



English version

Soprintendenza Archeologia del Lazio e dell'Etruria Meridionale

The Superintendence aims to protect the archaeological heritage, and it deals with the study, the cataloguing and the archaeological heritage enhancement of a region that includes part of the province of Rome, the provinces of Rieti, Frosinone, Latina and Viterbo.

Texts by Giovanna Alvino-Francesca Lezzi
Graphics by Francesca Lezzi
Translation by Francesca Santini

Soprintendenza Archeologia del Lazio e dell'Etruria Meridionale

Via Pompeo Magno 2 - 0192 Roma

Special thanks for the active collaboration to



SOPRINTENDENZA
DEL LAZIO E
DELL'ETRURIA
MERIDIONALE



PROVINCIA di RIETI

Urban Archaeology in Rieti: Palazzo Aluffi

Urban Archaeology Survey





The floor mosaics of the Roman *domus*

Key Informations

During the renovation and improvement, including seismic upgrading, of the former Police Station, undertaken by the Province of Rieti, many building structures related to different historical periods were found. An synergistic effort and an active co-operation between the Province and the Superintendence for Archaeological Heritage of Lazio allowed to restore and to enhancing the buried remains of the oldest Rieti.

The excavations, undertaken from November 2011 in the monumental complex and headed by the Superintendence for Archaeological Heritage of Lazio, represent the first site of urban archeology in Rieti, where all the phases of life of this town area have been investigated and interpreted. The excavation site has documented how the life lasted from the 8th century B.C. through the Roman and medieval periods until the present day without interruption.

The stages of development:

- The oldest traces of uncovered dwellings date back to the early 8th century. B.C. Below the Roman structures the remains of the Iron Age houses and more than 3000 potsherds have been found.

- In Roman times, when Rieti was a rich town of the *ager romanus* and was called Reate, in the Palace Aluffi a large private residence, a *domus*, was erected. There are many walls in *opus reticolata* which still retain the plaster traces. Several elaborately decorated floor mosaics were recorded and there are also many unearthed portions of mosaics.
- There are many evidences of the delicate transitional stage between the Roman period and the early Middle Ages. Indeed, Rieti around the end of the 6th century. A.D., with the Lombard settlement and the inclusion in the Duchy of Spoleto, was one of the most advanced centers of the southern border.
- Around the end of the 13th century A.D. the monumental urban landscape was progressively defining with the construction of the present building, perhaps already a *palatium*.
- The building, constructed in the block in front of the Cathedral, remained unchanged in the volumetric space despite many renovations and restorations over time.
- The building, formerly the property of the Count of Aluffi in 1700, in 1908 became a possession of the Province of Perugia.
- The powerful earthquake that hit Rieti in 1898, caused structural damage and caused very serious structural damages and shattered part of this building, which later will be rebuilt.



Some detected structures

- Since 1916, currently historical headquarters of the Police Station, many changes were also introduced in the basement floors.

The future of the past of Rieti

The urban archeology makes not use of the archaeological data only to understand the town history but it also seeks to provide guidelines and directions for the research. The purposes are to building a proper and updated knowledge base for the definition of the archeological topography of the town, as far as possible to preserve the buried heritage and to restore it to the people enhancing it. Indeed, it would seem appropriate, at such a difficult time both for the public administrations and for the inhabitants, to let people discover and rediscover the monuments remains of its own town.

For further informations

G. Alvino, F. Lezzi, "Reate/Rieti. Archeologia urbana" in Lazio e Sabina 9, Atti del Convegno (Roma 27-29 marzo 2012), Roma 2013, 145-150

www.archeolz.arti.beniculturali.it/index.php?it/210/publicazioni/107/lazio-e-sabina-9

G. Alvino, F. Lezzi, "Rieti nella storia: gli scavi di Palazzo Aluffi" in Lazio e Sabina 10, Atti del Convegno (Roma 4-6 giugno 2013), pp. 35-42

www.archeolz.arti.beniculturali.it/index.php?it/210/publicazioni/113/lazio-e-sabina-10

Contact us

Dott.ssa Sandra Gatti - SALEM
sandra.gatti@beniculturali.it

Dott.ssa Francesca Lezzi - archaeologist
francesca.lezzi@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook
Archeologia Urbana a Rieti: palazzo Aluffi