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Site Record Sheet for Season 2016 Country: Italy Superintendency: Soprintendenza Speciale di Pompei Ercolano e Stabia Region: Campania Province: Napoli Comune: Pompei Site name (e.g. Colosseum, Macchiagrande, Casa del Marinaio): Stabian Baths (VII 1, 8) Locality (e.g. Rome, Veii, Pompeii): Pompeii Ancient site name: Pompeii Coordinate Lat: N 40.749946 / 40°44'59.8"N Coordinate Long: E 14.487473 / 14°29'14.9"E *Type of evidence(s)*: Baths Chronology: 300-80 BC; 80 BC - AD 79 *Research director(s) with Institution* (as many as necessary):

Prof. Dr. Monika Trümper (Freie Universität Berlin)

Field Director(s) with Institution:

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Team members with Institution and role in the project:

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Funding bodies:

TOPOI Excellence Cluster 264

Year:

2016

Summary (300-500 words) with the author(s):

In the second year of the research Project "Bathing Culture and the Development of Urban Space: Case Study Pompeii", part of the research framework of the TOPOI Excellence Cluster 264, a field season of excavation and standing remains assessment was carried out in the Stabian Baths (VII 1,8) in March, 2016.

Three main areas of the Stabian Baths were excavated down to natural soil deposits as far as possible. Detailed study of the cells N1 and N2 as well as room S in the northern tract of the building (Area I) provided new information not only on the early phases of the Stabian Baths themselves, but the development of this part of Pompeii in general. In two open area excavations in the palaestra of the Stabian Baths (Areas II and III), it was possible to reevaluate the relationship between the baths and an earlier house that existed in the western part of the site. These areas furthermore provided new data on the urban development of archaic Pompeii and potential Altstadt-fortifications in this area. Cleaning and a first assessment of the central praefurnium and boiler construction of the baths (Room VI, here: Area IV) provided new data on the heating system, which are to be investigated further in

future field seasons. All excavated areas were recorded both by traditional means and digitally through structure from motion modelling.

Accompanying the excavation, a full standing remains assessment of all accessible walls in the Stabian Baths was carried out using standardized record sheets, and all occurring decoration forms were mapped. Based on an analysis of this data, in combination with the excavation results, it is now possible to revise the developmental model of the Stabian Baths proposed by Hans Eschebach in 1979.

The 2016 season of work in the Stabian Baths led to a significant revision of current understanding of this part of Pompeii: there is no evidence for an Altstadt wall or ditch in the area. Indeed, the plot appears to have been an open space, at least in its southern part, in the Archaic period and up to the 3rd century BC. There is no evidence whatsoever for a palaestra with Greek-style baths of the 5th-3rd century BC, as proposed by Hans Eschebach. The earliest bath building did not develop before the late 2nd century BC, as did the house in the SW corner of the insula. These earliest baths largely followed the layout of the complex as seen today and developed in four main developmental phases. A first remodeling of the baths occurred shortly after 80 BC, and two further major phases of remodeling in the early and later 1st century AD.

Authors: Monika Trümper, Freie Universität Berlin; Mark Robinson, Oxford University; Domenico Esposito, Freie Universität Berlin; Christoph Rummel, Freie Universität Berlin

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Link(s):

https://www.topoi.org/project/c-6-8/

http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/klassarch/forschung/projekte/pompeji/index.html

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