

L'EGEMONIA DELL'ACQUA: Il parco archeologico di Sibari. "Il sito sommerso"

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Abstract

The archaeological site of Sibari is located on the Ionian coast of Calabria, a short distance from the mouth of the Crati River. This part of the Calabrian territory, topographically known as Sibaritide, saw the rise, development, and then the decline of the great Sibari polis. The archaeological area of the “Casa Bianca” has been highlighted by investigations conducted since 1970 and concentrated on the eastern sector of the current excavation area. In 510 BC the enemy Crotona, after the siege, forced her to surrender, diverting the course of Crati so that no trace of this remained. Over time, Crati has covered the great Sibari several times. The structures of Casa Bianca area, as well as other areas of the Archaeological Park of Sibari, arise at a level below the level of the water table and, therefore, a system of pumps was needed to lower the water table under the plan of the structures. Before the flood of 2013 to perform the task of regimenting the rise of the water table were the Wellpoints, water pumps. The well-points system, active 24 / 24h and whose management is entrusted to external companies, is subject to malfunctions, due to weather conditions, which cause periodic increases in the water level on the site. The structures are therefore subject to a stress to the presence of water. Two are the most immediate consequences caused by humidity: the growth of vegetation which with its roots damages structures; the incoherent soil erosion on which late age structures rest. In 2012, interventions were carried out which sought to minimize these impacts:

- metal bulkheads have been created which contain the soil subject to erosion underlying the mausoleums of the Roman age

- Punctual works were started to fill the depressed areas without archaeological structures, reducing the stagnation surface of the water

However, the extent of the filling and leveling works are not concluded and further filling works are necessary to eliminate the remaining areas subject to swamping. Today the situation is not better. The latest climate changes have highlighted all the problems of the site. Problems that continue in a constant struggle to preserve the structures from the erosion of time and natural agents. Today's debate is to find the definitive solution that can guarantee the complete use of the site.

Keywords: *archeology, water, submerged, degradation*