

**The marble of the roman theatre of Augusta Bagiennorum
Analysis and cataloguing**

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This thesis constitutes the first systematic study on stone fragments coming from the archaeological excavation of the roman theatre of Augusta Bagiennorum, today's Bene Vagienna in the south of Piedmont. The excavations have been done from the end of the XIX century until the Seventies; the materials found have been object, many times, of efforts of cataloguing that have never been finished. The thesis documents three hundred and fifty archaeological find, between slabs, and portions of architectonic elements, all of them outside context.



View of the roman theatre

The historical researches

The historical researches were carried out on the end of XIX century by Giuseppe Assandria and Giovanni Vacchetta whom excavated the ancient ruins on the archaeological area and brought to the light the rests of the roman city. All the archeological finds are today conserved in the Bene Vagienna Archaeological Museum.

The study of the architecture of the roman theatre has been carried out with particular attention to the scene, the stone architectonic elements and the marble stone species that have been used to build it.

The documentation of the archaeological find

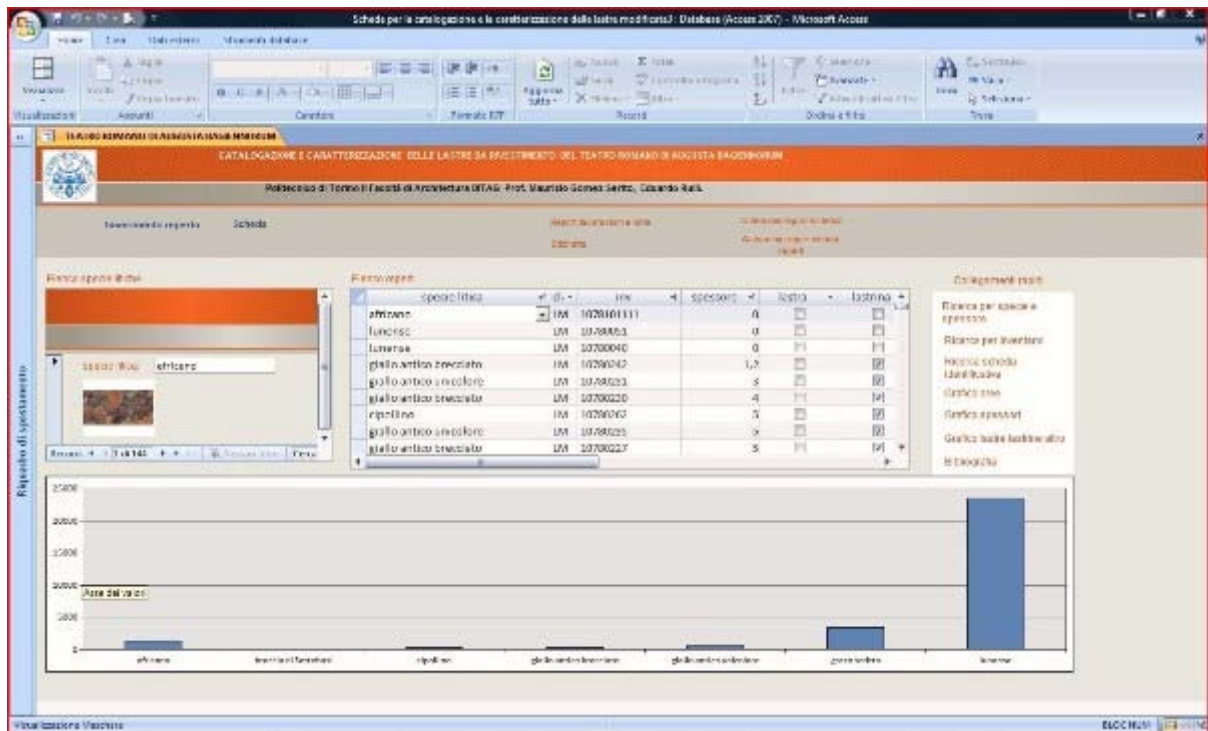
The analysis and the cataloguing of the materials coming from the area of the roman theatre of Augusta Bagiennorum are only the first step of a cognitive process in order to get useful indications for the restitution, entire or partial, of the original forehead theatre scene composition. The surveying on marble surfaces has executed with macroscopic analysis, based on the identification marbles characteristics, in particular as far as stained stones. The analysis on white marbles has been integrated with microscopical analysis of thin sections.



Stone fragments studied

The computerization of the inventory data

Following the project Informative General System of the Catalogue plan (SIGEC), promoted by the Institute Centers for the Catalogue and Documentation (ICCD), a database has been created in order to catalogue objects of the same nature, in quick times and with procedures verifiable in the content and corrected from the disciplinary point of view. The maximum dimensions, thickness, marble species, working of the superficial ones, are the voices to compile for identify the marble slab. Then, the simple numerical data have been translated by the computer in diagrams.



First page of database

The petrography study

The surveying instruments we have used come from the archeometria, the mathematical statistics and the petrography examinations to the microscope of the thin sections, or the data processing. The stone species have been confronted with the samples of others mineral collections or publications concerning stained marbles like that one made by R.Gnoli, P. Pensabene and L. Lazzarini. To study Carrara's white marble and bardiglio, we have considered the publication made by E.Dolci and the researches about the merchandise marble varieties, extracted on the Apuane Alps, recently carried out by the University of Siena and the ERTAG (Ente Regionale Toscano Assistenza Tecnica e Gestionale). Along our studies we have verified that the marbles come from Italic, African, Greek and microAsian marble quarries and this is a sign of an important process of ancient roman city development that passes through the Architecture in Augustan age.

Conclusions

The slight number of the archeological find we have studied, it suggests to caution in generalizing the statistics and petrographyc data. At the moment, it is unknown exactly, how much part of the scene of the theatre, was covered by those marbles and the data numbers that the statistics specimen population gives back, are only a relative data percentage.

However, this thesis confirms the validity of the method created by F.Guidobaldi, reason why this method is the base for the scientific studies made by the ancient marble researcher.

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