

Divergent Development: Roman Influence on the Social Landscape of Umbria

This paper examines the diachronic development of the walls and roads associated with the ancient Umbrian sites of Spoleto and Otricoli from the Pre-Roman period to the age of Augustus. For the sake of analysis, a wide variety of archaeological, epigraphic, and literary evidence is considered over the course of three periods loosely defined by major shifts in the development of the walls and roads of these sites in conjunction with major historical events in the Italian peninsula during the late 1st millennium BCE. Following earlier scholarship on the impact of the Roman conquest of Umbria (Bradley 2000), this paper aims to add to the body of Umbrian scholarship by comparing and contrasting the divergent development at Spoleto and Otricoli resulting from their distinctive relationships to the conquering Romans and other Italians before, during, and after the conquest.

While following the example of earlier diachronic studies of the region and periods of interest, this paper considers more recent evidence, analyzes, and investigations in and around the Umbrian and Tiber Valleys. In particular, evidence from recent surveys of the vicinities of Otricoli (Hay, Keay, and Millet 2013) and Spoleto (Camerieri and Mattioli 2014) is strongly considered in conjunction with the historical accounts of Livy and comments from Cicero to form an understanding of the phases of defensive fortifications, such as early forts and city walls, and roadways, including both early transhumance pathways and later consular roads. Analysis of the development of these features of the early settlements of Umbria demonstrates the Roman influence on the social landscape of the region, as well as the agency or absence of agency existing under Roman hegemony. Taking numerous factors into consideration, this paper suggests possible explanations for the divergent development of these settlements and highlights

the nuances of the relationships between the Roman state, the Roman elite, and the allies and colonies of the Italian peninsula.

Bibliography

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