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FORTVNA: A Research Tool The Archaeological Information System for Ancient Rome

The subject on which we will test FORTVNA is the ancient topography of the eastern part of the *Mons Oppius* (the Esquiline Hill) in Rome between the modern roads of the Via Merulana and the Via Labicana. Building activities of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries transformed this hillside and its vineyards into a modern residential quarter. They also revealed a vast number of archaeological finds including sculpture and the remains of a number of ancient buildings not previously visible. It is unknown who commissioned these sculptures, for what buildings they were intended, or what purposes they served because they were not found *in situ* but were, in most cases, objects re-used as building material.

Our partner in the project, Prof. Eugenio La Rocca, the superintendent of the monuments and museums of the municipality of Rome has provided us with the most important maps of Rome in digital vector format. These plans were digitized for the project "Forma Urbis Romae", which is jointly directed by Prof. La Rocca, by Prof. Adriano La Regina, the archaeological superintendent of Rome, who is also our partner, and others. Whereas one of our aims is to provide access to this data, the other is to teach the user how to interpret it. Some ancient buildings of the area are described in ancient literary sources, but modern commentators do not always agree as to which ones of the structures seen, drawn and described since the Middle Ages should be given names known from ancient authors. The finds, including inscriptions and sculptures which were found in excavations in this area since the Renaissance have been used by scholars in attempts to identify ancient Roman structures.

We will show some statues that were used in order to identify the sanctuary *Isis et Serapis* in *Regio III* and two inscriptions, which allegedly identify their "findspot" as site of the Forum of Petronius Maximus. Ironically, the site which for some is the Egyptian sanctuary, for others the Forum, is exactly the same. This may well be true. In addition to this, the area may have been part of the *horti* of Maecenas, as well as of Nero's *Domus Aurea*. Before Maecenas, the sacred grove of the *Mons Oppius* may have been at this site. One of the structures we are studying is a *porticus* with *piscina*, which was excavated when the Via Buonarroti was being built (today: the Via A. Poliziano). Since then, the *porticus* has been identified with different ancient buildings. We will also discuss recent interpretations concerning the remains of a temple found near modern Via Carlo Botta (the so-called temple of *Minerva Medica*; the temple of *Fortuna Virgo?*), the sanctuary *Isis et Serapis* in *Regio III*/ the *Isium Metellinum*, the outline of the so-called Servian City wall and the *Regios II, III and V* in this area. These interpretations contradict each other and will be visualized by using plans which we created with FORTVNA (cf. "II. The information system").