

The architectural terracottas in the roofings of the Archaic Sicilian Greek Temples. A significant document: The *Apollónion* of Syracuse

by Maria Tino

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The present degree thesis - dedicated to the memory of Giorgio Gullini - intends to offer the objective foundation of data useful to the understanding of irremissible value and characterisation of architectural terracotta in the temples of Greek Sicily in the Archaic period.

The point of view that advises the work is that of analysing such precious documents without disregarding their function in addition to a referral to the roofing of the temple, which they covered and decorated. The argumentation finds its case of study punctually and under close examination in the temple of Apollo at Syracuse, illustrated in Part II (2) of the research.

PART I: FICTILE REVETMENTS AND ARCHITECTURAL COROPLASTIC OF THE ARCHAIC SICILIAN GREEK TEMPLES.

• **The archaic temples of the Greek colonies in Sicily**

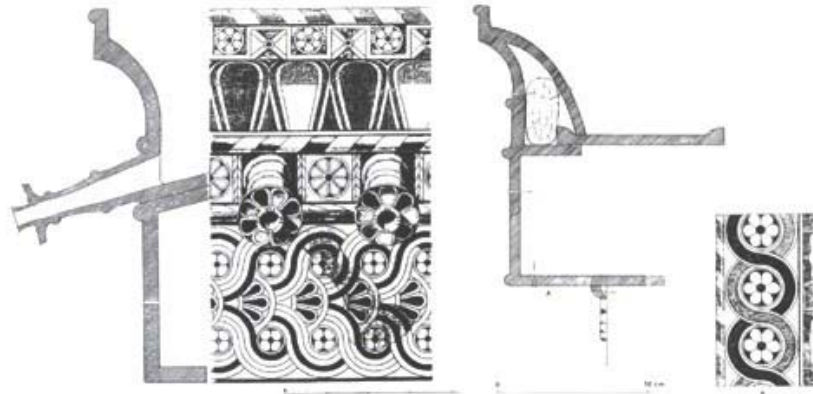
A historical summary of some of the most important stages of Sicilian templar architecture is offered from the time of the foundation of the colonies at the beginning of the 5th century B.C.; with referral to significant concrete architectural documentation surviving of the time. Within this complex and multishaped framework, interest is drawn towards technological growth and, consequently, to the artisan organisation which made the execution of waterproof tiles in fired clay possible and, subsequently, the magnificent fictile revetment, articulated in *sima* and "cassetta".

• **Elements of roof covering**

The technical characteristics of the components referable to the surface of the covering (pan-tiles, cover-tiles and ridge-tiles) of the single archaic temples are described.

• **Fictile revetments**

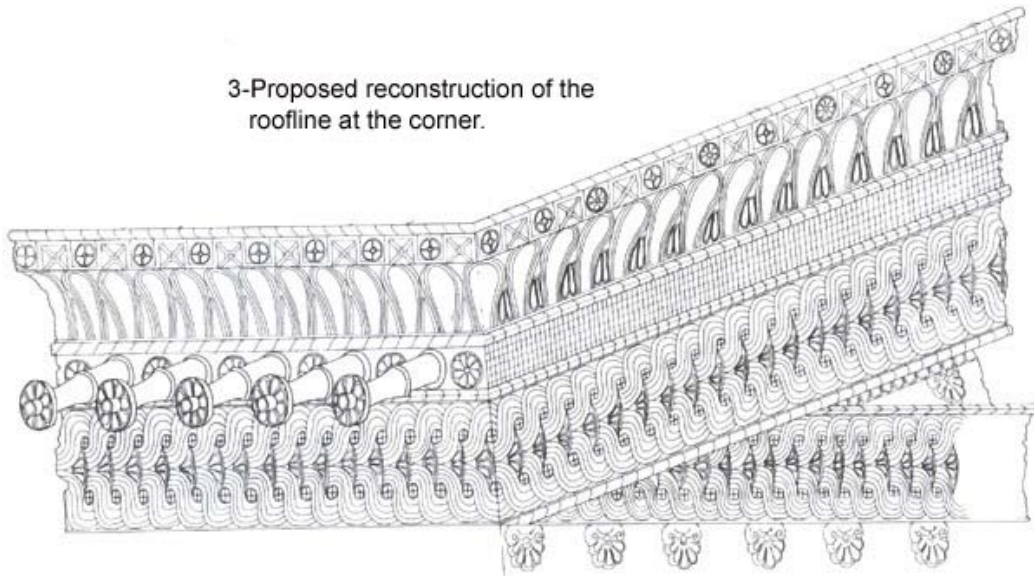
Attention is drawn towards some significant fictile revetments relative to the sides along and on the pediment - with their particular solutions, for example the *sima* "a mantello" - of Sicilian temples known to us, whose study offers the possibility of useful precise definitions in the field of architectural structure.



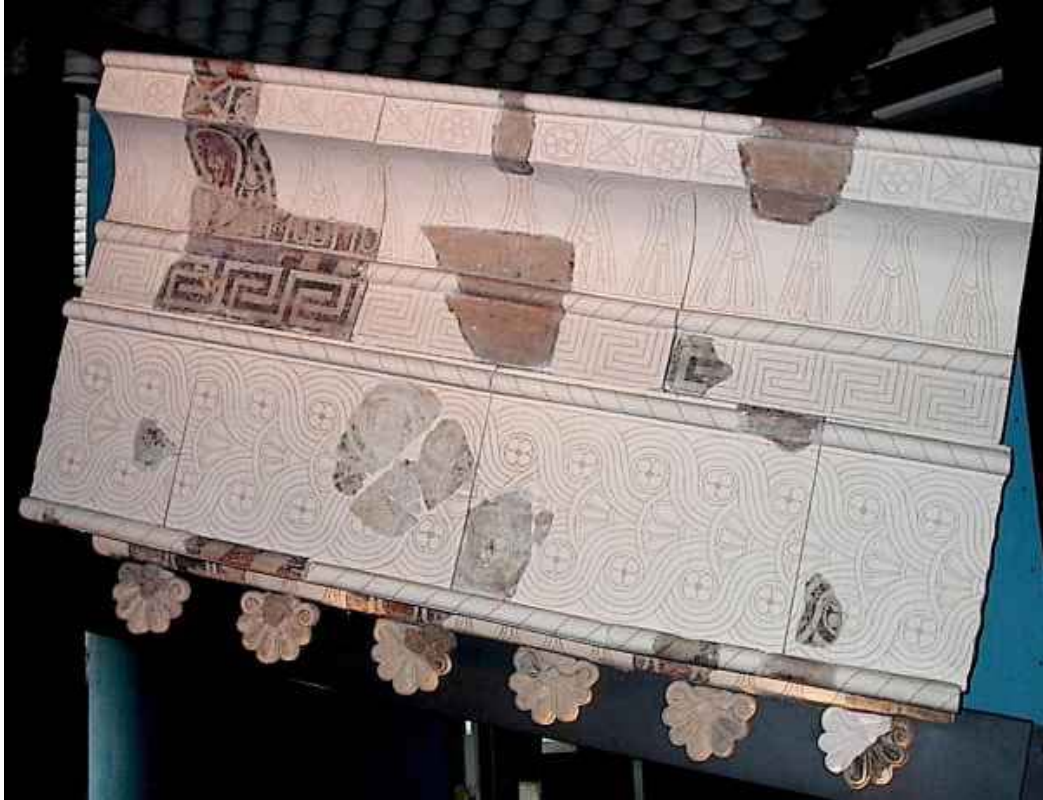
1-Section and restored elevation of lateral sima and revetment.

2- Section through the pedimental raking sima "a mantello" and revetment.

3-Proposed reconstruction of the roofline at the corner.



Proposed reconstruction of the revetment "secondo nucleo tipo 1", from the *témenos* of *Athénaion* in Syracuse (by Ciurcina 1989)



“Paolo Orsi” Archaeological Regional Museum, Syracuse. Reconstruction of the pedimental raking sima and geison revetment, from the *témenos* of *Athénaion* in Syracuse

- **Architectural coroplastic**

The most significant architectural coroplastic creations (*akroteria*, *gorgonéia*) documented in most Sicilian centres are examined.

PART II: THE *APOLLÓNION* OF SYRACUSE AND ITS ARCHITECTURAL TERRACOTTAS

- **History of the research and analysis of the monument**

The history of the excavation and the studies are put forward in great detail; the ruins of the temple are described; the reading of the epigraph carved on the eastern side of the steps is offered to finally arrive at the cataloguing of the architectural terracotta found during the excavations of the temple, which are valuably kept in the Regional Archaeological Museum “Paolo Orsi” in Syracuse (the old documentation has been enriched in these premises by the direct examination of the archaeological findings, the bad storage, however, has contributed to scarce attention paid to these findings up to date).

- **Reconstruction**

An in depth and integral proposal reconstructed by Giorgio Gullini is represented with close examination on the elements of fictile revetment. Hence, a reminder of the critics of Dieter Mertens and Erik Østby a final structural analysis is carried out on the reconstruction of the roofing of the cell, motivated by our critical considerations on the dimensions of the ligneous elements proposed.



“Paolo Orsi” Archaeological Regional Museum, Syracuse. Relief model of the cross-section of the temple of Apollo (built by the architect Travaglini on the basis of the reconstruction proposal by Giorgio Gullini)

- **Material and technique**

Attention is focused on the materials and technique used towards the building of the temple (from the extraction to the working of materials as well as the construction thereof).

- **Technological and macroscopic observation of the blending of the terracottas materials of roofing**

A macroscopic analysis of the ceramic body with five fragments referable to the more simple elements of the roofing of the temple has been carried out: the tiles. The aim is to identify the visible characteristics of the materials used and to obtain information on the technical expertise of Sicilian coroplasts. The research illustrated here does not give the possibility of facing the argument in depth; certain aspects need to be investigated thoroughly carrying out a technical examination of the clays with a precise archeometrical investigation.

TABLE

A table attached illustrates the graphic reconstruction of the Temple.

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