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Site Record Sheet *for Season 2022*

Country:

Italy

Superintendency:

Parco Archeologico di Pompei

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:

550-300BC; 300-80BC; 80BC – AD79

Research director(s) with Institution (as many as necessary):

Prof. Dr. Monika Trümper (Freie Universität Berlin)

Field Director(s) with Institution:

Dr. Marco Giglio (Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale)

Team members with Institution and role in the project:

Theano Anagnostopoulos (Naples – archaeologist); Fabrizio Baiano (Naples – archaeologist); Flavio Biasi (Naples – archaeologist); Rita Cappiello (Naples – archaeologist); Marco Capurro (Naples – archaeologist); Maria Cuomo (Naples – archaeologist); Martina De Simone (Naples – archaeologist); Dr. Domenico Esposito (Berlin – archaeologist); Francesco Fanara (Naples – archaeologist); Dr. Antonio Ferrandes (Rome – archaeologist; ceramics); Domenico Garzillo (Naples – archaeologist); Fryni Gevenioti (Naples – archaeologist); Carmela Granata (Naples – archaeologist); Nicoletta Granito (Naples – archaeologist); Katharina Grunert (Berlin – archaeologist); Mattia Guida (Naples – archaeologist); Chiara Improta (Naples – archaeologist); Blanca Kupke (Berlin – archaeologist); Chiara Mattei (Naples – archaeologist); Christiana Merluzzo (Naples – archaeologist); Dr. Asja Müller (Berlin – archaeologist); Gianmarco Nanino (Naples – archaeologist); Maria Lucia Papalaios (Naples – archaeologist); Dr. Giacomo Pardini (Salerno – archaeologist, numismatics); Laura Parlato (Naples – archaeologist); Gemma Rodriguez (Naples – archaeologist); Alessandra Pegurri (Rome – archaeologist, ceramics); Marco Rocco (Naples – archaeologist); Palma Sabbatino (Naples – archaeologist); Marcia Sorrentino (Naples – archaeologist); Clementina Vanni (Bologna – archaeologist); Flavio Ventre (Naples – archaeologist); Jonathan Vitelli (Naples – archaeologist); Francesca Zandonai (Berlin – archaeologist)

Research Institution(s):

Institut für Klassische Archäologie - Freie Universität Berlin, Fabeckstrasse 23-25, D-14195 Berlin, Deutschland

Dipartimento Asia Africa e Mediterraneo, Università die Napoli L'Orientale, Palazzo Corigliano, Piazza S. Domenico Maggiore 12, I – 80134 Napoli

Funding bodies:

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

Year:

2022

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

From May 30 to June 24, 2022, a field season of the project “Bathing Culture and the Development of Urban Space: Case Study Pompeii”, was carried out in the Stabian Baths to clarify two questions: a) the construction date, development, and plan of the house to the west of the baths, which was only integrated into the baths after the earthquake of AD62 when it was transformed into the currently visible complex with natatio and nymphaea; b) the development and function of the southern tabernae, which presumably belonged to the baths from the beginning.

Excavations were carried out in 8 areas, both reopening areas investigated by earlier researchers and opening new areas: tabernae 3, 6, 7, 52, 53, 56, 57; corridor H'.

The house that coexisted with the baths until AD62 had already been partially explored in previous years. This year, further razed walls and different pavements were found. These allow to reconstruct a large atrium that was flanked by 3–4 rooms and a vestibule in the south; 3 cubicula and an ala in the west; and a tablinum and triclinium in the north. The atrium was most likely complemented by a peristyle courtyard, of which only the pavements of the porticoes and an underground channel survive, however. The pavements include simple cement floors, decorated cement floors, and a broad range of high quality black-and-white or polychrome tessellatum mosaics, with regularly cut small tesserae or irregularly cut large tesserae and pieces of different kinds of marble. Like in 2021, coins of Vespasian were found in the fills that served to raise the floors for the tabernae of the baths, confirming that the house was abandoned after the earthquake of AD62. The stratigraphy and typology of the pavements suggest that the house was built around 50BC. A wall made of Sarno limestone and several pozzi were discovered under the pavements of the house; these could have belonged to a predecessor that may have been built even before the construction of the baths after 130/125BC.

Excavation of tabernae 6 and 7 showed that they belonged to the first phase of the Stabian Baths because their walls were founded on the same type of earth mortar as many other walls of the original baths. The floor level was about 60–70cm lower than today, however, and the north wall of taberna 6 included a large door to the complex with laconicum in the southwest corner of the palaestra that was found in 2021. Various floor levels and installations were discovered in both tabernae. A turtle that was pregnant with one egg was found between the two lowest floors of taberna 6, next to an installation in the southwest corner. In the center of taberna 7, the large drainage channel that ran from the latrine of the baths through the palaestra to the Via dell'Abbondanza was excavated; it was covered with a vault of caementitium which in previous excavations has been attributed to the channel's construction phase in the early Imperial period.

Authors: Marco Giglio; Monika Trümper

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Link(s):

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

Contacts:

mgiglio@unior.it

monika.truemper@fu-berlin.de;