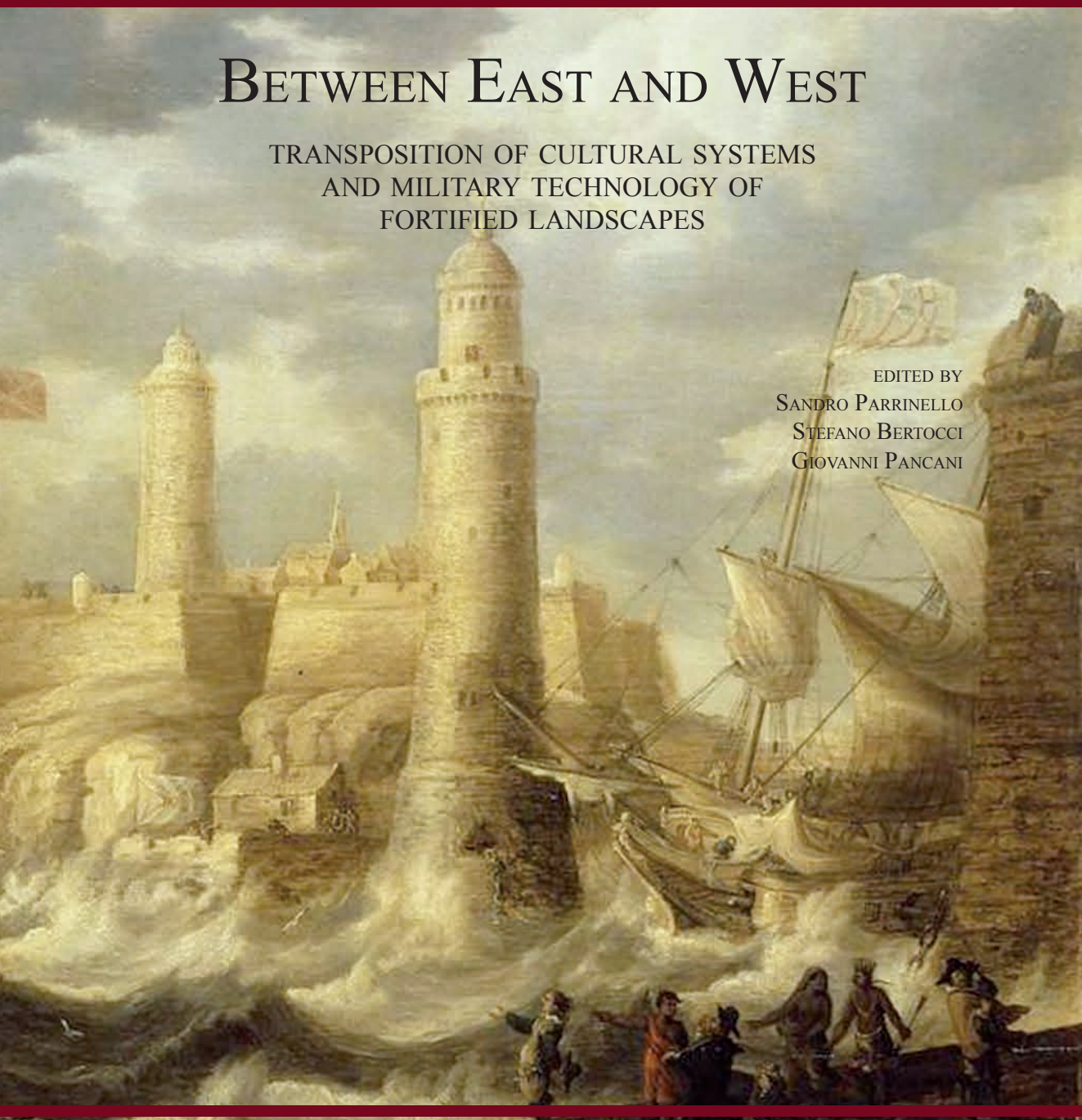


BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

TRANSPPOSITION OF CULTURAL SYSTEMS
AND MILITARY TECHNOLOGY OF
FORTIFIED LANDSCAPES

EDITED BY
SANDRO PARRINELLO
STEFANO BERTOCCHI
GIOVANNI PANCANI



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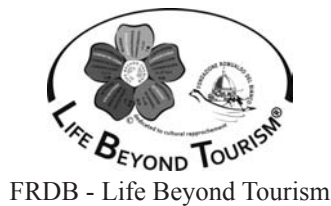
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INTRODUCTION

The programme will give a particular attention to the priorities expressed by the recent document of ICOFORT, and in particular to the themes of cultural tourism, training in regard to the development and review of world Heritage Site nominations, fortification glossary of terminology, the evaluation on Fortifications and military landscapes, the relations between the conservation of fortifications and processes of climate change, and also the dissemination of web information. The research projects will be organized in three thematic areas related to the ancient fortifications of medieval period and his late medieval developments, to the great Renaissance and late Renaissance fortifications, and to the modern and contemporary fortified systems.

The international conference *“Between East and West: transposition of cultural systems and military technology of fortified landscapes”* is organized in order to compare the results and the updates about the several researches made by experts of various nationalities, about the theme of cultural routes and fortified landscapes.

The scientific knowledge, the analysis, the documentation and the architectural survey and of the heritage in all its meanings, are essential instruments for the understanding and the improvement of any information and sign that history and culture has produced in each places or in a specific geographic area. These signs are in any case the result of the transposition of cultural models, of building technologies and offensive and/or defensive strategies, that have been tested, consolidated and exported for a long time, and that have determined the image of whole territories.

“The structure of a site is not a fixed condition, usually eternal rule places sometimes change quickly. This does not mean that the genius loci must necessarily change or be lost”. (C. Norberg-Schulz)

The implementation of the knowledge, the specific studies and the documentation programs, also constitute the main basis for the exercise of critical and interpretative activities, in order to training and to develop a particular settlement, city or area. Besides, they are also useful for the expectation of the necessary specific planning for the conservation and the improvement, that are aimed at promoting the conscious development of human activities in that places.

This international conference aims at comparing the experiences made in this scientific area, that have allowed the development of operational methods for researches useful for the correct understanding of both the architectures and the historical and archaeological complexes. Furthermore, it also aims at taking into consideration the cultural and environmental contexts of the contemporary history, giving essential advices for a critical reading and a proper evaluation about the conservation actions for this important heritage.

S. Bertocci, S. Parrinello, G. Pancani

SEACOAST DEFENSE SYSTEMS: THE CASTLE OF ROCCELLA JONICA AND TOWER PIZZOFALCONE

Stefano Bertocci, Graziella Del Duca

University of Florence, Italy

Keywords: Defence system, Calabria Italy, 13th/19th century, historical documentation

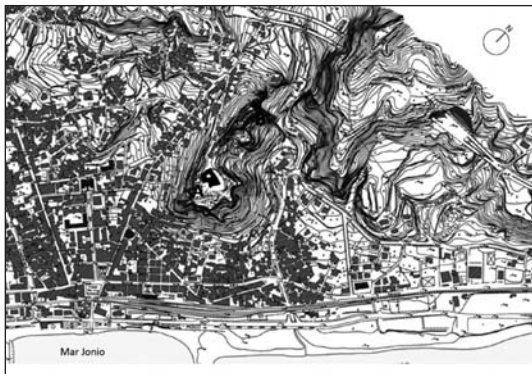
The Calabrian territory until a few years ago was marked by the presence of scattered castles and fortifications built since medieval times, placed on inaccessible slopes to dominate entire districts and the access from the sea. These fortresses are the testimony of many historic battles that, over the centuries, involving the local population affected by looting and natural disasters, and to date show a marked neglect. They are often protected or public facilities that have not been able to collect and transmit to posterity these immeasurable historical memories.

It 's well known that, of over 350 castles and forts, which have arisen in the land of Calabria, it survives today, just over a tenth was often reduced to ruins, and subject to continuous and unceasing degradation. These include the Castle of Roccella Jonica, in the homonymous municipality located on the Ionian side of Calabria, stands out for its monumental, historical and scenic value.

Starting from the late Middle Ages until around 1860, the center of Roccella was the only settlement of some significance on the coast in the long line that goes from Crotona to Reggio Calabria. This stems from the fact that the old town grew up around the rock on which dominate the fortified castle formerly belonged to the Princes Carafa and the tower called Pizzofalcone that over the centuries have offered protection to the people by frequent raids of the Saracens from the sea.

For some drawings from travel books, such as Edward Lear's "Journals of a Landscape Painter in Southern Calabria" published in London in 1852, shows the presence of the massive walls of large and containing walls of the same cliff, you military equipment can detect with ramparts, towers, and the city gate surmounted by Carafa family's coat of arms, who held the possession of the city for over three centuries, the tower of Pizzofalcone, is linked to the rest of the cliff by a narrow isthmus on which rock there was a walkway leading to the town. The Pizzofalcone watchtower is medieval, with a circular base and cylindrical structure, and

exhibits the typical elements of the thirteenth-century coastal defense system of Calabria. How unique holes, has a large arched window to the south, and some loopholes; are obvious remnants of walls on the west side, near the homes of the city center. This is not just a tower but the building was part of a larger whole. It was in fact the main tower of the medieval castle, the residence of the local castle. Erasmus of Velletri, in his representation of 1602, preserved at the library Riccardi in Florence, it indicates it as a fortress and not simply as a tower. The building was then inserted inside the fortified residence of the lord, and at the same time was part of the defense system formed by the numerous towers that are located along the Ionian coast.



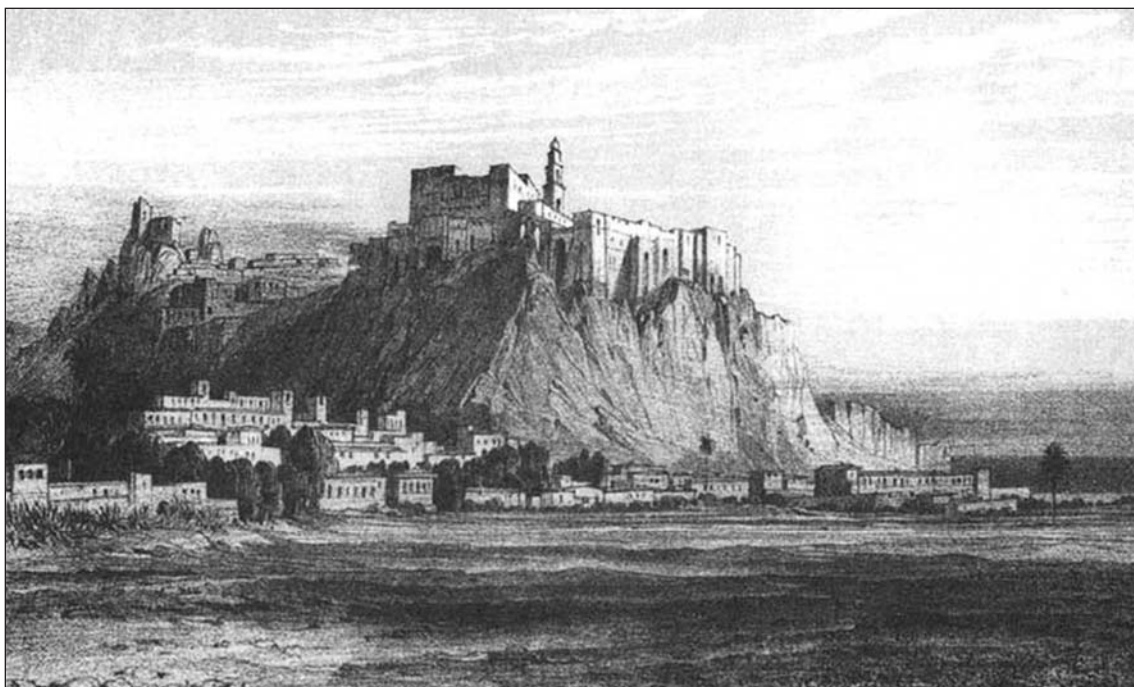
Plan with identification of the castle (A) and the Tower of Pizzofalcone (B).

Since the first feudal lord of which we know, Walter de Collepetro invested by Charles of Anjou, the castle had a great defense system. The Angevins strengthened the system of defensive walls with openings and slits at the top of the building, helping to improve the defensive technique of pouncing shooting, or the launch of offensive material (shells, stones) with a strong inclination of the trajectory due to limited thrust of traditional weapons.

From the fourteenth century to the mid-fifteenth the feud passed to the counts Ruffo di Catanzaro. The town became the capital of the principality and the Priory of Jerusalem was established on its territory, a religious order of chivalry that after the period of the Crusades was dedicated to the protection of pilgrims and maritime trade throughout the Mediterranean. The castle was an impregnable fortress in those centuries, so much so that even the Turks Dragut Pasha, Viceroy of Algiers, Tripoli and the Lord-Mahdiyya, nicknamed "avenging sword of Islam", in 1553, was able to conquer although they yield to their force and surrounding Reggio. They, by contrast, suffered heavy casualties and the destruction of much of the one hundred and fifty galleys with which they were presented in the water below the fortress. Another incursion of the Turks, led by Aramut Rais in 1599 was also rejected.

The present appearance of the castle, now emptied of its defense apparatus, dating from 700, when Carafa, feudal lords of Roccella from 1480 to 1806, restructured it turning into a stately residence, adjoining the castle fortifications lost their importance, I thus began the abandonment.

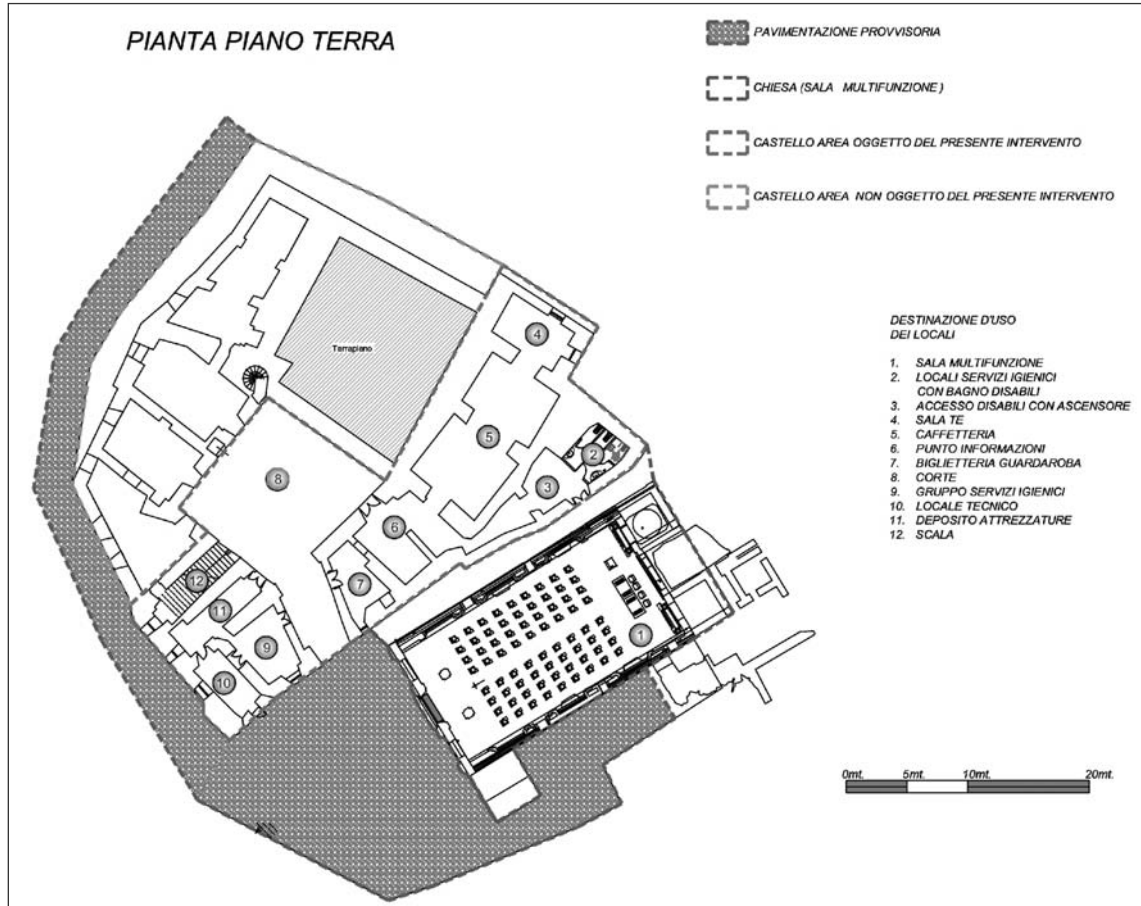
Today the castle has three levels: the ground floor used in his time, services (kitchens, warehouses, stables, guard), the first and second floor to the reception and privacy principles and the various plans are connected by a main staircase, in good condition and two spiral staircases.



Drawing done by the British traveler Edward Lear in 1848.

After years in which the whole of the cliff was left abandoned, the municipal government decided to make a restoration of buildings, practicing consolidations due to the structures and perimeter walls that threatened to break away from the rocky ridge.

It will also be a reuse of the local church from the castle adjacent to that in a few years will be hosting a conference room. Some areas of the castle grounds, will be engaged as local relevance (information, book shop, ticket office, wardrobe, toilet and utility rooms), while upstairs there is an exhibition.



Floor plan of the future intended use of the premises of the castle and the nearby church of St. Nicholas of Bari.