

Preface

The farmhouse known as Fattoria Fabrizio was excavated in the long-ago summer of 1980, as part of an ambitious program to explore as many aspects as possible of the chora of Metaponto. This initiative of the Institute of Classical Archaeology (ICA) employed methods such as intensive field survey,¹ specialized studies of ancient plant and animal remains,² which were relatively new in the field of classical archaeology, as well as the more traditional ones. These included the excavation of structures representative of the chora, among them the sanctuaries, necropoleis, and farmhouses of the period of the Greek poleis and subsequent occupation in the Roman period. Two rural sanctuaries (Pantanello and Incoronata), two necropoleis (Saldone and Sant'Angelo Vecchio), and two ceramic production centers (Sant'Angelo Vecchio and Pantanello) had been or were in the process of being excavated by 1980. At that point, however, the ICA team had excavated only one sizable farmhouse, the one that had been built over the sanctuary at Pantanello,³ and one single-room Archaic farmhouse (Sant'Angelo Vecchio). As earlier surveys and excavations begun by Dinu Adamesteanu and the Soprintendenza Archeologica della Basilicata had shown, farmhouses were by far the most numerous of the surviving rural structures.

The systematic field survey, begun in 1981, revealed clearly the pattern of rural settlement of a large area of the chora. In approximately 30 km² between the Bradano and Basento Rivers (the equivalent of about a sixth of the entire chora), 312 sites were identified as Greek farmhouses of the period of the polis (7th century to 3rd century BC). The thorough documentation of the abundant pottery from these sites made it possible to trace the changing pattern of settlement throughout the chora in successive 50-year periods.⁴

¹ The first half of the field survey results have been published in *The Chora of Metaponto 3: Archaeological Field Survey—Bradano to Basento*.

² Bökönyi and Gál 2010 (*The Chora of Metaponto 2: Archaeozoology at Pantanello and Five Other Sites*).

³ The publication of this farmhouse will be part of the comprehensive study of the Greek sanctuary at Pantanello.

⁴ An equally large area between the Basento and Cavone Rivers on the south side of the chora was also surveyed, but the pottery from over 600

In the second half of the 6th century BC, when the site of Fattoria Fabrizio was first occupied, there were nine significant farmhouse sites in the middle course of the Venella.⁵ Fattoria Fabrizio's nearest neighbors were a pair of farmhouses approximately 250 m to the north (sites 181 and 182) and two modest rural sanctuaries (sites 334 and 477). Small necropoleis, some 161 of which were identified (many in close proximity to farmhouses), were a ubiquitous feature of the Greek countryside. One, unfortunately not datable, was found 80 m away from Fattoria Fabrizio. By the mid-4th century BC, the heyday of the chora and of Fattoria Fabrizio, the number of neighbors had risen to 11 farmhouses and seven necropoleis.⁶

In the summer of 1980, firsthand knowledge of the farmhouses was limited to the two examples mentioned above. A number had been hurriedly excavated between 1966 and 1969, but regrettably none of these earlier investigations—apart from some very cursory notes and schematized floor plans—had ever been published.⁷ This void was rapidly filled that summer by excavations of two farmhouses: Fattoria Fabrizio in June, and the Late Roman farmhouse at San Biagio in July.⁸

The Fattoria Fabrizio excavation team was composed of skilled and seasoned Italian workmen from the nearby town of Bernalda who had worked together on ICA projects since 1974 at Pantanello, Saldone, and Incoronata. Foreman Giuseppe Di Taranto's knowledge and skills made him an indispensable member of the ICA team from 1974 to the present. The excavation was supervised by the undersigned and by Claire Lyons,⁹ who was responsible for the meticulous field notes. Detailed drawings of the plan and

sites remains to be studied.

⁵ See Introduction, *Figure vi*; Carter in *Survey*, 685–87, fig. 21.7.

⁶ See Introduction, *Figure v*; Carter in *Survey*, 816–18, fig. 25.8.

⁷ Adamesteanu 1973. Cf. Amore 1992–1993: all students of the Metapontino are greatly indebted to her work. She gathered together the scarce documentation that exists on excavations prior to 1970. Cf. also Barberis' useful study of terracotta figurines from the early excavations (Barberis 1995).

⁸ *The Chora of Metaponto 4: The Late Roman Farmhouse at San Biagio*.

⁹ Dr. Lyons is now Acting Senior Curator of Antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Museum.

sections were executed by Michael Guarino between 1980 and 1981. Elisa Lanza Catti and Giuseppe Di Taranto returned to the site in 2010 and 2011 to clarify details of wall construction and floor levels. At the same time, Anna Maria Mercuri and Assunta Florenzano of the Istituto di Palinologia of the University of Modena conducted a very successful investigation of the palaeobotanical remains from the site, the results of which are published here.

The site of this farmhouse was discovered in the dense vegetation of Mediterranean scrub (*macchia*) on a natural terrace along the eastern slope of the Venella, a tributary of the Basento River. All that was visible on the surface were some pottery fragments, exclusively of 6th-century BC date (or so it seemed), that had eroded out of this slope. The possibility that the site might be a rare example of an Archaic farmhouse dating to the first and most famous period of Metaponto's prosperity in the 6th century BC was certainly a factor in the decision to excavate, and the discovery of a one-room Archaic rural building the previous year at Sant'Angelo Vecchio had whetted the appetite.¹⁰ As the excavation progressed, however, it soon became clear that though the site of Fattoria Fabrizio had indeed been occupied in the 6th century BC, the main period of the surviving structure was the 4th century BC. The largest part of the excavation was carried out in an intensive effort lasting just three weeks, though, as noted, subsequent work was done to clarify structural relationships and expand the range of evidence from the site. Fortunately, the site is exceptionally well preserved despite having been exposed to the elements for more than three decades. The *macchia* has reclaimed it, stabilized the hillside, and discouraged agricultural development.

More than a quarter of a century elapsed between the excavation of Fattoria Fabrizio in 1980 and the beginning of work on the publication in 2007. Such a delay is generally unwelcome, but was unavoidable due to budget limitations and other commitments. It is very fortunate, in retrospect, that it was accomplished at all. This is largely due to the Packard Humanities Institute (PHI), which allowed Fattoria Fabrizio to be included in the multi-year program begun in 1999 for the publication of the results of ICA's research in the chora of Metaponto. The fate of too many excavations is that their results are never made available to the scientific community or wider audiences. The excavated artifacts

end up in the basements of museums where they collect dust and are forgotten. The sites themselves are ignored or, worse, are considered inconvenient and are destroyed to facilitate agricultural or commercial development. It is very much to the credit of PHI that it recognized this acute need, and found a solution for another by making it possible to employ a highly trained work force of young archaeologists (mainly Italian), who because of economic conditions were terribly underutilized and needed rewarding work. The study program began in 2007 and continues to this day.

Despite some disadvantages, this 30-year delay at Fattoria Fabrizio has had very positive aspects. This publication has been able to capitalize on the great advances that have been made in the intervening years in the various disciplines involved, such as ceramic studies and palaeobotany, but also in the technology, such as GIS (Geographic Information Systems) that are now indispensable tools of analysis and presentation. In the last three decades, the number of excavations of rural dwellings has grown exponentially. There is no lack of useful comparisons, many of which were utilized by Lanza Catti and are conveniently listed by her (Appendix C).

This farmhouse publication is much more than the report on a single interesting but relatively unexceptional site. It includes basic new research on all the many classes of pottery from the site. This is part of the fundamental study of the pottery and other artifacts from dozens of sites scattered all over the chora. This is being accomplished because the continuous support provided by PHI has made it possible to keep a team of skilled and enthusiastic specialists working year round on these materials. These studies include a major reassessment of black-gloss pottery by Francesca Silvestrelli, Keith Swift, Elisa Lanza Catti, Sveva Savelli, and Amelia Tubelli that will affect the archaeological dating of sites throughout the Metapontino and southern Italy in general.¹¹

At Fattoria Fabrizio, as at almost all sites in the chora, terracotta figurines were found. There were few from this farmhouse, but they are very revealing about the site and its inhabitants. The work of Rebecca Miller Ammerman embraces terracotta figurines from many sites (excavated and surveyed) not only in Metaponto, but also in closely-related Poseidonia-Paestum. Her masterful analysis of the unique votive plaque

¹⁰ Sant'Angelo Vecchio will be the subject of a future volume in this series.

¹¹ Lanza Catti et al. in *Survey*, ch. 6.

from Fattoria Fabrizio provides a key insight into domestic cult and the role of women in the religion of the countryside and polis.

From the beginning of the study in 2007, Elisa Lanza Catti has given unstintingly of herself to the publication project, the study of the pottery, and the coordination of the other studies. In these efforts, and especially in establishing the fundamental facts of the excavation, she was joined by Keith Swift, who formulated the site phasing and interpreted the archaeology of the site and its stratigraphy. It has been a harmonious and fruitful collaboration between Lanza Catti and Swift and all of the contributors.

At last, Fattoria Fabrizio can be seen in its archaeological-historical and natural contexts! It is clear from the survey and other excavations of farmhouse structures in the chora, and elsewhere in southern Italy and the wider Greek world, that Fattoria Fabrizio was a decidedly modest habitation even by Metapontine standards (the other end of the socioeconomic spec-

trum is represented by the largest and best preserved of all, Fattoria Stefan). The importance of Fattoria Fabrizio was that it was almost entirely ordinary—probably the dwelling place of a family of shepherds. It was a home and a place of work as well, illustrated by the meticulous studies presented here of the pottery and other artifacts. One unusual fact about it, derived from the terracotta study, was that a family member was perhaps a priestess at a local cult—possibly that of Artemis at San Biagio near the mouth of the Venella, a place of worship and congregation not only for the rural folk but also for those who dwelt in the city. It is the Greek everyman and -woman, and the tiny details of their day-to-day existence, that we can glimpse here at Fattoria Fabrizio.

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