

CHAPTER TEN

THE SOUTHERN AREA D/E/F/G/H BUILDINGS AND STRATIGRAPHY OF PERIODS 1 & 2

Area D, measuring about 15 × 20 m, is the flattest part of the Borgo NW and, as was discussed in Chapters Four and Five, it is the first part to be inhabited (Hut, House F and *Cantina* G). The area slopes 1.60 m from its south-eastern end at the corner of walls H1/H2 to its north-western end at wall E3/E5. There is a further drop of as much as 2.60 m down to the corner of walls D3/D4. This inclination explains the filling activities and the sloping stratigraphy.¹⁸⁶ The zone is limited to the north by the strong terrace wall D3, to the west by the steep cliff slope TRw and the ascending passage from the lower Borgo NW at Nc, and to the east and south by the somewhat higher, rocky part of the Borgo *Spina* (Figs. 121–122). In spite of this area's strong inclination, it was covered by thinner soil fills than Areas A and B/C. This thin filling has caused the remains to be less well preserved. Walls are standing to only one course and there are very few remains of floors.

In 1964, the constructions in the western part of the zone were partly damaged by the foundations of the *Capannone*, in particular *Cantina* G, the north-east corner of House E, wall D8, room Db and part of wall D1 of House D. Furthermore, as only the north-western part was covered and protected by the *Capannone*, four decades of sprouting vegetation and the decay of the unprotected remains in the rest of the area have made controls and further study today difficult.

The area was partly excavated in 1957: the walls of Houses D and E were traced and followed, as were the Md blocks to the west. Of those activities no documentation remains. In 1961–1963 the area was fairly thoroughly explored, albeit not in its entirety.¹⁸⁷ The area contained structures from the Pre-House Period, as described in Chapters Four and Five. These are cuttings for a Hut, only partly preserved, and of its successor House F and Area H and *Cantina* G. From Period 1 we have House D, House E and, on the slightly higher rock in the south, the small, much later cellars O1 and O2.

¹⁸⁶ See Sections T27–T28 (Pls. 38–39), T31–T32 (Pls. 40–41), T36 (Pl. 43), and L12 (Pl. 19).

¹⁸⁷ It was excavated partly by King Gustaf VI Adolf and was recorded by Nylander in 1961–1962, and in 1963 by the experienced prehistorian and excavator Lars Gezelius from Uppsala. The notes and other documentation left by Gezelius have been extremely helpful in the reconstruction of the general stratigraphy of the area. Regrettably, the stratigraphic sections made by Gezelius have been lost, but the main developments in the area seem fairly clear.

The higher and flatter Area D is separated from Area B/C and Lane K by the very solid wall D3, firmly set in the bedrock. There is thus no direct stratigraphic connection between this and the other areas. But, considerations of constructional logic and historical probability, and some ceramic information, may assist in tentatively relating building events and developments in Area D to those of the rest of Borgo NW. As was discussed earlier, Ingrid Pohl considers the stratigraphic situation of Area D as an accumulation made up or contaminated by later (post-earthquake of 550/530 BC) fills with a problematic mixture of early and late sherd material.¹⁸⁸ This has meant that she has discarded the potential evidence for a local stratigraphy. There was, indeed, quite considerable filling in the area (especially in strata 2 and 3). Yet, as was shown in the discussion of the Hut, the early House F and *Cantina* G in Chapters Four and Five, there may be useful stratigraphic information to be had from the area.

The foundations and fills of House D and the enigmatic House E were partly uncovered in 1957. In 1961, the southern part of the area was explored where the rising rock separates the excavations from the Borgo *Spina*. Here wall H1 and various rock cuttings, such as Q18-19 were exposed and, further to the west, part of the *Cantina* G (see 1962 sketch plan, Fig. 52). The same year, a major trial trench, aligned roughly north–south, was laid out diagonally across the area from the west end of wall D1 of House D to the easternmost stone of wall H1 (which constituted the southern limit of the excavation area).¹⁸⁹ The area was thus

¹⁸⁸ Cf. *San Giovenale* V:2, 138–187: “West Area (WA)”.

¹⁸⁹ This Diagonal trench was excavated as follows. The upper three strata clearly had a fill character with early and later wares, while the two lower ones seemed more homogeneous and part of a regular soil accumulation. *Layer 1*, down to 0.20 m.

Layer 2, 0.20–0.40 m. Find group 61-139 (c. 48 sherds): Etrusco-Corinthian (5); Uncertain painted ware (1); Brown Impasto (1); Bucchero (2); Grey Bucchero (2); Red-slip (4); Internal Red-slip (9); Internal Burnished Red-slip (3); Various slipped ware (1); Late Italo-Geometric (1); Kitchen ware (12); *dolia* (2); uncertain objects (2); cooking stands (3).

Layer 3, 0.40–0.60 m. Find group 61-140 (c. 64 sherds): Etrusco-Corinthian (6); Buccheroid Impasto (3); Uncertain Finer Impasto (1); Bucchero (11); Red-slip (7); Internal Red-slip (11); Various slipped ware (1); “Late Italo-Geometric ware (1); Kitchen ware (17); *dolia* (3); cooking stand (1); bobbin (1); tiles (1).

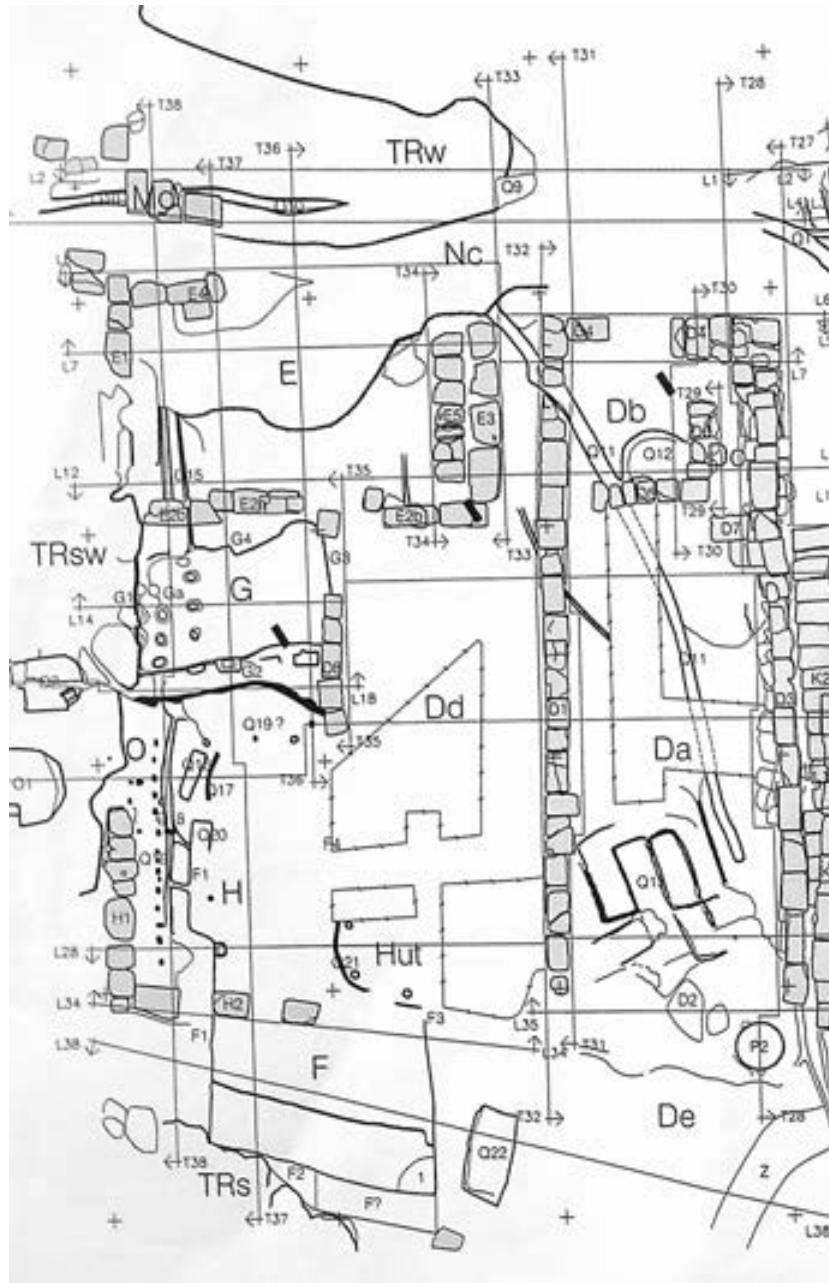


Fig. 121. Plan of the southern area with Houses D-E-F.

divided in two, roughly triangular parts, north-east and south-west. In 1962 and 1963, the two triangular areas were explored. Although at times bewildering because of the many trenches and

Layer 4, 0.60–0.85 m. Find group 61-141 (c. 78 sherds): Etrusco-Corinthian (17); Brown Impasto (2); Faliscan Impasto (1); Bucchero (10); Painted Impasto (2); Red-slip (7); Internal Red-slip (8); Internal Burnished Red-slip (6); Variously slipped ware (9); Kitchen ware (13); *dolia* (1); uncertain object (1); tiles (1).

Layer 5, mainly in the sloping north-western part of the trench, 0.85–1.10 m. Find group 61-142 (8 sherds): Etrusco-Corinthian (1); Bucchero Impasto (1); Red-slip (3); Variously slipped ware (1); Kitchen ware (1); *dolia* (1).

Layer 6, 1.10 m down to bedrock. Find group 61-143 (c. 21 sherds): Etrusco-Corinthian (2); Bucchero Impasto (2); Bucchero (1); Red-slip (3); Internal Red-slip (2); Variously slipped ware (2); Kitchen ware (9). Joinings were noted between Find groups 61-142 and 61-143 (see cat. nos. 298 and 1199).

the sloping strata, this work allowed various cross-checks and, in the end, made it possible to suggest a general stratigraphy in much of the area: i.e. a sequence of four or five main strata (and, occasionally, a sixth, consisting mainly of dark pockets of soil in the uneven bedrock). In the *Cantina* area, a sequence of twelve strata, including four floors or floor-like levels, each with accompanying fills. These levels constitute four “events” more or less corresponding to the four–five strata in the rest of the area.

In the north-eastern part were found the rock cuttings for the Hut, for the early House F, as well as those for the fence Q19 plus the remaining blocks of walls H1 and H2. In the south-west part the shallow *Cantina* G and its sequence of four, partly preserved floor levels could, to some extent, be correlated with walls and constructions in the rest of the area.



Fig. 122. Photographic tower image of Houses D-E-F.

HOUSE D

The walls of this building had been partly excavated in 1957 (see *Fig. 24*). The impressive north and west terrace walls D3 and D4 have already been described and discussed at length in the context of the Great Fill Project in Chapter Six. The walls were part of the big House D, measuring 14.4×5.5 m and replacing the earlier House F. Regrettably, only the foundations of this building are preserved, and no floors remained. It was also damaged during the construction of the *Capannone* in 1964, especially area Db and wall D1.

House D consists of the outer walls D1, the now missing D2, D3/D4 and the interior walls D5 and D6. Walls D3, D4, D5 and D6 are all firmly set on or cut into the bedrock, while wall D1 lies

on a soil fill and can be shown, by means of a foundation trench and other stratigraphic considerations, to have been laid on and in strata 4–5, while stratum 3 was being spread. The absence of any remains of wall D2 and of the upper courses of the other walls, especially of wall D1, makes it impossible to locate the entrance of the house. However, in all probability House D was entered from area Dd in the south. To the east of House D, close to its once existing entrance wall D2, there is Well P2, which was never fully excavated. Just as the walls of House D are now missing above the foundation level, this Well has lost its upper part. Inside Well P2 there are indications of foot-holes for descending and climbing down its vertical sides.

Stratigraphy

A number of stratigraphic profiles, roughly east–west and north–south, demonstrated an irregular sequence of four to six strata, the upper ones of a clear fill character, both inside and outside House D. The lower strata 4–5–6 followed the slope and were extensions of stratum 4 (early fill/accumulation of the Hut and House F phases). In spite of much searching for a floor level, it was never found. When existent, it must have been on a higher level now obliterated by time and erosion. The sloping and irregular character of the strata clearly indicate the accumulation as a series of fills, not always easy to read, but to be roughly characterized as basically four or five strata with sub-strata. The confused fill character of this stratigraphy, rendered somewhat less so only when the trench profiles had dried up and differences in soil composition and humidity became apparent, did not guarantee much precision as to the location of the finds. It mostly allowed only for a general distinction between “upper”, “middle” and “lower/lowest” strata.

There is no direct, unambiguous evidence for dates of the construction and the life of House D. No floor levels and only foundations are left. Yet, a consideration of the evidence offered by the stratigraphy of the area, by the ceramic finds and by the general development of the Borgo NW area, seems to indicate a reasonable answer to this important question.

There can be little doubt that the impressively strong and well-built terrace walls D3 & D4 are an integral part of the Great Fill Project which is datable to the late 7th century BC. Yet the homogeneous character of the masonry and the absence of any “seams” or breaks in the sequence of blocks from east to west, indicate that wall D3 was conceived not exclusively as a terrace wall for an earth fill, unnecessary and non-existent towards the east (cf. Section T28, *Pl.* 39), but also as part of House D. Wall D1 can be shown to have been built on strata 4/5 when stratum 3, directly succeeding House F, was being spread out, again an indication of an early date.

A study of the walls of House D, the stratigraphy and the finds in the fills, indicates that its northern and western walls were part of the Great Fill Project of Period 1 in the later 7th century, and that, at a constructionally somewhat later stage, the remaining parts of the planned House D were built. It thus appears, notwithstanding occasional variations, that most of Area D showed basically the same sequence of three upper strata. To this can be added, in the sloping north-western parts, a fourth/fifth and, occasionally, even an earthy, dark and thin sixth, stratum on and in the bedrock. The general stratigraphic sequence is then as follows. The amount of pottery found in the different strata indicates a difference between the poor or modest accumulation strata (4 and 5) and fill strata rich in chronologically diverse pottery (2 and 3):

Stratum 1. Topsoil of 0.10–0.20 m humus.

Stratum 2. 0.20 to 0.35 m of earth, clay and much *tufetti*, clearly a fill and rich in early and later pottery.¹⁹⁰ Finds: Etrusco-Corinthian (11); Finer Variously Coloured Advanced Impasto (1); Brown Impasto (2); Faliscan Impasto (5); Buccheroid Impasto (9); Buccheroid (17); Red-slip (15); Internal Red-slip (13); Internal

Burnished Red-slip (2); Variously slipped ware (8); Late Italo-Geometric (2); Kitchen ware (34); *dolia* (7); uncertain object (1); bobbin (1); tiles (6).¹⁹¹

Stratum 3. A more compact stratum, 0.30–0.40 m thick, in the south-east part stretching mostly down to the sloping bedrock. It consists of much *tufetti* and earth, not always clearly distinguishable from stratum 2. This stratum also has a fill character and is rich in pottery of chronologically mixed types.¹⁹² Finds: Etrusco-Corinthian (7); Uncertain painted ware (1); Finer Variously Coloured advanced Impasto (11); Brown Impasto (9); Faliscan Impasto (5); Buccheroid Impasto (9); Uncertain Fine Impasto (1); Buccheroid (9); Red-slip (16); Internal Red-slip (14); Variously slipped ware (8); Late Italo-Geometric (1); Kitchen ware (49); *dolia* (5); cooking stand (1); bobbins (2); iron (1); tiles (5).¹⁹³

Stratum 4. A brown-grey, darkish layer filled with *tufetti* and *poz-zolana*, c. 0.20–0.40 m thick, as the bedrock in the north-western part of the area slopes towards north-west. Very little pottery.¹⁹⁴ Etrusco-Corinthian (2); Uncertain painted ware (1); Buccheroid (1); Red-slip (3); Kitchen ware (7); *dolia* (1), tiles (3).¹⁹⁵

Stratum 5. Very similar to stratum 4 and hard to separate from it. Very little pottery:¹⁹⁶ Buccheroid (1); Red-slip (2).¹⁹⁷

In addition, there is stratum 4k in the area which later turned out to be House D. It was found underneath stratum 3 as a locally limited, thin stratum, reaching down to bedrock. It was a compact layer of whitish clay, 0.10–0.25 m thick, occasionally with traces of burning. Stratum 4k functioned as a kind of floor level in House F and was limited to that area, while corresponding stratigraphically to stratum 4 in the rest of the area. Stratum 4k was rich in early pottery and, apparently, with no later material. It dates to the Pre-House Period I.

¹⁹¹ *San Giovenale* V:2, 139–187, “West Area (WA)”, cat. nos. 14, 25, 28, 30, 47, 117, 118, 131, 139, 151, 155, 177, 203, 230, 235, 237, 242, 243, 246, 265, 277, 288, 293, 299–302, 320, 332, 336, 447, 450, 477, 510, 531, 546–549, 563, 566, 567, 569, 586, 590, 642, 672, 697, 701, 716, 721, 756, 762, 766, 813, 814, 818, 841, 844, 845, 860, 867, 873, 874, 902, 934, 966, 996, 1005, 1008, 1013, 1028, 1029, 1079, 1084, 1099, 1102, 1105, 1126, 1133, 1138 (has a joining in str. 3), 1141, 1143, 1159, 1172, 1202, 1203, 1219, 1220, 1249, 1261, 1296, 1298, 1313, 1317, 1319, 1321, 1328, 1330, 1338, 1350, 1411, 1419, 1422, 1423, 1428, 1437, 1441, 1468, 1478, 1497, 1499, 1505, 1511, 1519, 1520, 1527, 1532, 1545, 1558, 1563, 1569, 1571, 1581, 1582, 1615, 1622, 1655, 1665, 1696, 1707, 1713, 1715, 1720, 1726.

¹⁹² Find group 63-144.

¹⁹³ *San Giovenale* V:2, 139–187, “West Area (WA)”, cat. nos. 17, 23, 26, 27, 101, 114, 122, 167, 171, 172, 174, 178, 181, 182, 187, 189, 190, 195–199, 201, 210, 222, 227, 228, 232, 234, 236, 241, 245, 247, 250, 252, 255, 264, 289, 303, 311, 315, 321, 323, 335, 462, 469, 499, 505, 511, 532, 600, 628, 639, 648, 673, 717, 728, 734, 755, 767, 786, 790, 799, 822, 823, 843, 853, 859, 865, 866, 878, 882, 889, 894, 903, 918, 930, 936, 939, 1004, 1012, 1059, 1097, 1119, 1121, 1125, 1129, 1138, 1155, 1156, 1180, 1186, 1187, 1192, 1204, 1208, 1212, 1217, 1225, 1226, 1233, 1242, 1243, 1245, 1258, 1264, 1265, 1268, 1295, 1297, 1299, 1302, 1304, 1306, 1311, 1316, 1323, 1345, 1351, 1354, 1365, 1411, 1416, 1420, 1431, 1434, 1436, 1461, 1486, 1490, 1491, 1495, 1503, 1516, 1525, 1528, 1535, 1543, 1544, 1561, 1564, 1565, 1567, 1572, 1576, 1644, 1664, 1672, 1678, 1683, 1689, 1699, 1721, 1739.

¹⁹⁴ Find group 63-146.

¹⁹⁵ *San Giovenale* V:2, 143–187, “West Area (WA)”, cat. nos. 96, 124, 166, 483, 650, 670, 852, 1197, 1402–1404, 1435, 1533, 1553, 1577, 1697, 1698, 1729.

¹⁹⁶ Find group 63-147.

¹⁹⁷ *San Giovenale* V:2, 157, “West Area (WA)”, cat. nos. 197, 641 and 671.

¹⁹⁰ Find group 63-143.

General development of Area D

The structures from Pre-House Period I, i.e. the Hut, House F and its *Cantina* G were discussed in Chapters Four and Five. Here follows a brief summary of the main points in the development of the area.

At some point, the Pre-House-Period House F was dismantled, the *Cantina* G filled in and a major reorganization of Area D was undertaken. A fill, stratum 3, is spread over much of the area in Period 1. A new building, House D, takes over. Area D is now organized in a roughly orthogonal system of walls, all, apparently, oriented after House D, or after the rising Borgo *Spina* rock in the south-west. Along this rock TRsw, there is a wall system, H1-G1-E1, which is partly cut into bedrock. It has a total length of 14.40 m and is laid out parallel to House D. In this way it clearly separates Area D from the *Spina* area. In the south-west, a number of well-cut steps give access to the *Spina* from the sloping passage Nc. It leads upwards from the lower area in front of Houses D and B. House E with its walls E2a, E3/E5 and E4 were built possibly to function as a kind of gate structure around this stepped entrance to the *Spina*. At approximately right angles to the eastern end of wall H1, wall H2, now only partly preserved, is laid out on top of the old House F, in a north-eastern direction, approximately coinciding with Area De and Well P2, east of the walls D1 and D3 of House D. A new floor level, Floor 2, about 0.40 m above the early Floor 1 of House F, is laid out in *Cantina* G and the contemporary walls D8 and E2a are built close by.

There are strong reasons to assume that this major reorganization of Area D is an integral and contemporary part of the important, general Borgo Building Programme Period 1 on the Borgo NW, including the fortification, the Great Fill Project and the building of the first Houses A, B and C. Later changes in Area D can be documented only sporadically, e.g. fill strata 1 and 2, two higher Floor levels 3 & 4 in the old *Cantina* area, and a rise of the level in the nearby House E, corresponding to *Cantina* Floor 3, wall E2b and some filling activity. In the somewhat higher *Spina* rock to the south, there are also the late small cellars and *pestaruole* O1 and O2, both probably datable to the 3rd or 2nd centuries BC, i.e. Period 4.

HOUSE E AND PASSAGE Nc

The so-called House E had been excavated in 1957 (see *Fig. 24*). The walls in the area had been followed and most of the earth was removed. However, beyond a plan and a couple of photographs, there is no documentation preserved. The south-western part of Area D is not well suited for housing: the extremely soft and crumbly, *pozzolana*-like *tuffo grigio* of much of this area created problems, and a huge cleft in the rock runs across the area in a northerly direction.

A rather steep passage, Nc, about 13 m long and originally probably the product of erosion, had been cut in the rock and it had then been enlarged by water and further erosion. It connects the low-lying Mc-part with the Borgo *Spina*. The passage Nc reaches the upper surface of the *Spina*, by means of five or six rather well-cut steps in the rock (cf. Q15) (*Figs. 67–68*). Passage Nc was long thought to be medieval, or even later, and thus to have destroyed parts of the old House E. Further study of the area and more understanding of the behaviour of the tufa rock have, however, led to the belief that passage Nc is old (how old is impossible to say), and that House E never was a “normal”

house, but rather a kind of gate structure. The discovery of the strong fortification wall along the western and northern edges of the Borgo raised the problem of accessibility and of communication between exterior and interior. The now badly eroded and destroyed area in front of House D and Lane K probably contained some kind of entrance/exit through the fortification wall. This would explain the existence of Lane K and that passage Nc ends in the well-cut steps in the *Spina* area.¹⁹⁸ A further argument for an early date for passage Nc, and that House E cannot really have been a normal house, is that three early water canals lead *into* the area, not *out of* it, from underneath walls E2 and E4. Remains of a circular, shallow *pozzo*-like cavity were found in the rock, partly eroded by passage Nc.

Unfortunately, the precarious position close to the edge of the Borgo, erosion, later stone robbing and other changes, in particular the erection of the *Capannone*, have obliterated much of the evidence. What remains of walls is mostly only one course, often somewhat displaced and, in some cases, repaired in the 1960s. Many blocks are missing. Yet a few facts still emerge, although it seems impossible to reach a full understanding of Area E. Remains of a number of walls, E1, E2a-E2b, E3, E4, E5, and, perhaps, a short wall E6, have been documented in the area. Most of them are badly preserved. All, except E5, are laid as stretchers.

Measurements of walls and blocks

Wall E1. Three blocks flanking the stepped entrance, on thin clayish soil on bedrock, in part supported also by *tuffetti*. From the west (1) 0.60 × 0.42 × 0.50 m, possibly reused because of a cutting which seems non-functional in the present context; (2) 0.47 × 0.44 × 0.39 m, and (3) 0.90 × 0.48 × 0.43 m.

Wall E2a. Four blocks preserved, on a thin, yellowish stratum of soil, with a thickness of 5 cm on bedrock G4 (*Pl. 9*). (1) 0.48 × 0.43 × 0.47 m; (2) 0.68 × 0.50 × 0.43 m (indication of a level, *uf.* 0.30 m, on west side); (3) 0.60 × 0.45 × 0.37 m. At a distance of 1.40 m towards the north a fourth block with the same orientation belonged to this wall (4) 0.40 × 0.45 × 0.36 m.

Wall E2b. In 1957 eight blocks were preserved. In 2000 only two are in their original position (mostly due to the foundations of the *Capannone*; *Pl. 9*). (1) 1 × 0.50 × 0.40 m (on 0.15–20 m earth); (4) 0.63 × 0.38 × 0.36 m.

Wall E3 consisted originally of four big blocks on earth and rock, one of which is now displaced by the *Capannone* (*Pl. 42*). (1) 0.60 × 0.50 × 0.50 m; (2) 0.77 × 0.61 × 0.46 m; (3) 1 × 0.60 × 0.40 m.

Wall E4. Three blocks are preserved: (1) 0.70 × 0.50 × 0.30 m; (2) 0.90 × 0.35 × 0.38 m; (3) 0.30 × 0.55 × 0.28 m.

Wall E5. Six blocks are preserved (eight in 1957), all laid as headers on a thin earth stratum behind E3, apparently as a kind of reinforcement (total depth with E3: 1.30–1.40 m): (1) 0.45 × 0.70 × 0.52 m; (2) 0.44 × 0.63 × 0.35 m; (3) 0.67 × 0.48 × 0.35 m; (4) 0.45 × 0.50 × 0.42 m; (5) 0.15 × 0.64 × 0.40 m; (6) 0.43 × 0.33 × 0.45 m.

¹⁹⁸ Today's visitor to the Borgo, hindered by the present fence of the Soprintendenza, has to make a considerable detour of some 200 m along the edges of the Borgo to arrive at the Borgo NW area. It is unlikely that yesterday's Etruscans would have lived with such an impractical access, which, anyway, would have necessitated a passage through the fortification at some point.

Wall E6 consists of one single block in front of block (2) of E4, placed on earth and rock. It measures $0.56 \times 0.35 \times 0.40$ m. It is uncertain whether this is a wall, or whether it once was part of a second course of E4.

Stratigraphy

The walls were followed and most of the earth removed in 1957, and thus there was not much stratigraphy left to be noted and studied in 1961. However, a number of sherds were found in the earth that remained.¹⁹⁹ The predominance of early material among the 30 sherds found indicates a fairly early date for the activities in Area E. At some point, contemporary with the laying of Floor 2 (*c. uf.* 0.48–0.50 m) in the nearby *Cantina*, were laid out the now only partly preserved wall E2a (*c. uf.* 0.48–0.55 m) on rock G4 (*c. uf.* 0.52–0.60 m), walls E3 and E5 and, no doubt, also walls E1 and E4. To the same construction phase belongs wall D8 (*c. uf.* 0.57 m) on rock G3 (*c. uf.* 0.54–0.57 m), also only partly preserved. In the south, close to the rising rock G1, Wall E2a left an entrance opening, about 1 m wide, between the E- and the *Cantina* areas, to give access to the area now covered by Floor 2. At the laying of the *Cantina* Floor 3 (*c. uf.* 0.30 m) this entrance is closed off by means of wall E2b (*c. uf.* 0.18 m), on earth (see Section L12, *Pl.* 9).

CANTINA G

The rock-cut, somewhat irregular cellar *Cantina* G was described in Chapter Five. As noted there, in the lowest layer and on the bottom of the rock were found eleven “stone supports”, no doubt functioning as supports for *dolia*. A sequence of four floor levels indicates that, after its early beginnings, the area of the *Cantina* remained long in use even though its particular *cantina* function was modified when the higher Floor 2 was laid. It covered the *dolium* supports and a larger area, which was no longer bordered by the G1-G4 cuttings, but by the new walls E2a and D8, and later on by wall E2b. For the stratigraphy of the *Cantina* area, see Chapter Five.

Discussion of Pohl’s “West Area”

Ingrid Pohl, through her deep familiarity with the ceramic evidence and her study of the excavation documentation, is of the opinion that almost all of the material from Area D comes from “one homogeneous fill” belonging to the “second building period”, i.e. after the earthquake in 550–530 BC.²⁰⁰ This does not mean that there is not early and late material, but rather that all is so hopelessly mixed that there is no way of making any meaningful stratigraphic distinctions. With the exception of the material from House F and that of the later cellars O1 and O2, she has thus presented all the ceramic and other finds (1743 cat. nos.) under

the common heading “West Area (WA). The great terrace fill”. If this is the case, there is little information to be had from the area beyond the purely ceramological facts.

However, Carl Nylander is not quite so pessimistic. A re-assignment according to strata of the materials previously put together according to types in the West Area section of the Catalogue seems to offer some possibilities of further precisions and conclusions. It should be remembered that the excavations of 1961–1965, as well as the later study, tended to concentrate on problems of the well-preserved buildings and constructions, the deep strata and the complex situation of Areas A/B/C, while the shallow stratification and the much less well-preserved remains of Area D received a superficial treatment.²⁰¹ This means that the analyses of chronology, periods and historical significance were built mainly on the evidence of the other excavation areas. Such early ideas may then have influenced or even conditioned the later analysis and understanding.²⁰² The long time that has passed since the excavation and the resulting theories in the field make it easier, today, to restudy the problems with less firmly fixed ideas.

The sequence of four floors in the *Cantina* area and, further, the repeated, tripartite stratigraphic rhythm of floor-accumulation-fill (strata 10–12; 7–9; 4–6 and 2–3) show, that the *Cantina* evidence is not part of a “great terrace fill”, as suggested by Pohl. It can also be shown that walls in the *Cantina* area can be related to floor levels and thus that events here followed a sequence of their own and that, whatever fills had been made here, they had little to do with whatever major filling activities that may have occurred elsewhere in Area D. The chronological problems raised by the pottery finds in and around the *Cantina*—and problems there are—have then to be discussed in other ways, than by ignoring these finds and seeing them as stratigraphically and chronologically useless parts of “the great terrace fill”.

Developments in the *Cantina* area

The sequence of ceramic wares in connection with the four floors seems to conform to the general chronological pattern: in the lowermost strata Floor 1 (strata 12/13 & 10/11) there is material mostly from the late 8th and the first half of the 7th centuries with a few somewhat later elements, such as three *Bucchero* fragments in strata 10/11. In and around Floor 2, there are only a very few early pieces, but an increasing amount of *Etrusco-Corinthian*, *Bucchero* and tile fragments, indicating the later 7th to early 6th centuries. The context of Floor 3 indicates some filling activities which explain the presence of seven early sherds among a majority of late 7th and 6th century material.

Floor 1. The stratigraphy of the *Cantina*, at first, seems to behave rather straightforwardly and as expected. The lowest floor level, Floor 1 (strata 12/13), contained about 100 sherds. It has only very early material, such as *Fine Bucchero* and *Brown Impasto*, and no later items, no *Bucchero*, no *Etrusco-Corinthian*,

²⁰¹ It is embarrassing to have to admit that it is only in August 2000, almost 40 years *post festum*, that Carl Nylander, at last, has come to study in depth the evidence and the problems of the entire Area D (which, except for the Diagonal trench of 1961, was excavated by others) and, to some extent, to understand it. The reward is the realization of its considerable interest and importance within the Borgo NW project.

²⁰² A good example is the long-standing conviction that the beginning of the “first building period” should be dated to *c.* 650 BC, because of the early character of the fill material underneath House B. Another is that building events in Area D should fit into the development scheme reconstructed for Areas A and B/C.

¹⁹⁹ Cf. *San Giovenale* V:2, 139–180, “West Area (WA)”, Find groups 61-128 & 61-129, cat. nos. 5, 6, 57, 126, 162, 186, 193, 446, 517, 578, 604–610, 725, 745, 816, 883, 884, 1016, 1024, 1078, 1089, 1110, 1241, 1400, 1502: *Italo-Geometric* (2); *Etrusco-Corinthian* (2); *Uncertain depurated monochrome ware* (1); *Finer Variously Coloured Advanced Impasto* (2); *Bucchero* (10); *Red-slip* (3); *Internal Red-slip* (4); *Internal Burnished Red-slip* (2); *Variouly slipped ware* (1); *Kitchen ware* (3).

²⁰⁰ *San Giovenale* V:2, 138.

and no tile fragments.²⁰³ The next strata, strata 10/11, also have such early material, but now there are also a few fragments of *Bucchero* (nos. 466, 470, 560) and the first appearance of an Etrusco-Corinthian sherd.²⁰⁴

Floor 2. In the strata connected with or above Floor 2 (strata 7–9), there are still a very few early Impasto sherds (3 fragments) and an increasing number of *Bucchero* (10 fragments) and Etrusco-Corinthian (11 fragment) materials plus 5 tile fragments.²⁰⁵

Floor 3. The strata connected with or above Floor 3 (strata 4–6) are very rich in sherds, probably due to fill activity. There are some early fragments, *Bucchero* and Etrusco-Corinthian wares.²⁰⁶

Floor 4. The strata of and above Floor 4 were rather poor in sherd material (strata 2/3).²⁰⁷

The *Cantina* stratigraphy and, in particular, its sequence of floor levels assist in defining construction events in the west part of Area D. In the context of dismantling House F, the lowest part of the *Cantina* was filled with dark earth (strata 10/11, depth 0.35–0.40 m), arriving at and somewhat surpassing the level of the irregularly flat rock surrounding the *Cantina*.

Floor 2 (stratum 9, *uf.* 0.40–0.50 m) now covers the protrud-

ing *dolia* supports of Floor 1 (tops *uf.* 0.46, 0.53, 0.56, 0.57, 0.61 m). The two walls E2a and D8 are laid out on a relatively thin, partly yellowish soil stratum (5–10 cm) on the rock to enclose the *Cantina* area and the new floor level towards west and north. There are indications that wall D8 may have had an opening into the *Cantina* area: there is a gap between the first and the second stones (from the west) and there were found traces of a light north–south wall and a kind of pebble pavement beginning at D8, block 2.

At a later point, a new accumulation/fill (strata 7/8) culminates in Floor 3 (stratum 6, *uf.* 0.22–0.27 m). Wall D8 no doubt still functions but, apparently, some adjustment was necessary in the area of wall E2a: a couple of new blocks, wall E2b, are inserted in a previously existing gap at the south-western end of E2a and other blocks, slightly protruding, are laid on top of the old E2a.

The ultimate activity in the *Cantina* area is the laying, on top of strata 4/5, of Floor 4, of rather closely-packed *tufetti*, on which there is a further stratum (stratum 2) of earth and *tufetti*, topped by a surface stratum of humus. This topmost floor and stratum 2 cannot be connected with any construction in the area, but may be related to the similar stratum 2 observed in the south-eastern part of Area D.

²⁰³ Find groups 62-146, 62-150 and 62-153e, *San Giovenale* V:2, 146–183: Fine Variously Coloured Advanced Impasto (2); Brown Impasto (3); Bucchero Impasto (1); Red-slip ware (5); Kitchen ware (8); *dolia* (18), and 50 discarded indistinct sherds.

²⁰⁴ Find groups 62-145 and 62-147, *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–183: Etrusco-Corinthian (2); Fine Variously Coloured Advanced Impasto (1); Brown Impasto (3); Bucchero Impasto (1); *Bucchero* (3); Red-slip ware (13); Kitchen ware (4); *dolia* (4), a few tile fragments, and 60 discarded sherds.

²⁰⁵ Find groups 62-144, 62-144a&b and 62-153d, *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–187: Etrusco-Corinthian (11); Fine Variously Coloured Advanced Impasto (1); Bucchero Impasto (2); *Bucchero* (10), Red-slip wares (18); Kitchen ware (15); *dolia* (2); tiles (5), and about 250 discarded indistinct sherds and tile fragments.

²⁰⁶ Find groups 62-143, 62-142a&b and 62-153c, *San Giovenale* V:2, 139–187: Etrusco-Corinthian (11); Uncertain painted ware (1); Brown Impasto (2); Bucchero Impasto (4); *Bucchero* (18); Red-slip wares (44); Variously slipped ware (2); Late Italo-Geometric ware (3); Kitchen ware (22); *dolia* (8); tiles (8).

²⁰⁷ Find groups 62-141 & 62-153b, *San Giovenale* V:2, 141–176: Etrusco-Corinthian (2); *Bucchero* (5); Red-slip wares (4); Variously slipped ware (2); Kitchen ware (2); *dolia* (1).