**CLASSIFICATION OF SETTLEMENT FORMS IN MEDIEVAL AGE IN HIGH VAL DI CHIENTI: BUILDINGS' TYPOLOGIES**

**VivianaAntongirolami,AlessandraD’Ulizia,**

Project RIMEM, started ten years ago by Prof. Umberto Moscatelli, from the University of Macerata, have the value of having included also the sector of historic building among the high Val di Chienti landscapes' research activities. The historic building research have become today an important and crucial source of study for a deeper knowledge of a certain historic and landscape context. The many Medieval and Post medieval architectural remains that our study is pointed to, represent a distinctive element of the high Val di Chienti middle-hill and mountain landscape. Our work focus for the first time a critical and analytic general look to these remains, that create the basis for a large cataloguing of the historic architecture, never existed before within the examined area. The summary work starts from the outcomes of a first classification, enriched with new elements resulting from a further census, that had the privilege of being carried out among fortified settlements, military/defense sites, architectural structures of residential and rural buildings, and infrastructures connected to ancient road networks.

The methodological approach is based both on fieldwork research and on a systematic study of documentary and archive sources, above all very important are notary deeds for the historic building, difficult to be read but often rich of information. The need of chronological elements and firm points in the building phases' datings, is even more important in our geografical context, were does not exist excavations, and archaeological support, for Medieval settlements.

The classification of building techniques also considered several Romanic important monumental complexes, that strongly characterize the Maceratacountryside landscape, in order to elaborate a mapping as large as possible of Medieval period building techniques, and to define possible similarities with military and civil buildings, and so recognize chronological markers. Among the high Val di Chienti settlements, recurring characteristics can be observed, such as, first and more evident among all, the site location, mostly on a high ground, isolated and in a dominant position. Sometimes several fortified sites are placed to grant a mutual visibility each other, as to create a real fortification system.

The building techniques observed within the high Val di Chienti area, show the constant use of stone as main building material. In most of the examined cases the stone used is the one locally available. This can suggest that people living in those areas, even if far from each other, would have adopted a similar parameter in the choice of building materials.

The creation of the atlas confirmed the five typologies of building techniques already identified within the observed part (D'Ulizia 2010). Also for the areas analyzed in this case, has been seen the complete absence of technique 1 (irregular without courses), while the main part of the wall structures is realized with faces in a quite regular technique with the use of local stone, elements not very finished and organized on courses tending to a certain horizontality (technique 2). This technique describes therefore the average of the building level. The identification of several subtypes reveals specific and peculiar ways of building with the application of different patterns , but always in accordance with a main and specific building tradition.

Occasionally is noticed the technique number 3 (horizontal courses), while just in one case (San Benedetto *de cripta saxi latronis*) the technically more elaborated typologies (technique 4 and 5), that commonly characterize religious settlements, have been recognized.