

THE RIONE TESTACCIO



The valley of Testaccio spreads out for 600,000 mq and shows an urban fabric rich of historical evidences. From the 2nd century BC, and then between the 1st and 2nd century AD, when the ancient docking of Rome near the Foro Boario became inadequate for the city needs, the Testaccio plain was destined to the construction of a new port (*Emporium*), of buildings for goods conservation and storage (*Porticus Aemilia*, *Horrea Galbana*, *Lolliana*, *Severiana*, etc.), and of a large organized dump of imperial oil amphoras (Monte dei Cocci or Monte Testaccio).

Between the 5th and the 7th century AD, the plain was involved in a gradual process of ruralization, and since the Middle Ages it was used for setting up vegetables gardens and vines. A part of the present rione was left as public recreation ground, and was therefore known with the name “Prati del Popolo Romano” (Meadows of Roman People).

After the Unity of Italy, the city plan of 1871 stated that the area had to be used for housing industrial buildings and the connected working class houses.



MINISTERO DEI BENI E DELLE ATTIVITÀ CULTURALI
E DEL TURISMO
SOPRINTENDENZA SPECIALE PER IL COLOSSEO
IL MUSEO NAZIONALE ROMANO E L'AREA
ARCHEOLOGICA DI ROMA



NUOVO MERCATO DI TESTACCIO

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA UNDER THE NUOVO MERCATO DI TESTACCIO

The excavation of the Testaccio New Market, a four-sided area extended for one hectare, started from the street level (15 m ASL), and reached a depth of about 9 m, providing an

The Early Imperial period (Augustean age-Flavian age; I century AD) in the North-East and then in the West part of the excavation brought to light a system of roofed rooms and open courts served by a network of service roads, which are peculiar for the building material used. All the “walls” of the structure are in fact made up of amphorae emptied and reused piling them on top of each other. At the present time, this system of rooms has been identified, in the North-East section, with a wide area of dumps for reused building material, mostly made up of amphorae and brick material; while in the West sector are rooms, probably warehouses, with well recognizable beaten earth floors.



The following Middle Imperial period (age of Trajan age of Hadrian; end of the I century AD first half of the II century AD) in the West sector is characterized by the excavation of the building levels of a trapezoidal edifice, identified as a horreum, made up of rows of rectangular rooms facing a wide central porticoed square, partially effaced by the moderns streets via B. Franklin (West) and via A. Manunzio (North). Only the building levels of this warehouse are preserved. The horreum was, in fact, completely plundered in the antiquity (end of the III century AD beginning of the IV century AD) up to the thresholds of the ground floor.

