

Reconsideration on *latifundium*: Villa dell'Auditorium and Villa Economy System Mutsuro WASHIDA

In 1995, a very important archaeological site was discovered during constructing the *Auditorium Parco della Musica* in the northern suburbs of Rome. As a result of archeological investigation, it appeared to be a major residential complex with exceptional characters. Its sequence of occupation covered a long span over 750 years, from the mid-6th century BCE to the beginning of 3rd century CE, without a break. The first stage of the building, *fattoria*, in which a common family lived, has smaller and simpler structure than its later versions. Around the beginning of Republican period, a much larger building, *villa* that consists *pars urbana* and *pars rustica*, was created. It is assumed that its owner was a patrician grand seigneur. Afterward, major reconstructions were carried out three times.

This discovery brought a change of the evaluation on the start time of the origin of Roman *villa*, from the latter half of 3rd century BCE to the beginning of 5th century BCE. This change has another importance in the historical narrative of the Roman Republic around *latifundium*.

As is well known, divergent modern definitions on *latifundium* abound. So it has been frequently confused with *villa*. Many modern scholars, like A. Toynbee, have thought that '*latifundium* have ruined Italy' (Pliny the Elder) after Hannibal's war (218-201BCE). However, in my opinion, the excavation of Auditorium villa shows that one should never confuse *villa* with *latifundium* causing the fall of Republic.