

The Palatine sanctuary of Apollo: the site and its development, 6th to 1st c. B.C.

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Dedicated in 28 B.C., Octavian's Palatine sanctuary of Apollo remained one of the most important religious sites throughout the empire. Textual sources suggest that its site, at least partly, was sacred ground beforehand, as it accommodated one or several earlier cult places,¹ but the pre-Augustan construction phases, as well as the archaeology of its cultic prehistory, remain largely unknown. One of the main reasons is a lack of a comprehensive architectural documentation ever since G. Carettoni's excavations between 1956 and 1984. In this preliminary field report I present the new architectural documentation of an area that is located in front (southwest) of the temple of Apollo, the sanctuary's focal point (figs. 1-2). This documentation was produced during fieldwork campaigns conducted in 2009-13



Fig. 1. Area of sanctuary of Apollo, E courtyard of so-called House of Augustus, showing the ruins that are the subject of this note (view from northeast, 2013) (E. Arvinte).

Abbreviated works:

Iacopi & Tedone I. Iacopi & G. Tedone, "Biblioteca e Porticus ad Apollinis," *RömMitt* 112 (2005-6) 351-78.

Tomei M. A. Tomei, *Augusto sul Palatino. Gli scavi di Gianfilippo Carettoni. Appunti inediti (1955-1984)* (Milan 2014).

- 1 Cf. recently L. Balensiefen, "Apollo Palatinus. Eine Kultgründung des jungen Caesar Divi Filius," in Chr. Schmitz and A. Bettenworth (edd.), *Mensch – Heros – Gott. Weltentwürfe und Lebensmodelle im Mythos der Vormoderne* (Stuttgart 2009) 84-85. Among these potential cult places were *Roma Quadrata* (Pomp. Fest. 310-12L; *CIL* VI 32327; Varro *ap.* Solin. 1.17-18), the "storeroom" of Mars (Dion. Hal. 14.2.2; Plut., *Vit. Cam.* 32.4), the Palatine *auguratorium* (Dion. Hal. 1.79.9-11 and 25.1; Plut., *Vit. Rom.* 20.4), and the *mundus* (Plut., *Vit. Rom.* 11.1-2, *Ov., Fast.* 4.821-23).