basing their conclusions on the present distribution of the different types. Pizzica-Pantanello is today the center of a multi-disciplinary international investigation of an historical problem whose importance is supremely relevant to the present.

The interrelation of agriculture and civilization was obvious to the Greeks. It found its expression in the sublime language of the Hymn to Demeter.
EXCAVATION IN 1980

A seventh campaign of excavation in the Territory was carried out by the University of Texas team between June 1 and July 31, 1980. Work continued on two large and important sites, Pizzica, begun in 1974, and Sant’ Angelo Vecchio, the object of the campaign in 1979.

Sant’ Angelo

The site came to light during the construction of a private farm road in the spring of 1979, on the Masseria Sant’Angelo. At the request of the Superintendency, an urgent salvage excavation was carried out under the direction of Professor Ingrid Edlund, with the spectacular results summarized in our 1979 Report. Thanks to the constant generosity of the Santoro family we were permitted to keep the site open and clarify some of the areas of particular interest uncovered during the previous season.

Excavation continued in the area of the rural necropolis of the fifth century B.C. (see Excavations at Metaponto, 1979). Squares of F7, H7, and E6 were dug to virgin soil. In F7, a tilefall sealing pottery of the fourth century B.C. was
found in association with an east-west wall. Just above the tiles we came upon a complete votive plaque representing a satyr and maenad (of a type found for example at Cozzo Presepe on the northwest corner of the territory). This gives us the northern limit of the structure whose north-south wall was discovered in G7 in 1975. The fourth century building is related to the long walls, squares G5 and 6, H4 which was built over the necropolis. The long wall in turn enclosed the long western side of a warehouse or factory building which is presumed to have served the complex of three tile-built kilns on the south side of the site. These remarkable witnesses of the potter or tile makers’ craft resemble in their construction the larger kiln at Pizzica (Reports for 1975 and 1976), and are only the latest in a series of structures serving similar purposes on the site. An important and suggestive further link between Pizzica and Sant’ Angelo are the stamped tiles with the name HPAKAS, found at both sites (and in the interior of Basilicata near Matera). Do we have the name of a local entrepreneur with several factories and a wide distribution network? Fragmentary remains of circular earthen kilns and of matrices trace the ceramic activity here back through the fourth century to the second half of the sixth century B.C. Further study of the site and excavated material projected by Professor Edlund for 1981 will hopefully clarify the various phases of this important rural site.

Two further burials, both tile-covered children’s tombs, were found in G6 and E6, bringing the total number of tombs to seven, and this would appear to be the full extent of this rural burying ground. In neither case was skeletal material or grave goods preserved. This year Professor Becker studied the skeletal material discovered in 1979 and his preliminary results have raised some interesting questions. There is a mystery as to why, for example, two females were reburied in the same grave before decomposition was complete. Certain similar features suggest that the persons buried in this plot may well have been related. This would support the theory based on other evidence (see the 1976 and 1978 Reports on the rural cemetery at Suldone) that the isolated farms or homesteads in the territory were occupied by a single family over a period of time and that each farmhouse (like, for example, the plantations of the southern part of the United States) had its own burying ground.

Several facts about the site at Sant’ Angelo suggested that a rural sanctuary had once existed in the vicinity. There was apparently continuous or at least frequent and prolonged activity in the area, from the sixth to the second or possibly the first century B.C. Besides the ceramic industry there was a small farm on the hilltop to the north, of which only parts of the foundation survive and there was a much larger one just to the west of the kilns, to which the fifth century B.C. necropolis undoubtedly belonged. Most of the rural sanctuaries so far discovered in the territory have been associated with springs which still flow (S. Biagio, Pizzica and probably Incoronata). The most compelling piece of evidence though for the existence of a cult place at Sant’ Angelo is the large quantity of votive terracotta plaques like the Satyr and maenad and statuettes discovered in the 1979 campaign. The frequent occurrence of the figure Zeus among these could indicate that Zeus, perhaps together with a female divinity, was worshipped here in the countryside. The analogy of the nearby farms, kilns and votive terracottas at the great rural shrine at S. Biagio strengthen the hypothesis of a sanctuary at Sant’ Angelo.

Consequently, an exploratory trench measuring 8 x 1.5 m. by 1.5 m. deep, running roughly E W was cut just below the farm road and kilns in close proximity to the present day mouth of the all-weather spring. The trench was carried to virgin but no trace of a structure appeared. Pottery consisted of greyware of late Republican date near the surface, and fragments of 6th century “Ionic” cups near virgin. The sounding further documents the long span of the site’s occupation, about five hundred years, to the last years of the Republic perhaps, but not beyond. The Aretna ware of the early Empire which is so plentiful in the kiln area at Pizzica is conspicuously absent here.

FIG. 11: Reconstruction drawing (a composite) of a type of terracotta votive plaque representing a satyr in hot pursuit of a maenad or nymph. The satyr claps a wine-mixing bowl in his left arm. It dates from the late fourth or early third century B.C. and is well represented at Sant’Angelo. Similar plaques have been found at other sites in the territory as well as the city. (The drawing is based largely on SA 80107/Height 30.5 cms.) (See Page 14)
Pizzica

The most complex rural site explored to date is that at Pizzica-Pantanello. It has been occupied from late neolithic times (about 3000 B.C.) to the present, and it presents formidable technical problems to the excavator. It has also rewarded our efforts with extremely important and sometimes dramatic results.

In 1975 and 1976 a vast deposit of pottery (much of it misfired pieces, "wasters"), bone and iron "bloom" (a by-product of iron smelting) was found in the hillside just to the south of the Roman tile factory at Pizzica (see reports 1975, 1976). It was proved to measure some 15 meters from north to south and 25 meters in the east-west direction, and was nearly 2 meters deep at some points. The importance of this discovery was soon evident.

The deposit contains large quantities of a local version of the greyware pottery which accompanied the Roman expansion in South Italy from the third century onward. Many different types of vessels are represented and they correspond to material found in Metaponto itself, where a Roman camp was established in the third or second century B.C., and which revived on a small scale. Similar pottery has been recovered at numerous other sites in Southern Italy, to the southwest at Heraklea and Sybaris for example (which were extensively inhabited in the Roman period). The pottery holds a key to the dating of the Roman domination of the South. It is ubiquitous, but difficult to date. This is why the Pizzica deposit is so important. Pizzica is the only known site so far where a real basis exists for establishing the chronology of the greyware. The deposit is stratified and several of the lowest and highest strata can be dated independently, because of the presence of the well-known red-figured and Gaetania wares in the former, and of large quantities of stamped Arretine ware in the latter. Thus both a relative and absolute chronology for the Pizzica greyware can be determined in the only really sure way—with solid archaeological data. A full study of the material from the 1975 and 1976 campaigns has been prepared for publication in Notizie degli Scavi.

To check the results of this crucial dating of the greyware, and to enlarge our faunal material from the period of early Roman contact with Southern Italy (see above) in 1980, we opened a second larger trench beside the earlier ones. The sounding measures 5 x 10 meters and to date has been carried to a depth of 1.3 meters. Virgin has not yet been reached. The stratigraphical situation is complicated. The deposit was made over the undulating slope of a former clay bed, and therefore minute attention to changes in soil type and material was required at all times.

Along the slope of virgin sandy clay at the north, a large deposit of amphorae and greyware, including complete examples of the usual shapes—bowls, plates, and oilpoures—was revealed. The prize was a bowl supported on a three-footed base formed by tragic masks. It is a whimsical idea and it shows what our Roman potters could do when they wished to enliven the generally mundane repertoire of greyware forms.

Well-preserved animal bones include not only domestic varieties but also deer and wild boar (an ingredient perhaps of the Lucanian sausages that Roman writers praised). In the coming season the sounding will be carried to virgin clay and the spatial relation to the Roman tile factory on the slope explored.

FIG. 12: Excavation of the deposit of Roman pottery at Pizzica. This material, including a fine “grey ware” was produced in kilns on this site, which continued as a rural ceramic center into the early Imperial era.

FIG. 13: Detail of the unusual bowl shown emerging from the ground in the previous figure. The feet are represented as tragic masks placed so that when the bowl is on its feet, they are on their heads.
TWO FARMHOUSES

Ancient farmsites in the territory of Metaponto are being destroyed annually in alarming numbers as more land is claimed for agriculture and more powerful mechanical tools are employed. This year at the kind invitation of the Superintendent, two farmsites in imminent danger were fully excavated. These salvage efforts have provided unexpectedly useful new data for our study of rural settlement. Both are relatively intact examples of the basic unit of the territory, the isolated farm or homestead. Till this year only one farmhouse—at Pizzica—had been excavated by the University team (though we are studying for publication the Fattoria Stefan, the largest Greek farmhouse so far discovered in the territory). The farms at Ponte Fabrizio and S. Biagio give us two more examples, and document a period otherwise unknown in the territory, the fourth century A.D. With funds generously provided by private donors, the urgent work could be included in the regular program of the University’s excavations.
Ponte Fabrizio

The Venella is a tributary which joins the Basento river just below S. Biagio. Along its south slope survey has revealed the existence of a number of ancient farmhouses. At a point about two kilometers upstream from the important archaic and classical sanctuary at San Biagio the modern road crosses a bridge, known as Ponte Fabrizio. The remains of one very damaged fourth century B.C. farmhouse can be seen on the side of the road. Hidden in a dense overgrowth at some distance from the road, a number of archaic sherds indicated the presence of another. A developer had stripped the adjacent slope, but there seemed to be a good chance that a farmhouse might still be intact under the protective shrubs. In this we were not disappointed, though it soon became clear that we were dealing not with an archaic farmhouse as we had hoped—only a few poorly preserved examples have been excavated—but with a modest establishment of the fourth century B.C. The plentiful archaic material—sherds of "Ionic" cups, one of black figure ware, and loomweights (fig. 15a, b)—belonged to an earlier phase which left no other trace that we could find. It seems likely that the building materials of the earlier structure were re-employed in the later one.

Immediately below the surface we began to encounter the large tiles which formed the roof, and towards the eastern end of the building, the remains of a modern charcoal maker's kiln (which had occupied but not penetrated deeply into the shelf which held the farmhouse). The tiles and the foundation course of the walls were the only remains of the mud-brick structure. Some idea of the progressive stages of disintegration of an abandoned farmhouse can be gotten from contemporary case coloniche in the area.

The building was oriented so that its major axis, formed by parallel walls 60–80 cms. thick, made of large rough blocks of conglomerate stone and field stones, had the same direction as the slope of the valley side. This was the best way to protect it against erosion. The choice of the mid-slope position was in this case (and in others as noted above) dictated by the proximity of spring water. A further consideration could have been the direction of the prevailing winds. This farm though exposed to full sun most of the day in early summer, was nevertheless always cool and comfortable.

FIG. 14: General view of the site of the fourth century B.C. farmhouse at Ponte Fabrizio, looking out over the Venella. (See Page 18)

FIG. 15a: Rim of a cup of the late sixth century B.C. from the farmouse site at Ponte Fabrizio. PF 190-199 PL. A Length 10.7 cms. (See Page 18)

FIG. 15b: Inscribed, pyramidal loomweight from the farmouse at Ponte Fabrizio. PF 80-195 T. Height 6.5 cms. (See Page 18)

FIG. 16: Detail of the construction of the walls of the fourth century B.C. farmhouse at Ponte Fabrizio.

FIG. 17: The floor level of the fourth century B.C. farmhouse with the bottom of a large pithos (above), an inverted small bowl, and part of a mortar (foreground).
FIG. 18: Fragment of the votive plaque from the fourth century farmhouse at Ponte Fabrizio.

FIG. 19: The votive plaque with goddess and worshipper, the goddess carrying a sheep on her shoulders. Reassembled from numerous fragments. FF 80-72T. Height 43 cms.

FIG. 20: This modern farmhouse in the territory of Metaponto illustrates the process of deterioration of an abandoned building. First to go is the wooden frame of the roof. The tiles then spill inside the building and cover the floor thickly, sealing many objects of household use that may have been left behind. Eventually the walls disintegrate (rapidly if they are mud brick, as the ancient ones were) leaving exposed the more solidly built foundation.

FIG. 21: Simplified plan of the early hellenistic Greek farmhouse at Ponte Fabrizio. Fourth century B.C.
Thinner crosswalls intersect the two surviving long walls to produce a regular rhythm of rooms of two standard sizes. The southern two long walls have been largely washed down the hill, but enough remains to be reasonably sure that there were three rows of rooms and that the overall dimensions of the dwelling were about 14 x 14 m. There were two roughly square rooms and two narrow ones in each row (with floor areas of 25 and 12 meters², respectively). If the third row followed this pattern there should originally have been twelve rooms or spaces. The narrow rooms at the east and west extremes of the northernmost row do not appear to have had exterior walls. The mortar carefully placed in the corner of the eastern one, found in situ, would indicate that this was an open domestic work area. As was the case with the Pizzica farmhouse (1977 Report) there was no indication of an open courtyard. This feature so far has been verified only at Fattoria Stefan, the large fourth century B.C. farm on the high plains at nearby Lago del Lupo.

On the beaten earth surface of the floor, a number of vessels of varying sizes and functions were found in situ. The two larger northern rooms contained the fragments of three huge pithoi. One had been broken in antiquity and repaired with lead clamps. The Roman architectural writer Vitruvius advises that the wine be stored in a northern room, and this may have been the purpose of the pithoi. Unfortunately, little actual evidence of the farm’s activity, such as seeds, pits or bones, was found at this site despite intensive screening and washing (with a flotation device) of soils from floor surfaces and pithoi. There were traces of a hearth in the southwest room (a kitchen?). Though most vessels were coarse ware, such as mortars and pithoi, enough good quality plain black glaze pottery was recovered to date this farmhouse to the second half of the fourth century B.C. There was no evidence of violent destruction, no extensive remains of charred wood, or unburied cadavers such as occurred elsewhere in farmhouses at this time. The place seems simply to have been quietly abandoned by its occupants who, however, left behind the valuable pithoi.

The Ponte Fabrizio site is important because it was probably not an exceptional one, like Fattoria Stefan. It shows us how the typical farmer of modest means lived at the end of the fourth century B.C. It was a Spartan existence. These rooms reflect the pressing concerns of people who had to struggle for their livelihood and who had little time or means for cultural pursuits. A single discovery could qualify as art, and it is indeed an unusual item. The pieces were found over a period of several weeks, scattered down the hillside to the west where the runoff which eroded the hillside must have carried them. Reassembled in the pottery shed they form a plaque which is unique, to date, in the territory of Metaponto. No parallel for it exists, to my knowledge, elsewhere. The draped goddess stands with her left arm wrapped in a himation and resting on her hip.

Her drapery falls in zigzag folds, her hair is held in an elaborate knotted sakkos and is gathered on top in a bun. Despite some archaic features the figure belongs on the basis of style to the early hellenistic period. Beside her left leg is a diminutive female figure, wearing only a chiton, who holds a sheep around her shoulders. The expression of the goddess is lovely and a little remote, that of the girl, a charming smile.

In the late fourth century votive reliefs in marble at major sanctuaries show an oversized god approached by tiny worshippers. If this is the relationship of the two figures here, it had undergone some alteration. The distance between divinity and worshipper has narrowed and they present a common front. The subject matter of the plaque may be our best clue to the kind of farming practiced at Ponte Fabrizio.
San Biagio

The second farmhouse of 1980 was salvaged in a grain field, soon to be converted to a vineyard. It is located at a strategic point, a spur which projects into the Valley of the Basento, and has at the same time a command of the Venella. A hill now crowned by the small chapel of San Biagio separated the site from the important rural sanctuary about 300 meters to the north.

Plowing, over the years, had turned up fragments of architectural terracottas and it was believed that the farmhouse had been constructed with elements from the sanctuary, after its decline in the third century B.C. This did not prove to be the case. Very fortunately for us, the plow employed was a very light one. The foundations of the farmhouse, preserved only in their lowest courses, began to appear just fifteen centimeters under the surface of the field. Had the plow gone six inches deeper almost nothing would have been left. The virgin hillside appeared at the same level on the east (or Venella) side of the site—where it had clearly eroded very badly. The only features of the farmhouse, besides the foundations, to escape destruction were those below floor level.

By careful troweling we succeeded in recovering most of the ground plan (fig. 22). Originally it was probably a square building, like the farm at Ponte Fabrizio, measuring about 18 meters on a side. There are five parallel walls running from northeast to southwest and these are intersected by cross walls, creating once again a regular rhythm of small rooms of standard size. The maximum floor space is about 30 square meters. Rows of the larger rooms alternate with rows of smaller ones (with an area of about 15 square meters).

This farmhouse is one of the most luxurious to have been found in the territory of Metaponto. On the floor surface had fallen large quantities of wall plaster decorated with parallel red lines. Some windows were glazed, some floors were paved with large terracotta tiles and there was a small bath in the southeast corner. Areas of scorched floor indicated that number of rooms were heated by portable braziers.

Features of particular interest which escaped the plow, in order of discovery, were the pithoi, or dolia, impluvium and hypocaust heating system. A large terracotta pithos was found imbedded in the bedrock forming the floor next to a wall in the northeast corner of the house, and a second in the southwest corner, set this time into cement which formed a protective jacket. If the farmer had followed Vitruvius' advice the southern jar would have held the oil, the northern, wine. The southern example has a particularly elaborate ancient repair. Its "foot" is held in place by eleven lead clamps which radiate from it like the spokes of a wheel. The agricultural writer Varro advises against setting the terracotta containers deep in the ground because
fermentation would cause them to shatter. Was his advice heeded here? At least one of the large containers, however, may have been used for water, as the nearest sources, the spring at the sanctuary and the Basento River to the south were several hundred meters distant.

Apart from refinements like wall plaster and window glass, much of the farmhouse at San Biagio could have resembled the fourth century B.C. Greek examples at Ponte Fabricio and Pizzica. Two modifications of the basic Metapontine plan, however, could only have been made under the influence of Roman building traditions—the impluvium in the extreme southeast corner and the hypocaust next to it. The rectangular basin measures 1.5 x 1.8 meters (5 x 6 feet) and it is placed near the southern wall of the room. An inward sloping roof around three sides could have filled it with rain water (it is difficult to imagine how such a roof would have harmonized with that of the rest of the house). The water was collected on a pavement of broken tiles set in mortar (opus signinum), the sides rising to only a fraction of their original height were lined with waterproof plaster. The drain at the northeast corner was furnished with lead pipe and may originally have had a valve. Terracotta tubing carried the water off under the floor. It was joined by another drain from the room which we must presume existed to the north of the impluvium. At the point where they met the drain was bridged with protective stones and it is reasonable to suppose that the junction lay at the corners of the two rooms and under the exterior wall. The combined flow of the drains was directed to the east, to the shoulder of the hill. For the last stretch, the tube was covered with large stones.

Seven rows of pillars, five across, supported the floor of a small room under which air heated by a wood fire circulated. The so-called hypocaust—a very efficient system of conductive, convective, and radiant heating, is once again in vogue among home builders. The pillars were formed of bricks measuring approximately 20 cms. or 8 inches on a side, (if we assume that the feet measure about .295 m), and their centers were on the average about 60 cms. or 2 feet apart. The dimensions of the pillars and the "hanging floor" tiles seem to have been just about the size prescribed by Vitruvius. The furnace, a semicircular structure approached by a narrow fire hole (or praefurnium) which contained much fine gray ash was located, safely outside the perimeter of the walls of the house. Thus, the dimensions and the location on the south side of the house, where it could have received the afternoon sun, make it a textbook example of a hot room (caldarium) of the bath. The juxtaposition of the hot room and impluvium suggests that the latter may have served as the cold room or frigidarium—providing a plunge into cool and refreshing rain water after the rigors of the hot bath. The bath was stan-
FIG. 26: The hypocaust heating system of the bath at S. Biagio. It is viewed from the interior looking out to the south. The original fire hole (praefurnium) is at the top of the photograph.

FIG. 27a: Bronze coin with a radiate bust of the Emperor Tacitus. SB 80-276. M.

FIG. 27b: Reverse with the allegorical figure. AEOQUITAS AUGUSTI holding the scales and cornucopia.
dard equipment in the country villas of the wealthy in the late Republic, and it is interesting to note that the earliest known example in Italy (of the late fourth or early third century B.C.) was recently found at Tolve near Potenza, in Lucania. The villa at S. Blagio, perhaps the residence of a manager, was a far cry from the palatial villas of the Empire. The presence of the bath testifies to a certain diffusion of modest luxury, of comfort without ostentation, in the Lucanian countryside in Roman times.

Where precisely does our farmhouse belong in the history of rural settlement? It is clear from the plan that it was not built all at one time. There are at least two phases: one of expansion, and one of contraction. It can be seen, for example, that half the original hypocaust was blocked up at a later time, and a small praefurnium created in the northwest corner, curiously inside the farmhouse. Plowed earth above the foundations yielded artifacts ranging in date from the sixth to the fourth century B.C. (cup profiles, architectural terracottas) to second century A.D. (terra sigillata chiara pottery rims). This may have belonged to other structures in the vicinity, perhaps demolished for the construction of this farmhouse. A section of differently oriented wall outside the SW corner of the farmhouse is all that is left, in the immediate vicinity, of a possible predecessor.

Further study will be required to clear up such problems but we fortunately possess sufficient evidence now to place the existing farmhouse as a whole in its proper historical context. The evidence of two coin hoards, one buried in the undisturbed fill of the hypocaust; the other, in a hollow in the floor of the room with the pithos imbedded in cement, date the building in the last quarter of the third and the first half of the fourth century A.D.

From the hypocaust came a variety of small objects: fragmentary glass vessels, beads, a thimble, a bronze surgical instrument, and most important—six bronze coins with the portraits of the Emperors Tacitus, Probus, and Diocletian, cover the years 275 to 305 A.D. Nine more from a corner of the room of the repaired pithos, with images of Licinius, Constantine, and the City of Rome (with the she-wolf and twins on the reverse) take us from 307 down to 341 A.D. There is a concentration in the first quarter of the fourth century. Four coins of Constantine with Sol Invictus on the reverse, and three of Licinius with the same divinity belong to the years 307–311 A.D., a critical period in Roman history.

FIG. 28a: Bronze coin with a bust of the Emperor Licinius (ally and brother-in-law of Constantine I), struck in A.D. 315. SB 80. 352 M.

FIG. 28b: Reverse with the god JUPPITER CONSERVATOR, holding a victory in his outstretched arm, and flanked by an eagle with a crown in its beak.

FIG. 29: Reverse with she-wolf and twins of a bronze coin bearing a head of URBS ROMA on the obverse. SB 80. 345 M.
The problems of the empire came to a head in the latter part of the third century A.D.—military incursions by the barbarians, debasement of money, and enormous economic burdens on farmers and the middle class. The reforms of Diocletian bought time and resulted in a short-lived revival of the countryside. Among the sparse historical evidence for Lucania during the Empire is the information that the Emperor Aurelian (270–275 A.D.) exacted a levy of pork from the region. Its magnitude has suggested that agricultural productivity was extremely high and local population relatively small. The isolated farmhouse at San Biagio attests this prosperity; and the relatively short period of occupancy, its brief duration.

The rescue of the endangered farmhouses at San Biagio and Ponte Fabrizio has added much to our knowledge of the Territory of Metaponto in two critical periods of its development—one well documented, the other till now almost completely unknown. It has made possible a comparison of well-preserved examples of the basic agricultural unit, the isolated farmhouse, examples separated in time by six centuries! Especially significant is the evidence for conservatism in the architectural forms, despite the enormous social, economic, and political changes of the intervening centuries. It is silent testimony to the stability and the continuity of rural life, and a result which made 1980 a milestone in the study of the Territory.
Epilogue

To those directly involved in the study and preservation of the historical patrimony of the Basilicata (Lucania) region, the year 1980 brought rewards as well as sorrow. For years, evidence of significant contact between this region of Italy and Greece in the Bronze Age has been patiently sought by archaeologists of the Superintendency. This year at Termitito, a site just a few kilometers to the west of Metaponto, it began to appear. A trickle of pot sherds at first, it is now a flood, and it may prove to be the largest deposit of Mycenaeum IIIc pottery in the west. Our heartfelt congratulations to our colleagues in the Superintendency and especially Professor Adamesteau, who had faith, and Dr. Antonio de Siena, who made the discovery. We have confidence that as the damage caused by the earthquake is repaired, the full significance of this discovery, which adds four hundred years to the history of Greek civilization in Basilicata, will be felt throughout the region, and the world.

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