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FORTIFICATIONS, DEFENCE SYSTEMS, STRUCTURES AND FEATURES IN THE PAST

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FOREWORD

This edition brings the conference papers from the 4th International Conference on Mediaeval Archaeology organised by the Institute of Archaeology in Zagreb in 2017. It is a result of efforts of the medievalists of the Institute of Archaeology to establish continued international gathering of the academic community in Zagreb in order to discuss current archeological topics on mediaeval archeology. Each year the topic of the conference covers the specific issues of mediaeval archeology, and the conference proceedings are published in the edition *Zbornik Instituta za arheologiju / Serta Instituti Archaeologici* (ZIA). Proceedings of the 1st Conference *Groblja i pogrebni običaji u srednjem i ranom novom vijeku na prostoru sjeverne Hrvatske (Cemeteries and funeral customs in mediaeval and early modern period in the northern Croatia),* held in 2014, have been published in *ZIA*, Vol. 4 in 2016. Proceedings of the 2nd Conference *Srednjovjekovna naselja u svjetlu arheoloških izvora (Mediaeval settlements in the light of archaeological sources),* held in 2015, have been published in *ZIA*, Vol. 6 in 2017, and Proceedings of the 3rd Conference *Sacralization of Landscapes and sacred places,* held in 2017, have been published in *ZIA*, Vol. 10 in 2018.

The 4th International Scientific Conference on Mediaeval Archaeology **Fortifications, defence systems, structures and features in the past**, organized by the **Institute of Archaeology** in cooperation with **the Croatian Institute of History**, took place from the 7th till the 9th of June 2017 in Zagreb. Our wish was to encourage the researchers to present, through this topic, their knowledge on technical solutions of certain defensive elements of different fortifications, different manifestations and changes in the organization of defensive structures and systems over time, with regard to the causes of those changes and identification of possible patterns of defence systems, structures and features in a certain area, region or in a certain archaeological or historical period.

Although based on knowledge yielded mostly by the archaeological research, the topics of the Conference exceeded the basic framework of the archaeological discipline, and the it has been conceived as a multidisciplinary encounter of different ideas, approaches, methods, results and interpretations. Furthermore, the topics of the Conference have been open to wider archaeological and historical periods, not only the Middle Ages. We were interested in how different developmental processes took place before the Middle Ages (Prehistory, Roman Period), which inevitably affected the human life in the Middle Ages, and how different phenomena of the Mediaeval Time influenced the human life in the Modern Period as well.

The Conference has gathered large number of experts and professionals from different countries, who have presented their research, discussed the topic and exchanged their knowledge. As many as 107 participants took part in the conference, coming from Croatia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Turkey, Denmark, Germany, Macedonia and Austria. All in all, they contributed a total of 74 presentations by lectures and 14 posters. Within the Conference programme museum exhibition *Mediaeval Fortification Architecture* by the authors Ratko Ivanušec and Zorislav Horvat was opened at the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb, while at the Croatian Institute of History the photo-exhibition by Darko Antolković entitled *Encounters with Fortifications* has been presented. Conference participants have jointly visited the permanent exhibition of the Zagreb City Museum, and an expert excursion to Medvedgrad Castle has also been organized.

Since the aim of the scientific conference was to perceive the given topic in an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary manner, we are pleased that in this book, besides the papers dealing with mediaeval fortifications, we have the opportunity to publish papers that study the defence systems in the preceding and following periods (Prehistory, Antiquity, Modern Period) and that archaeological studies are complemented by the studies of historians, art historians and architects as well.

Here we publish 37 reviewed presentations which were adapted into papers by their authors. By publishing the Proceedings in English, we have tried to provide to the authors the widest visibility in the international scientific community.

I would like to thank once again all the participants of the Conference for excellent cooperation, as well as to the institutions and individuals that helped make it a great success. I also thank the colleagues from the Institute of Archaeology for their help in the organization of the conference and the publication of these proceedings. We are also grateful to the Croatian Institute of History for their support in the organization of the Conference, as well as to the Archaeological Museum in Zagreb and the Zagreb City Museum for the accompanying programmes of the Conference. Acknowledgements go also to the reviewers and the members of the Editorial board of the volume. The publication of the proceedings would not be possible without the financial support of the Croatian Ministry of Science and Education.

We sincerely hope that the conference papers gathered in this publication are going to inspire archaeologists and colleagues from various scientific disciplines in their further research of the fortifications and different defence systems, structures and features dating from the Middle Ages as well as from other archaeological and historical periods.

UMBERTO MOSCATELLI

DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES IN CENTRAL EASTERN ITALY IN EARLY MIDDLE AGES: A PRELIMINARY APPROACH BASED ON DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

The theme of the development of systems and defensive structures in Early Middle Ages and Middle Ages has never been appreciated by archaeologists in this side of Italy. Some recent scientific contributions pay more attention on history or on the walls building techniques. However, even if the lack of archaeological excavation makes it difficult the approach to this topic, a comparative analysis of documentary sources and material evidences in fortified contexts paves the way to some interesting remarks. The written sources of early Middle Ages provide a discontinuous patchwork mostly related to the events that accompanied the growth of ecclesiastical power (Abbeys and Roman Church). Sometimes we have only the factual reference to some fortification event, like in the case of the monks of the Farfa Abbey, when they fecerunt castellum to defend themselves against Saracen attacks. Sometimes, on the contrary, we find specific references to the building material of the fortification.

The archaeological sources consist of earthworks or remains of castle (more or less ruined...), usually reflecting building projects dating back to the Late Middle Ages, but often put in the same places where the oldest defences had been raised. Based on those data, the author seeks to identify the tendencies in the topographical choices of the earliest fortifications, as well as in the technical solutions chosen.

Key words: medieval archaeology, early middle ages, Marche, medieval settlement, encastellation

INTRODUCTION

The context concerned in this paper is the inland of southern part of Le Marche, a mountain area affected by the activities of the R.I.M.E.M. Project (Ricerche sugli Insediamenti Medievali nell'Entroterra delle Marche - Research on Medieval Settlements in the inland of the Marche Region) (Fig. 1).

This area is characterized by a significant number of castles, spread since the 9th–10th centuries, as shown in documentary sources, but in the Late Middle Ages most of them were rebuilt on the earliest fortifications or renovated, often during the Seigniory of the Da Varano family, Lords of Camerino (Bernacchia 2002; Antongirolami 2005) (Fig. 2).

The presence of newer buildings in the same locations of previous fortifications is a major problem in this Region, because of the lack of archaeological background. In fact, most archaeologists working here have paid and pay their attention to the Roman or pre-Roman Archaeology¹; the interest in medieval archaeology is a quite recent phenomenon, mainly thanks to the systematic research work of the Macerata and Urbino Universities (Gnesi et al. 2007; Moscatelli 2014; Moscatelli 2015; Sacco 2016). However, the development of defence systems in the Early Middle Ages and high Middle Ages has never been dealt with, apart from some non-scientific publications. Recent papers regard broader historical issues (Bernacchia 2002; Antongirolami 2005; Virgili 2014) or focus on local contexts or on building techniques (Ermeti-Sacco 2007; D'Ulizia 2008; Antongirolami, D'Ulizia 2015; Antongirolami et al. 2015).

¹ Actually, at present there are only two groups who have been operating for the last few years: the team of Anna Lia Ermeti And Daniele Sacco (Urbino University), in the northern area of the Marche Region, and the R.I.M.E.M. team, for the past ten years engaged in archaeological surveys. Despite the shortage of diagnostic pottery, the surface artefacts are the only way to start building a general frame of the rural settlement, but obviously they are useless for the issue dealt with here.

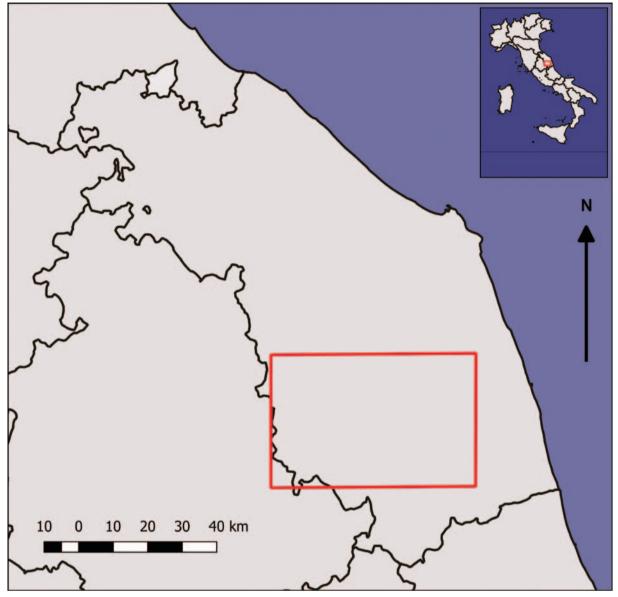


Fig. 1 Position of the area concerned in this paper

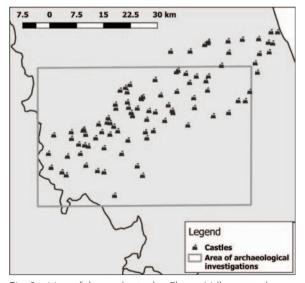


Fig. 2 Map of the castles in the Chienti Valley according to Antongirolami 2005 (modified by: U. Moscatelli)

My comments will be based on the period from the end of the 9th to the 11th century but, in simple terms, at present time all we know about this period arise from documentary sources only, which are mainly:

- the texts from the Farfa Archives (*Regestum Farfense, Chronicon Farfensis, Liber Largitorius*), the abbey that enlarged its power and territories during the early Middle Ages (Giorgi, Balzani, 1879–1914; Balzani 1903; Zucchetti 1913–1932);
- the Chronicon Casauriense (in: Muratori 1726);
- the *Liber lurium* of the episcopate and of the town of Fermo, the most important town in this area in the early, high and late Middle Ages (Avarucci et al. 1996).

These sources provide us an important framework which is, however, partial and discontinuous. Written documents represent

DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES IN CENTRAL EASTERN ITALY IN EARLY MIDDLE AGES: A PRELIMINARY APPROACH BASED ON DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

a major resource because they draw a significant outline, but it is essential to take their limits into account.

First of all, they are the result of an occasional selection with regard to the way they were produced and to the vicissitudes that have caused their loss or their survival until nowadays. Moreover, most documents do not contain any foundation deeds, but references to castles that already existed; therefore in the majority of cases it is impossible to assess when a castle was built. In addition to this, as several scholars have properly underlined, the term "castle" was given to manors created by local lords to affirm their lordship (Farinelli 2007: 123), and not simply to settlements equipped with more or less complex fortifications, like for example the *curtis* itself or the seigniorial residences of the emerging aristocracies (Farinelli 2007: 104; Virgili 2014: 61). Nonetheless documentary sources are not useful to shed light on this subject, apart from some occasional hints; this could be the case of an *Isula qui fuit de Treseo*, mentioned in 1066 as a place, not as a castle, but equipped with *ripe et carbonarie et cum introitu et exitu suo* (Tab. 1).

Finally, the early medieval texts are sparing with details relating to material structures of castles: as a matter of fact, the information they provide is usually repetitive and insidious, because of lexical vagueness.

In those circumstances, this paper represents a contribution to the research on early middle ages, with specific reference to the period in which the aristocratic classes and other powers started to built castles at the end of a protracted process of reorganization of the landed property.

THE FORMATION OF THE CASTLES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

The castles with the oldest written records are a district called *ministerium de Castello* (in 897), and Santa Vittoria in Materiano (end of the 9th century; on the ministeria see: Fumagalli 1994: 19–21; Pacini 2000: 28–29, 137–157).

The first one is generally identified with a place named Case Corvello, but the identification proposed is doubtful, because there are no visible remains at all.

The castle of S. Vittoria in Matenano is almost contemporary. It is nowadays a small town between the valleys of Tenna and Aso rivers, near to which was the monastery of S. Ippolito, the oldest property of Farfa, mentioned by the Lombard King Desiderio in a diploma going back to the year 762, where the king himself confirmed to the abbot Alano some goods given in two previous *chartulae (Reg. Farf.*, II: 55; Galiè 1987; Crocetti 1996; Pacini 2000: 351–352). In subsequent years, Farfa increased its possessions, but in the last ten years of the 9th century the Abbey was attacked by the Saracens; in 898 the monks escaped, divided in three different groups; the main one, led by Abbot Petrus, reached the *Picenum* and retreated in S. Ippolito Monastery (on the Abbey: Leggio 2008). Shortly after, however, the Saracen threat re-emerged, so that the Abbot decided to encastellate a hill called *Mons Matenanus* (today S. Vittoria in Matenano). The events are narrated in the *Destructio Monasterii Farfensis*:

Prelibatus vero abbas, ut prefati sumus, ad comitatum Firmanum veniens, in monasterio sancti Hippoliti et sancti lohannis, quod dicitur in Silva, cepit habitare cum fratribus quos secum de Sabinis duxerat et quos ibi invenerat, lugens ac dolens de sui monasterii desolatione. His ita peractis, ceperunt prelibati Sarraceni infra terminos comitatus Firmani ad depredandum introire. Qua de causa predictus abbas in timorem iterum versus, coadunatis monacis et militibus, fecerunt castellum in Matenano monte (Destructio: 32).

This is clearly a very important passage, because only rarely written record mention the founding period / year of a castle expressly. Furthermore, the words of the *Destructio* suggest the trends followed in order to choose a place suitable for a castle: *Mons Matenanus* is a steep sandstone peak which could easily be fortified, close enough to the Monastery. Finally, the rapidity with which the monks from Farfa seem to have reacted to the Saracens threat suggests that timber structures were used, even though the passage from the *Destructio* does not provide any detail on the subject (on earthworks and timber structures in Italy see: Settia et al. 2013).

Unfortunately, although *Ministerium de Castello* and *Mons Matenanus* allow us to establish that the introduction of castles started from the end of the 9th century, there are very few texts dating back to the 10th century, consequently we cannot follow the process of encastellation in its development.

On the other hand, some documents illustrate the general features of the landscape rather effectively. In particular, a document dated 977 gives us a window on the landed property along the upper valleys of Tenna and Aso rivers. This is a complex transaction through which the Bishop of Firmum grants a considerable amount of lands to *Mainardo comes filius quondam Siffredi* and grandson of another Mainardus, who probably lived between the end of the 9th and the beginning

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Definition	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	poium	podium	castellum	castellum	poium vel	castellum	poium vel	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	turre	castellum	poium	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum
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Turris																	
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Carbonaria	carbonarie	carbonarie	carvonarie	carbonarie	carbonarie	carvonarie	carvonaria	carvonarie	carvonarie	carvonaria	carvonarie	carvonarie		carbonarie	carvonarie	carvonaria	carvonarie
Ripa	ripe	ripe		ripe	ripe									ripa	ripe		ripe
Access?			porta				porta	portis	porte	porta	portes	portes				porta	
Area	Carassai	S. Claudio Ch.	ż	Ripatransone	S. Claudio Ch.	Montolmo	S. Elpidio a M.	Potenza Pic.	Macerata	Civitanova				Macerata	Ripatransone		ż
Name	qui vocatur Mar- celliano	qui vocatur Casale	de lu Monte	de Paterno	Isula	de filiis quondam Bonezone	S. Helpidii	de Corlliano	Ilce	Pretezioli	de Tusiano	de Frasso	qui vocatur Monte	qui vocatur Ilice	qui vocatur Ro- fiano	de filiis quondam Teuzoni	qui vocatur Tisiano
Definition	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	2	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	castellum	suom
Ŀ.	103	103	73	95	95	32	19	38	227	227	92	92	92	28	61	88	219
Year	1063	1063	1065	1066	1066	1070	1079	1083	1083	1083	1095	1095	1095	1097	1099	1100	1121

Tab. 1 List of defensive structures according to the Liber lurium

of the 10th century. *Mainardus* the elder was probably a *miles* (maybe from a Frankish family), like the *milites* to which refers the above-mentioned passage of the *Destructio*, thus a member of an aristocratic class (Moscatelli, Ravaschieri 2016; on the aristocracies on this region: Archetti Giampaolini 1987; Saracco Previdi 2006).

In the document the terms *fundus, curtis, res/terra* prevail, while no castles are mentioned. Nonetheless this absence is not especially significant considering the purpose of the transaction that concerned real estates. This should bring us to the settlement patterns before encastellation and to the meaning of *fundus, casalis, casa, terra, villa,* focus of a wider research programme that I can't discuss here; anyway, this is the general framework in which a process of landed property reorganization started, the final stage of which was the castle (on this topic: Castagnetti 1980; Saracco Previdi 1985; Migliario 1992; Farinelli 2000; Pasquali 2002; Francovich, Hodges 2003: 103–104; Francovich 2004; Farinelli 2007: 100; Di Muro 2008; Di Muro 2012; Farinelli, Pocetti 2012; Loré 2012; Volpe et al. 2012; Ficco 2015; Moscatelli, Ravaschieri 2016).

THE MATERIAL STRUCTURES OF CASTLES: VERY FEW ARCHAEOLOGY EXPLORATIONS AND TEXT

Some useful indications about the material structures of the firsts castles are provided by the documents related to the 11th century; one the main sources for the southern part of Le Marche is the *Liber lurium*, a collection of documents from 977 to 1266, related to the episcopate and to the town of Fermo (Avarucci et al. 1996).

Even though the papers within *Liber lurium* have already been analyzed in recent works together with some other relevant documents concerning the remaining areas of the Marche region (e.g.: Bernacchia 2002; 2006; Antongirolami 2005; Virgili 2014), it is however possible to enhance some details which probably have been underestimated so far.

Therefore, *Liber lurium* contains references to about 200 castles; nearly a third of them are mentioned in the period taken into examination. Nevertheless, not all documents contain information related to the fortification system; useful cases are consequently reduced to 44.

A first basic question concerns the technical terms used in documents to indicate fortified structures: *castellum*, *castrum*, *podium* (*poium*), *castellare*, *mons* (a single case). Since essential data is missing at the time being, I am not going to go over the aspects related to the development of such terms here, which are clearly used as synonyms sometimes. As a matter of fact, it is not evident whether the differences in terms hide a typological or lexical evolution. As for *castrum* and *castellum*, even recently, Aldo Settia has underlined the ambiguity with which both words are used in documentary sources (Settia 2017: 9–12).

Another case is related to *podium* (*dossum* in northern Italy), a word that, according to Aldo Settia, would indicate a non-rocky hill suitable for the construction of a castle (Settia 1984: 193). According to Roberto Bernacchia, *podium* could be "linked to a primitive phase of an encastellation which has not always been overcome" (Bernacchia 2002–2003: 152–154), but it is a theory only.

The relationship between *podium* and *castellare* is not very clear; some documents provide descriptions like these:

- medietatem de ipso castellare de Ripa [...] cum medietate de ipsa turre, et cum pertinentia suprascripti podii (Reg. Farf., IV, n. 739, year 1039);

- cum ripe et carbonarie ... et uno poio qui fuit castellare (Avarucci et al. 1996: 1, n. 95, year 1066).

Castellare and *podium* seem therefore to be used as synonyms; moreover, in the second case it is possible to recognize a lexical switch from *castellare* to *podium*. On the other hand, in later documents, *castellare* appears as a synonym of *castellum*.

As for the words used to indicate material structures, the most frequent terms are *porta*, *ripa*, *carvonaria* (or *carbonaria*), *clusimen*, *introitus*, *exitus*. Only rarely is *turris* used (3 cases out of 44) together with references to masonry (1 case). The Fig. 3 summarizes the data percentage of the single terms or combination of terms.

Finally, expressions like *cum omni hedificio*, *cum omnia edificia* are barely relevant because they are too general and references to churches do not provide any contribution to the subject of this conference (Bernacchia 2002–2003; Settia 1984).

A quite debated matter is linked to the meaning of *carvonaria* (*carbonaria*), a word which occurs in 35 cases out of 44 and that sometimes we find in the following centuries.

Aldo Settia considers this term perfectly equivalent to *spaldum/spoldum* of northern Italy; it was first used to indicate an embankment facing a fortification work (an *agger*) and later, during the 12th century, "the space between the moat and

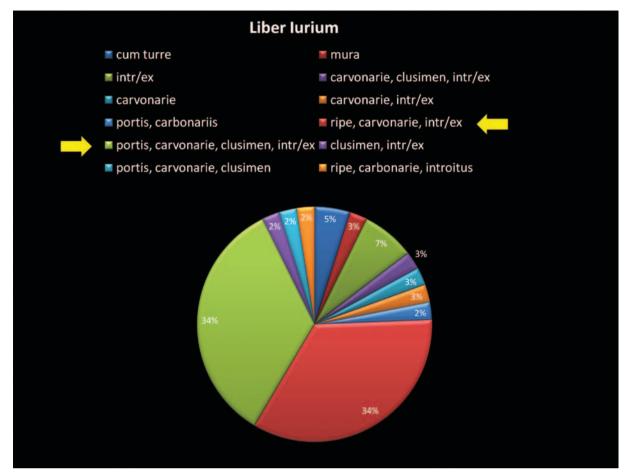


Fig. 3 The material structures of the castles in the Liber lurium

the wall, within which houses and other buildings can be found" (Settia 1984: 203; Antongirolami 2005). Nevertheless, not all scholars agree on this question: some of them believe that it is the moat (Settia 1984: 240, n. 133), some others assume that moat was the original significance, before the word indicated the area close to the moat or included between the moat and the walls (Francovich 1973: 56). Such an interpretation would correspond to the indications contained in the *Glossario dello Stato della Chiesa*² (Sella 1944: 124, s.v. *carbonaria*) and would explain the absence of any references to moats (*fossis, fosaris, fossa, fosato, foveis*), which appear north of the area examined starting from the 10th century (Bernacchia 2002–2003). It is possible that *carvonaria* was used to indicate, at least in the older documents, the complex moat-agger, as suggested by Roberto Bernacchia (Bernacchia 2002–2003: 152–154 s.). Despite the ambiguity of medieval documents, this hypothesis could be supported by the frequent association (16 cases out of 44) of *carvonaria* with *porta/portes*, that has been underestimated in the previous studies (Bernacchia 2002; 2002–2003; Antongirolami 2005: 342).

As for the other terms and their combination, in 12 cases out of 16, *porta/portes* appears together with *introitus/exitus*, often in turn associated with *clusimen*. Therefore I suggest that *porta/portes* is indicating the access to the moat-agger system, and that the term *introitus/exitus* refers to the gates located in the inner fence.

This latter probably corresponds to *clusimen*, a word that is mentioned frequently (16 cases out of 44) (Bernacchia 2002–2003: 152–154; Antongirolami 2005: 342; Moscatelli 2006: 193–194; Virgili 2014). *Clusimen* is comparable to *tonimen*, well-known in northern Italy and in Tuscany (Settia 1984: 198–204; 214–218; Augenti 2000: 47), whereas in Lazio *redimen* appears, even if in later documents (Del Lungo 2004: 24–25).

The main question is: how was the *clusimen* made? In this period and in this area, mentions of masonry structures are rare: only 2 cases out of 44 (in 1028 and in 1070). Explicit information occurs in the following centuries, such as for example, in a document dated 1199, where *Presbiter*, bishop of *Firmum*, states that the *palatium castri Montis Sancti* [...] *debet esse bene copertum et suffrenatum arena et calcina et terra* (Avarucci et al. 1996: 11). Moreover, the use of *clusimen* seems not go

2 *Fossatum idest carbonaria*, with reference to some documents of the *Regestum Farfense*.

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beyond the 11th century; as a matter of fact, the latest mention of *clusimen* dates back to 1100. Therefore, since systematic excavations are lacking, there are reasonable grounds to believe that *clusimen* could indicate a timber palisade (on this topic see: Settia et al. 2013).

As regards to the patterns of defensive structures, in 15 cases out of 16 *clusimen* appears together with *carbonaria*. In 13 cases out of 16 the castles are equipped with *porta, carvonaria, clusimen, introitus* and *exitus*, then with a defence system consisting of an external line made up of earthworks (moat and rampart), provided with its own access, and of a timber inner fence with its doors.

A final consideration concerns the term *ripa* (escarpment), appearing in 15 cases out of 44, always together with *carbonaria*, *introitus*, *exitus* and **never** together with *clusimen* or with any other terms referring to an enclosure.

As mentioned above, any comparative analysis between archaeological and documentary source is impractical at present. However, as for the size of three castles, we may perhaps to draw some useful remarks.

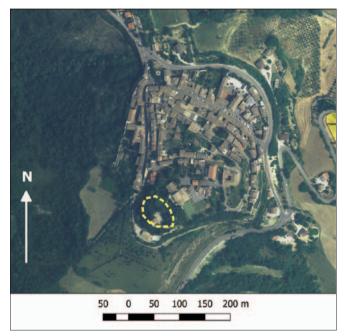


Fig. 4 The original area of the Matenano castle (yellow dotted line) (orthophoto by the National Geportal of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, modification by: U. Moscatelli)

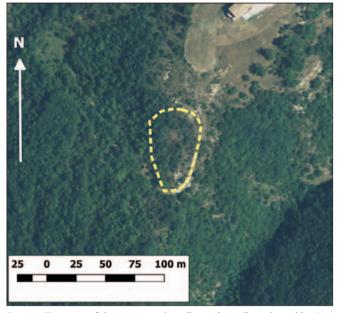


Fig. 5 The area of the *curtis in Castello* castle (yellow dotted line) (orthophoto by the National Geportal of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, modification by: U. Moscatelli)

At Santa Vittoria in Matenano the original area of the castle is recognizable on the top of the hill (the *mons Matenanus*), characterized by a little peak with a surface area of about 0,23 hectares (Fig. 4). At present the Church of S. Vittoria is only visible, while the remains of a monastery were still present in 18th century (Crocetti 1997: fig. 8).

A comparison is possible with the settlements of Castello and Croce, where the medieval documents in the 10th century mention the *curtes de Castello* and *in Cruce*. The first one, according to the written sources, seems to have been abandoned soon. Therefore the traces clearly recognizable in aerial photos probably refer to the first plant of the castle. They show a nearby triangular area, corresponding to some poor building remains recorded during an archaeological survey, with a surface area of 0,25 hectares (Fig. 5). This area is delimited northward by a moat separating the castle from the hill ridge (Fig. 6, 7).

In the settlement of Croce the core of the castle is a small hilltop with a surface area of 0,15 hectares, surrounded by a late medieval defensive wall (Fig. 8).

CONCLUSION

At the present, in the area taken into examination, the exegesis of the written texts plays a prevailing role in the research on the formation of the castles and their development. The medieval papers tell us the names of the founders of the castles and/or of their holders and shed light on the politic and economic dynamics acting in the landscape changes.

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Fig. 6 The moat of the curtis in Castello castle (photo by: U. Moscatelli)

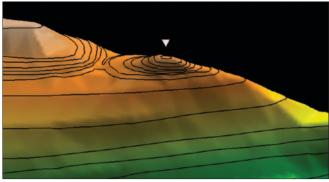


Fig. 7 3d model of the *curtis in Castello* castle (white triangle; view from W) (made by U. Moscatelli)

But, in the absence of archaeological investigation, those texts are quite difficult to interpret because their lexicon is not infrequently ambiguous; furthermore, it is unclear whether the notaries authenticating transactions followed a common standard of technical terms.

Apart from these difficulties, the documents of the *Liber lurium* (Tab. 1) and the results of research carried out in other contexts seem confirm the idea that there existed a common model, consisting of an inner fence enclosed by an external earthworks ring.

However, a controversial point is represented by the apparent absence of stone walls made with hard concrete, as they are very rarely mentioned in the texts. This should by in opposition to the well-known tendencies in Italy (Francovich, Hodges 2003: 99–102).



Fig. 8 The probably original area of the Croce castle (yellow dotted line) (orthophoto by the National Geportal of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Protection of Land and Sea, modification by: U. Moscatelli)

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