

SAGITTARIUS VALLEY AND PELIGNA DELL BETWEEN 4th AND 1st CENTURY BC TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS OF ROMANIZATION

SUMMARY

PART I. THESIS

FOREWORD

It describes the problems that the present work is to contribute to solve : the still poor understanding of *Romanization* as a phenomenon in the Peligna Valley and the state of documentation, very substantial but fragmentary and unsystematic in large part. The theme of *Romanizationis* introduced and defined, from an historical point of view. Finally, it focuses on methodology followed while developing the work as well as advantages and limitations involved. Acknowledgements and more detailed methodological note close-out this section.

HISTORY OF STUDIES

An overview of the most significant discoveries and studies on the above mentioned territory from the beginning of the modern era to the present time.

PELIGNI SOURCES IN LATIN AND GREEK

Analysis of the testimonies of Greek and Latin authors on Peligni, broken down into:

Geographical Testimonies

Testimonies relating to religion, myths, and customs

Documents on the history of Peligni and their relationships with Rome

Sources on rearrangements in Romans' territory planning activities

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Description of area main elements from a geographical point of view, that includes how the territorial structure has influenced the ancient built-up areas. It also outlines the different areas in which the territory is divided.

ANALYSIS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

A study of the archaeological contexts belonging to each type being present in the territory (urban spreads, sanctuaries, necropolis) provided with a detailed analysis of cultural materials and inscriptions, which is relating to the different districts:

Sagittarius Valley. Study of the necropolis lying in the territory of Anversa degli Abruzzi, a sub-region inserted in the preferred trade routes between the territories of Piceno, Sannio, and Daunia, which were less exposed to the influence of Tyrrhenian and Lazio areas . The relevant situation seems to be that of a territory structured by "pagi" and "vici" without any evidence of urban aggregation at least until the first century BC.

Corfinio and its territory. *Corfinium* is defined "necropolis of Peligni" by Roman sources and the examination of its territory reveals a precocity of the urban core structure. This section concerns: a) the construction phases of the urban center, b) suburban cemeteries that are concentrated to the south of the city; they are close to many of the satellites, c) the eastern sanctuary as well as the small group of emerging tombs, which are linked to the latter through road access.

Sulmona and Sulmonensis ager. Destined to become the main urban center after the Social War, Sulmona initially appears as a collection of connected small towns. Evidence is relating to the first phase of the center (the second phase concerns the Late Antiquity), to the necropolis situated around the central core of the decentralized complex, which is at the foot of Morrone and composed by the sanctuary of Hercules Curinus, by the *vicus* and by the necropolis of *Fonte d'Amore*.

Cansano - Ocriticum. Located to the south of Sulmona, along the foothill road linked to the Sannio sub-region, this site has revealed a built-up area, which is in many ways similar to that of *Fonte d'Amore*; here the sanctuary served as a pole of attraction for an urban spread with its necropolis and factory areas.

Interpromium and the northeastern boundary of the Peligna Dell. It is a study of the funeral and epigraphic evidences in the area between Popoli, Tocco da Casauria and San Valentino in Abruzzo Citeriore, aiming at clarifying the existence and the actual position of the boundary delimiting the Peligni territory.

The analysis of each area was conducted by census of sites, the distinction existing between different kinds of contexts, and the examination of the internal configuration of them, when identifiable: they have been analyzed according to the internal topography, the relationships with roads, the surrounding territory and the other sites, and the type and function of the structures. In the case of the necropolis, attention was paid to the problem of funerary ritual and kits composition. Finally, inscriptions from the territory were examined too. The tomb sheets (as for funerary contexts), those of materials concerning any other kind of context, and inscriptions were added to the catalog.

DATA SYNTHESIS

The information obtained from archaeological contexts of Chap. IV is used to highlight the changes and continuities (during the Hellenistic age and the Romanization) of:

Urban system. The evolution of built-up areas following urban criteria has neither the same duration nor the same results everywhere. The central areas and plains, especially those of Corfinio and Sulmona, were the most affected by the urban concentration, whilst the others remain substantially affected by a settlement system belonging to the type of *paganico-vicano*.

Space of the dead, ritual and funerary symbolism. While funeral testimonies give us an image of a costume that is yet archaic until the third century B.C., starting from the second Hellenistic period it captures more and more insistently the Tyrrhenian and Roman influence.

Culture by materials. From about the middle of the third century BC, as a result of the participation of Peligni as allies and trading partners of Rome, the conquerer, new elites emerge, also being distinguished by the different composition of the funeral kits, in which the emphasis of individual roles within the community gives way to those status symbols relating to the personal care and to the openness towards Mediterranean and Roman lifestyle.

Language and writing. The introduction of the Latin alphabet and, subsequently, the Latin language is an important signal of the transformations occurred since the early contacts with Rome, in the fourth century BC up to the period after the Social War. It includes a summary of the results coming from inscription examinations.

Politics and institutions. An evaluation of written and epigraphic sources reveals that the main elements of Romanization, from a political point of view, are represented by the adoption of new forms of urban governance, first of all the *quattuorvirato*. The centers become municipalized local as the loss of sovereignty is determined in foreign affairs, although a certain degree of autonomy is preserved.

Elements of worship. They regard the transformations occurred in religion and local cults as a result of Romanization. The proof of worships and their transformations over time is evaluated: the cult of Hercules, the adoration of female deities and the phenomenon of priestly colleges, and those transformations recorded in the evidence concerning sanctuarial contexts as well as cults to minor gods.

CONCLUSIONS

This section summarizes issues and final answers to the questions from which the thesis was started, highlighting the open questions and suggestions for the continuation of the research.

It was found the impossibility of considering the integration occurred between the fourth and first centuries BC in the Peligni territory as an external imposition, so the term "self-romanization", already proposed by Coarelli to explain the phenomenon, can be fully validated.

Appendices

Chronological table

Examination of News concerning Antiquity Ruins

Archive documentation

REFERENCES

PART II. CATALOGUE

Catalogue of tombs and materials, listing more than 1,000 artefacts from the area, divided by location and discovery context. When discovery context is a tomb, the tomb itself is indexed. The catalogue contains a core of *adespoti* materials, the reframing of which has been attempted together with the analysis of the discovery chronicles.

Catalogue of inscriptions, listing 273 entries from the region, also highlighting origin, context, history, and data either relating to the support or inferred from the text.