

Neolithic and Eneolithic settlements and Eneolithic tomb of the Fontenoce/Guzzini area (Recanati-Mc)

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ABSTRACT - In the locality of Fontenoce Guzzini area, along the River Potenza valley, in the municipality of Recanati (MC), during the excavation campaigns conducted by the Soprintendenza Archeologica per le Marche, between the years 1976 and 1997, two prehistoric neighbouring settlements, one dating to the Neolithic Age and the other to the Eneolithic Age and an Eneolithic tomb came to light. The tomb was isolated from the largest necropolis found in 1992 in the same place.

KEY WORDS: Neolithic, Eneolithic, Settlements, Fontenoce/Guzzini area, Necropolis

PAROLE CHIAVE: Neolitico, Eneolitico, Insediamenti, Fontenoce/Guzzini, Necropoli

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1. THE NEOLITHIC SETTLEMENT

The Neolithic settlement that is quite vast and has not yet been completely explored includes a series of structures relative to a settlement area.

It features cobblestone paving made of calcareous pebbles and sandstone, a small ditch dug in the clay, various semicircular holes some of which could be draining ditches and various alignments of post holes. It would seem evident that the simultaneous use of the structures, in particular the cobbled paving and the small ditch, can be presumed as being used as a drainage of the alluvial action of the River Potenza, which is still considerable today. The analysis of the materials is attributed to a non-advanced phase of the Upper Neolithic Age. There is evidence of a certain homogeneity in the Fontenoce complex which is characterized by the following elements: scarce existence of figuline ceramics, high quantity of Diana type spool handles, Serra D'Alto type handles, a coarse mixture of ceramics with etched and engraved decorations beneath the rim, the absence of unfoliated elements in the lithic industry, a great quantity of graters, some cuttings, some geomet-

ric elements, some microburins and also the presence of the Ripabianca burins.

The spool handles are characterised by a considerable variety of typologies. There are some larger forms with a more or less concave, circular loop hole, some slender and extended forms with a hole on the initial part and lastly there are much more stylized forms, without holes, placed directly on the rim of the vase, which are only decorative and not functional.

With reference to the Marche ambit, the comparison with the following settlements is of great interest: Villa Panezia (AP) (SILVESTRINI, 1991a:68-69) and Monte Calvario di Montalto - Marche (AP) towards South and Saline of Senigallia (AN) further to the North (LOLLINI, 1991:84-85). Here southern and insular elements prevail, represented by the Serra d'Alto and Diana type handles. To our knowledge, in the latest phase of the Neolithic, two different types seem to co-exist for a certain period of time in the Marche. The more ancient one featured Diana and Serra d'Alto type elements. The foliated category was almost completely unrepresented and Ripabianca burins were very sporadic. The second one included Ripoli and Chassey-Lagozza type elements and contin-

ued up till the end of the Neolithic: Monte Tinello of Acquaviva Picena (AP) (SILVESTRINI LAVAGNOLI, 1983; SILVESTRINI, 1991b:70-71), Coppetella of Jesi (AN) (LOLLINI, 1991:80-81) and S. Maria in Selva di Treia (MC) (LOLLINI, 1965, 1991:72-79).

2. The Eneolithic settlement

On the far south-eastern part of the Neolithic settlement area, an Eneolithic settlement came to the light. The only structural element as yet individuated is a curved alignment of three post holes enclosing an area with a high concentration of fictile, lithic and bone material, probably belonging to a dwelling.

Analysis on the artefacts provide reoccurring elements: a high percentage of coarse mixture potsherds, decorated with conical ashlar, finger impressions and sub-vertical grooves, a large number of blackish fine mixture ceramics, a significant effect of the careened bowls with depressions in the bottoms, consistently present in the foliation class within the lithic industry.

The ceramics and ornamental typologies (careened bowls with depressions in the bottoms and fragments decorated with vertical grooves) testify to contacts with the Abruzzo culture of Ortucchio (PUGLISI, 1965, table CXXXIX,2) and with the Eneolithic facies of Spilamberto (BAGOLINI, 1981:124, fig.102-103 and p.128, fig.115-116), but above all they relate to the nearby Eneolithic necropolis of Kock cave (GALLI, 1941-1942, 1947-1950) about a kilometre away and to the

Eneolithic necropolis located in 1992 in the Guzzini area. The close relation between settlement and necropolis is of great interest for its uniqueness.

The C14 analysis of the settlement levels supplied dating 4700±100 BP. (in non calibrated chronology).

2.1. The Eneolithic tomb

A tomb with a small grotto (T.1) was brought to light during the 1984 excavation campaigns on the far north-western end of the Eneolithic settlement. The tomb is orientated from North to South and consists of a funereal cell and an access pit of which only the base remains. The cell contains a well preserved skeleton of a inhumated female individual, tightly huddled up on her left side, with the nape of the head towards west and the face towards north, vice versa to the opening. The burial goods contain a flask vase with a globular body and tight mouth, a lacunar neck, a convex bottom, triangular section protruding grips, perforated lengthways and placed vertically on the widest part of the vase and a careened cup with a rounded rim, only partly conserved, with a concave upper wall, convex profile tummy, made of a browny black refined mixture, originally smoothed and polished.

The flask vase with globular body is very similar to the one in the Via Domo-Le Svolte tomb, also in the municipality of Recanati, containing the skeletons of two adult male individuals, together with a truncate conical cup with a thin non distinct rim and four arrowheads and a blade (LOLLINI, 1968, tables IV:2,5).

SUMMARY - In the locality of Fontenoce Guzzini area, along the River Potenza valley, in the municipality of Recanati (MC), during the excavation campaigns conducted by the Soprintendenza Archeologica per le Marche, between the years 1976 and 1997, two prehistoric neighbouring settlements, one dating to the Neolithic Age and the other to the Eneolithic Age and an Eneolithic tomb came to light. The tomb was isolated from the largest necropolis found in 1992 in the same place.

RIASSUNTO - In località Fontenoce/Area Guzzini, lungo la valle del fiume Potenza, in comune di Recanati (MC), nel corso delle campagne di scavo condotte dalla Soprintendenza Archeologica per le Marche fra il 1976 ed il 1997, sono stati rimessi in luce due insediamenti preistorici limitrofi, uno di età neolitica e l'altro di età eneolitica ed una tomba eneolitica, isolata rispetto alla più vasta necropoli individuata nel 1992 nella medesima località

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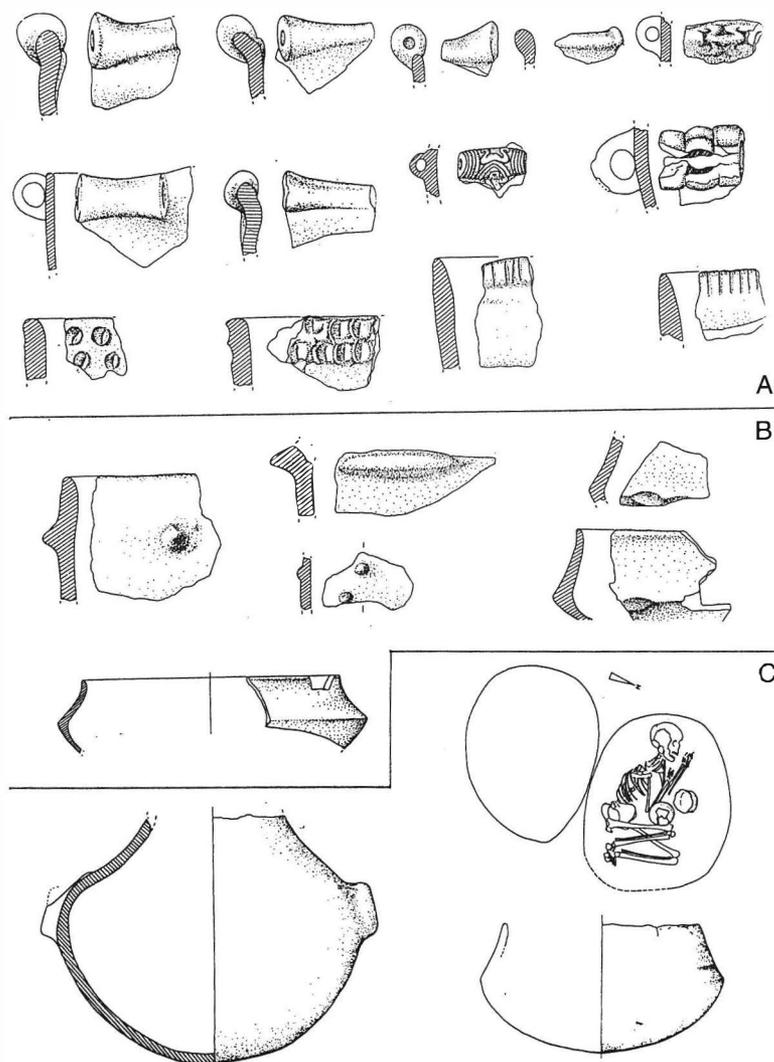


Fig. 1 - Fontenoce di Recanati (MC). a) ceramics from the Neolithic settlement; b) ceramics from the Neolithic settlement; c) map and burial goods of the Eneolithic tomb (T.1) (scale 1:4)