

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

PERIODS 4 & 5—LATER DEVELOPMENTS

AREA A (see *Fig. 128*)

Of these phases there is no evidence in the lower, western part of the slope, except for the disappearance of almost all of the blocks of the old terrace and fortification wall Ma/Mb/Mc. On the other hand, the eastern area close to the rock TRe informs us

of the progressive process of abandonment of Borgo NW. The significant stratigraphic feature of these phases is the enormous amount of stone and building material, ashlar blocks, rough tufa stones and innumerable fragments of tiles and much broken pottery found haphazardly distributed over most of the area close to the tufa rock (*Fig. 133*). It seems clear, beyond doubt, that this



Fig. 133. Fallen blocks above work area Ac and niches Ag-Ak. House A in background, from the east.



Fig. 134. Skeleton on bedrock level in niche Ah from the west.

material does not come from the buildings or from past activities in Area A itself.²²⁵ Instead it is, no doubt, the result of a thorough clearance on the nearby, higher *Spina* of the remains of previous buildings and activities in order to create space for the agricultural work as indicated by the numerous *pestaruole*, cellars and wells in this area.

In late 5th or early 6th century AD the niche Ah was used for a medieval burial of two people, a man *c.* 25 years old, and a woman aged about 30.²²⁶ The accumulation of earth, stone and tiles on the Ah floor was dug through and the dead were placed on the floor (Fig. 134). A low, rough wall, some 0.80 m high and 2.30 m long, of small and some bigger tufa boulders was built between walls A17 and A18 to close off the burial. There must have occurred minor disturbances at some point as some of the bones were found disarticulated from the skeletons. In the end, however, this burial became effectively sealed by the partial collapse of the curved rock roof of niche Ah.

²²⁵ Cf. *San Giovenale* V:2, 22f., for a different view. However, the strong irregularity of the stones and the great variation of their upper levels—at times more than 1 m within a surface of only a few m²—prevent us from seeing this as a late “platform” of some kind, of difficult access and unclear function.

²²⁶ Cf. *San Giovenale* V:2, 68f. For glimpses of later life at San Giovenale, cf. Berggren 1984, 83–90. There is a significant evidence of medieval mass burial in and around the little church of the patron saint on the Acropolis, either because of war or an epidemic. One should note also the medieval reuse of the Etruscan tombs, now marked by the Cross over the entrance, in the funerary *piazetta* just below Borgo NW.

The walls still in evidence and now-empty cuttings in rock indicate that extensive stone robbing must have occurred over the millennia. Numerous cuttings hinting at high levels and floors indicate the former positions of most of the long-dismantled walls of the last period constructions on the site. The same is true for much of the fortification where now almost all that remains are the rock cuttings for the huge blocks. This may have had something to do with the extensive building activities on the Acropolis and the construction of the *castello* in the 13th century.²²⁷

AREA C

In the extreme south of the excavation area are two later cellars, O1 and O2, cut into the bedrock (Fig. 135). They measure about 1.7 × 1.7 m (O1) and 1.3 × 1.3 m (O2). They both have a small staircase cut into the east side.

CHRONOLOGY

Except for the approximate date of the burial(s) as determined by the grave gift of a simple, monochrome little jug (ind. no. 63-107, Fig. 11) roughly datable to the late 5th to the early 6th centuries

²²⁷ *San Giovenale* VI:4–5.



Fig. 135. Cellars O1 and O2. Note the staircases cut in the sides.

AD, little can be said about the chronology of this long, slow abandonment. It is thought that the clearance of the *Spina* surface can have occurred, at the earliest, in Roman times or perhaps even later. If the Archaic antefix (Fig. 14) found near Well P1 in square E4 indicates the existence once of a sanctuary close-by on

the *Spina*, its destruction/lapidation is unlikely to have occurred very close to its period of use. There seems to be no established chronology for the timeless *pestaruole* and cellars that took the place of whatever buildings had previously occupied the *Spina*.