

## Introduction

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This volume chronologically follows *The Chora of Metaponto 7: The Greek Rural Sanctuary at Pantanello*, referenced here as *Sanctuary*. Whereas *Sanctuary* encompasses the Upper and Lower Sanctuaries at Pantanello from the Archaic to the Hellenistic periods, the focus of this volume is on the Late Republican and the structures known as the “Factory,” which was built over the Upper Sanctuary, largely destroying it, and the “Kiln Deposit,” which partially overlies the Lower Sanctuary and the third-century BC Farmhouse (Figure 1.1; Table 1.1).

Focused around an ancient spring, the Lower Sanctuary was active from the late 7th century BC and contained substantial material dating from the second half of the 6th into the 5th century BC (see *Sanctuary*, Ch. 47). During most of the 4th century BC, the Oikos, a 4th-century BC cult building, lay to the west of the spring. The Farmhouse was later constructed on top of the Oikos, reusing the wall of the previous structure as foundations. It was occupied during the early 3rd century BC (see *Sanctuary*, Ch. 49). The northwestern corner of this Farmhouse was subsequently truncated by a clay pit dating to the Late Republican (2nd–1st centuries BC). Within this pit, a substantial amount of pottery was recovered including many *amphorae*, as well as large quantities of animal bone. This became known as the Kiln Deposit (see Ch. 6. The Kiln Deposit).

The sanctuary on the hilltop was also active during the period of the Lower Sanctuary (see *Sanctuary*, Ch. 47). Excavation on the southern slope near the hilltop uncovered the stone foundation of the “Tile Factory,” so called because it was initially thought to have been a workshop for tile due to the tile fragments found scattered throughout it (see Ch. 2. The Factory: A Pottery Workshop at Pantanello). A monumental structure known as the Rectangular Structure was found lying within the footprint of the Factory courtyard; it was found to be part of the 4th-century BC sanctuary structure. Evidence of another monumental structure was found to the east of the Factory; its ashlar blocks

were robbed out, many of them reutilized in the wall foundations of the Factory.

An isolated, tile-covered tomb to the north of the Factory and a cluster of three tombs, each bearing wooden coffins that had been burned *in situ*, were also found during the 1974 excavations (see Ch. 5. The Burials on the Hilltops). Dating to the late 4th or early 3rd century BC, these burials were made during the gap between the 4th-century BC hilltop sanctuary and the Factory. They may belong to the period of the early 3rd-century Pantanello Farmhouse.

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EXCAVATIONS AT PANTANELLO<sup>1</sup>

#### The Excavations of 1974–1976<sup>2</sup>

Over the course of three summer campaigns between 1974 and 1976, the workshop structure and kiln were excavated extensively by teams from the University of Texas at Austin under the direction of Professor Joseph Coleman Carter. Excavations on the hilltop ran in parallel with those downslope and to the southeast alongside a modern irrigation canal, where evidence was increasingly coming to light for an Archaic/Classical Greek rural sanctuary much like the then-well-known one at nearby San Biagio, farther up the Basento Valley (see Carter in *Sanctuary*, Ch. 3 and *San Biagio*). Excavation of the Lower Sanctuary became an increasing focus of the 1976 season. By the end of that season, the Factory structure lay largely revealed.

**The Factory.** The Tile Factory consisted of two large, L-shaped wings forming a  $\pi$ -shaped building around a central courtyard. It sat on the southern slope of the hilltop spur, facing out over the floodplain of the Basento Valley, and was well placed for access to the raw materials necessary for pottery production (see Ch. 2 The Factory: A Pottery Workshop at Pantanello).

The stratigraphy in and around the Factory struc-

<sup>1</sup> For full details of the excavation.

<sup>2</sup> For a more complete account of the 1974–1976 seasons at Pantanello, see *Sanctuary*, Chs. 3–5 and *Metaponto I*, 407–90.



**Figure 1.1** Plan of the Pantanello hilltop showing the principal areas, structures, and features.

Site Phases	
Phase 5	ca. 250/225/200–50 BC
Phase 6	ca. 50 BC–AD 120
Phase 7	ca. AD 120–300
Phase 8	ca. AD 300–700

**Table 1.1** Phases at the Factory at Pantanello. (KPS/ICA)

ture was shallow, with much of the overlying soil eroded and carried away by agricultural activity on the hilltop. However, the wall foundations were extant everywhere but at the northeastern end of the building, allowing for the plan of the structure to be clearly reconstructed. A very large and extremely well-preserved kiln was excavated at the southwestern end of the structure, along with an entrance way into the adjacent workshop and a small kiln next to it on the south (see Ch. 6. The Kiln Deposit).

Within the walls and the courtyard, the floor makeup and material accumulated during the Factory's occupation contained small assemblages of material. This material included Late Republican grey-ware pottery—evidence of activity during the 2nd and 1st centuries BC (see Ch. 4. Excavation and Stratigraphy of the Hilltop, Ch. 9. Grey Ware). The occupation horizons within the structure itself were covered by thick tile falls in many places. There is evidence to suggest that the timber structure was destroyed by fire, leading to the collapse of the tile roof and gradual erosion of the mudbrick superstructure resting on the stone foundations. Material overlying the tile falls included Italian *terra sigillata* fine wares of the Augustan period to the late 1st century AD and later still, Late Roman pottery of the 2nd–3rd and 4th–7th centuries AD, scattered across the hilltop (see “The Roman Fine Wares from the Pantanello site”, published previously in *Produzioni regionali e Importazioni nel territorio di Metaponto in Età romana: Pareti sottili, sigillate e Ceramica Africana da Pantanello* by Francesca Diosono in *Rei Cretariae Romanae Fautorum* Acta 46, 2020).

**Kiln Deposit.** The upper part of the clay pit was discovered on the slope above the Lower Sanctuary during the 1975 campaign, and excavations of the pit and ceramic deposit inside soon followed, extending over several years. A large slot trench extending downslope to the excavations in the Lower

Sanctuary was excavated in 1976 (see Ch. 6. The Kiln Deposit, Excavations of 1976: The N-S Trench). This exposed the western end of the clay pit cut and the truncated structural remains in its southern extent—archaeological features which would later be identified as the northwestern corner of the 3rd-century BC Farmhouse and underlying 4th-century BC Oikos structure.

The lower levels of the clay pit cut contained substantial assemblages of artifactual material. The fill consisted mostly of pottery (see Ch. 6. The Kiln Deposit), with some metal objects (see Ch. 26. Metal Objects), coins (see Table 1.2 and *Sanctuary*, Ch. 40), and significant quantities of animal bone fragments in the lowest part of the deposit (*Archaeozoology* 7, table 1.10.) The fine pottery included large quantities of Late Republican grey ware (see Ch. 9. Grey Wares), a continuation and development of late black-gloss production which began in the early 3rd century BC (see *Sanctuary*, Ch. 26). Alongside the grey ware were several oxidized pieces, at first thought to have been misfired grey ware. These have been recognized as a separate but related class, with its own important variations in the typological range and relative frequencies of different shapes (see Ch. 10. Red Ware). The substantial assemblages from the Ceramic Deposit provided useful examples for refinement of the distinctions between the two classes.

It was recognized in 1976 that these Late Republican assemblages constituted a valuable opportunity to collect, characterize, and date the pottery of this period in the Metapontino fine wares in particular (see Ch. 9. Grey Ware and Ch. 10. Red Ware). Pursuing this research objective, large sections of the Ceramic Deposit were excavated, extending westward, the 1980, 1981, 1983, and 1993 campaigns (see Ch. 6. The Kiln Deposit).

A post-excavation synthesis and contextualization of these materials was initiated in 2012, an important restudy, given the developments and vast increases in comparative material from other parts of southern Italy and the wider ancient Mediterranean in the intervening four decades since the finds first came to light. This work resulted in further chronological and stratigraphical definition of the contexts and assemblages of the excavations (Ch. 4. Excavation and Stratigraphy of the Hilltop). It followed comprehensive study of the assemblages from earlier contexts at Pantanel-

lo, associated with the Archaic-to-Early-Hellenistic rural Sanctuary and the 3rd-century BC Farmhouse. The pottery and finds are presented in Part II of this volume.

### The Excavations of 2008

Small-scale excavations were undertaken by the Institute of Classical Archaeology in 2008, with the purpose of establishing the stratigraphy for the Tile Factory using modern methods of single-context excavation (see Ch. 4. Excavation and Stratigraphy of the Hilltop). Comprehensive, context-based studies and syntheses of the pottery and finds were initiated. The recovered materials confirmed a Late Republican date for the Factory structure, which had already been amply evidenced by 2nd and 1st-century BC grey ware and early Roman fine wares found during the excavations of the 1970s. Importantly, the 2008 excavations clarified that although the assemblages were relatively small, they lacked Imperial Roman fine wares, particularly the Italian *terra sigillata* found in overlying layers in and around the footprint of the Factory structure.

Study of the pottery from the 2008 excavations made it clear that there was an abundance of 4th-century BC material beneath the Factory structure. Although there was sporadic material of this period in the *corpus* from the excavations in the 1970s, it was not thought at the time that there were clean and distinct contexts of this period. These contexts became very apparent during the course of the 2008 excavations as the trenches went down below the levels of the Tile Factory structure. At first, it was thought that this material came from colluvial layers which had been protected from later erosion by the overlying building and courtyard. Elsewhere on the sloping hillside these deposits were lost entirely. The 2008 documentation was then reevaluated by Professor Carter during studies for publication of the Sanctuary. This led to the discovery that the Rectangular Structure in fact predated the Tile Factory, both stratigraphically and structurally, and belonged instead to the 4th-century BC Greek sanctuary—resulting in a major correction of the results published in 1983.<sup>3</sup>

A small *corpus* of coins (Table 1.2) provides relatively precise dating for Late Republican activity at Pantanello as well as for later phases, ranging in

<sup>3</sup> See *Metaponto II* for original publication; see Carter in *Sanctuary*, on 12, 337–47 The Rectangular Structure for new findings. See also Figure 54.1. No item.

Cat. No.	Context	Chronology
<b>Residual Greek coins found in Late Republican and later contexts</b>		
PZ C 01	Ceramic Deposit	Second half of the 4th c. BC
PZ C 03	Area of Kiln	First half of the 3rd c. BC
PZ C 04	Ceramic Deposit	First half of the 3rd c. BC
PZ C 07	Above Ceramic Deposit	First half of the 3rd c. BC
PZ C 08	Above Ceramic Deposit	Late 3rd c. BC
PZ C 09	Above Ceramic Deposit	Late 3rd c. BC
<b>Coins Belonging to the period of the Factory and Ceramic Deposit</b>		
PZ C 11	Above 3rd-c. BC Farmhouse tile fall	2nd c. BC
PZ C 12	Above Ceramic Deposit	148 BC
PZ C 13	Interface/top of Ceramic Deposit	2nd c. BC.
PZ C 14	Upper fill of Ceramic Deposit	2nd c. BC.
<b>Coins Post-dating the Factory and Ceramic Deposit</b>		
PZ C 15	Unprovenanced	15 BC
PZ C 16	Upslope from the Spring	AD 22/23–30
PZ C 17	Above Collecting Basin	AD 37–38
PZ C 18	Area of Factory	AD 190
PZ C 19	Above Sanctuary	AD 276–282
PZ C 20	Unprovenanced	AD 886–912
PZ C 21	Above Spring and Collecting Basin	AD 914–919
PZ C 22	Area of Factory	AD 1030/1035–1042 (?)

**Table 1.2** Chronology of coins found in the area of the Factory and Ceramic Deposit (for catalog, see *Sanctuary*, 937–41).

date from the 2nd century BC to the 11th century AD (*Sanctuary*, 937–41, PZ C 1–22). Residual Greek coins were found in the Ceramic Deposit and in later contexts across the site, including the Factory, and are found in contexts which also contain residual Greek pottery of similar date.

Four coins belong to the Late Republican period of the Factory and Ceramic Deposit. Of these, two come from the upper layers of the Ceramic Deposit (PZ C 13 and 14), giving a general date of the 2nd century BC which is consistent with the abundant pottery evidence from the fill of the clay cut.

Coins post-dating the Factory and Ceramic Deposit range from 15 BC to the 1st century AD, the late 2nd century AD, the late 3rd century AD, and the 9th,

10th, and 11th centuries AD. The numismatic evidence for later activity at Pantanello is supplemented by the pottery evidence. African red-slip pottery is present across the site, with some pieces dating to between the 4th and 7th centuries AD, a period not represented by coins.