

Sapienza, Università di Roma – British School at Rome – Università degli Studi di Verona

CONVEGNO

FORUM

Strutture, funzioni e sviluppo degli impianti forensi in Italia (IV sec. a.C.-I sec. d.C.)

FORUM

The design, function and development of forum spaces in Italy (4th century BC to 1st century AD)

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Il foro di *Grumentum*

Nella Basilicata sud occidentale, nel cuore dell'alta Val d'Agri alla confluenza dei fiumi Agri e Sciaura, si estende la collina localmente denominata 'La Civita', sede dell'abitato di *Grumentum*. Colonia romana dedotta sul luogo di una precedente frequentazione lucana, *Grumentum* dovette godere di una posizione privilegiata strettamente collegata, dal punto di vista topografico, al passaggio di quattro importanti vie a lunga percorrenza, che venivano ad incrociarsi proprio all'esterno del centro antico e lo collegavano con la parte nord-orientale della Lucania e le coste ionica e tirrenica.

Le indagini archeologiche svolte a più riprese a partire dal 1960, prima dalla Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici della Basilicata e poi, dal 2005, dall'Università degli Studi di Verona, hanno confermato l'esistenza di un importante sito archeologico, il cui impianto ortogonale andò sviluppandosi su tre terrazze longitudinali per un'area complessiva di m. 300 x 900 ca. La terrazza centrale, la più alta ed ampia delle tre, sembra essere stata quella designata ad ospitare la parte più cospicua dell'area urbana e tutti gli edifici pubblici tra i quali spiccava, non a caso posto in posizione centrale, il complesso di monumenti della piazza del foro. La forma urbana oggi visibile rappresenta il momento conclusivo di un processo impostato forse già nel III secolo a.C., realizzato gradualmente nel corso dell'età repubblicana, e solo in parte modificato in occasione dell'intensa attività edilizia che si registra a partire dall'età augustea.

Il presente contributo sarà pertanto incentrato su una scansione cronologica delle varie fasi costruttive dell'area forense grumentina, con l'intento di leggerne i mutamenti subiti nel tempo in maniera contestuale a quelle che furono le vicende storiche, politiche e sociali della città.

Grumentum romana, a cura di A.Mastrocinque, Valentina Porfidio editore, Moliterno (PZ) 2009.

The Foro of Grumentum

In the south-west Basilicata, at the middle of the Agri valley, a large hill was locally called “La Civita”. It was the seat of the Roman colony of Grumentum. This naturally fortified area was previously settled by Lucanians. The position was indeed favorable because Grumentum is at the crossroad between Ionian and Tyrrhenian seas and also connected the interior Lucania with these seas.

Archaeological researches from the 60s of the past century by the Soprintendenza and recently by the University of Verona brought to light parts of an important town with its orthogonal city-plan extended ca m. 300 x 900 and arranged according to three main longitudinal terraces. The central terrace is higher than the others and seems to have been conceived in order to host public monuments and structures. The Forum occupies its central part. Nowadays visible remains testify to the result of a long-lasting urban conception, which was firstly enacted in the 3rd century BC. It was subsequently modified during the late republican age and consistently monumentalized in the Julio-Claudian period. Every scholar who knows of Grumentum has always thought that the Grumentan Forum is that which every visitor sees at the centre of the city. Since 2008 a problem arose from the relatively late building of the Capitol. The first temple was the Caesareum/Augusteum. An important architectural project was conceived during the Augustan age and was completed at the beginning of the Tiberian age. A temple to the imperial cult, a basilica, and a porch were then built. Shortly after the middle of the I century AD the Capitol was added. From this history a major problem arises: did another Capitol exist somewhere before? A second problem arises as well: where was the political and religious Forum? In fact, on the extending Forum there was no temple until the end of the Republic, and several houses stood on its north-eastern side. It was a simple square with a soil on beaten earth. The search for a second Forum was focussed on the eastern zone, out of the extending Forum. Excavations and magnetometric prospectings suggest that a square was located there, a round temple with a porch stood on its southern corner, and a fountain close to it. This temple was located at the very centre of the city, and had probably an ideological meaning in the urbanistic plan. It was built in the Tiberian age; whoever in the Augustan age this area had an excellent pavement, definitely better than on the extant Forum. A reasonable hypothesis could suggest that this temple was preceded by another cultic monument.

Grumentum romana, edited by A. Mastrocinque, Valentina Porfidio editore, Moliterno (PZ) 2009.