

*Limina / Limites*

Archeologie, storie, isole e frontiere nel Mediterraneo (365-1556) 1

# La Transgiordania nei secoli XII-XIII e le 'frontiere' del Mediterraneo medievale

a cura di

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## LINES OF RESEARCH FOR THE SITE OF MONTFORT WESTERN GALILEE – ISRAEL

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### THE CASTLE OF MONTFORT

The impact from west to east of the castle of Montfort is particularly emphatic. Seems to be a ship with bow once to the high seas and soaring bridge to the east, almost a boat sailing in the rock and is defended from the waves of lush foliage of the windy forest.

Often, during a search, you indulge in thoughts that help focus the unique architecture contemplated. We are located within the territory of Galilee, located west towards the border with Lebanon and in front of the northern Gulf of Haifa.

The fascination of this enigmatic place drives us to seek the reasons and the need felt by people who wanted a thousand years ago and built a similar magnificence.

Known as the Teutonic Castle, is identified in the documents with the name of Stakenberg<sup>1</sup>, which appears to be a literal translation of Montfort, meaning "strong or fortified hill." Though some texts identify him with the name "mons feret" that seems to repeat the same meaning but may relate to ferio Latin declination which would result from passive gouged mount<sup>2</sup>

Not easy reading, various texts that delineate the origin, the four main sources<sup>3</sup>, already known to historians, a work must be done for comparison and interpretation in order to dispel some doubts as to the owners.

The study was organized along two separate strands: reading the territory that the Teutonic castle chairs, and more precisely, the analysis of outstanding building of the castle and the Guest House or a hospital<sup>4</sup> as defined, site in the valley at the foot of the castle itself, on the north side of the slope.

So this is a building complex consisting basically of two groups of architectural structures put in relation to one another in the first place position, secondary for the tasks assigned.

The castle itself, is a fortified structure with large

escarpments that occupies the summit of a rocky place in the valley of Keziv dam, the river water flow constant sizeable lead after fifteen Km in the Bay of Haifa, was under the structure of the Teutonic fortress of Casal Imbert (figure 1).

The organization of the Montfort seems to obey the classical model of the tower at the top spot, the domain of subsequent plans degrading until you reach the natural cliff overlooking the valley, setting a massive perimeter wall on the last terrace.

To clarify the description let's split the site into five portions built relatively homogeneous levels (figure 2). The first, far east, consists of the keep; the second from the foot of the first, rectangular and arranged in planes slightly degrading: this is achieved through the third, consisting of one room where they are polygonal pillars with octagonal ends today where the upper structure of the castle (figure 3); The fourth area includes the tower that stands next to the large room but standing out from a lower floor of at least thirteen meters and is welded to a semicircular wall drawing a large clearing zone considered as input to the castle so that the structure towered gate tower is called<sup>5</sup>. A fifth part is represented by an area between a ring of fortifications and rocky ridge where they are located different production environments and residential. The whole place seems halfway not be part of the first phase of installation. The keep turned upstream consists of squared blocks of stone smoothed by the considerable size of about 88 cm high and 115 cm in length (figure 4); thicknesses are not fully appreciated unless the far east side, where for a significant fall, we can see some in their stereotomy. The summit area of the building presents a construction technique almost separate from the rest of the fort, because the shape of the stone elements ensures a vertical joint by creating wedges are easily seen from the collapse, indicating that the structure work for static gravity.

At the foot of the keep, with a sharp drop at least 10 meters, there is now a free area, which is the entrance. In this area there is evidence of structures collapsed or totally dismantled, yet distinguishable tracks for residual paving, foundations, walls and gutters.

We are in effect on the plan of the kitchen, located on the south side along with latrines. This functional dislocation raises us some doubts and we find particularly puzzling about the original location of latrines, referred to another

<sup>1</sup> KURT FORSTEUER, *Der Deutsche Orden am Mittelmeer*, Bonn 1963.

<sup>2</sup> "Mons Fortis, alias mons feret, castrum fratrum teutonicorum, versus boream a Ptolemaide quattuor, contra africanum vero a saistro Thoron totidem miliaribus distans" MARINUS SANUTUS dictus TORSELLUS, PATRICIUS VENETUS, *Liber secretorum Fidelium Crucis super Terrae Sanctae*, Copia fotoanastatica, Massada press Jerusalem 1611.

<sup>3</sup> STREHLKE, *Tabulae*; ROHRICHT, *Regesta*; TOMASPOEG, *Teutonique en Sicilie*; HUILLARD-BREHOLLES.

<sup>4</sup> R.D.PRINGLE, *A Thirteenth Century Hall at Montfort Castle in Western Galilee*, *The Antiquaries Journal*, 66 (1986), pag 58.

<sup>5</sup> DEN-R.D.PRINGLE, 66 (1986), pag 55 see below, pp 108-11 Op. Cit.

there is today no decisive evidence. Instead of against you may notice some faint traces of a possible cover ogival that it took directly to the foot of the wall of the donjon. From here you enter the central area where internal distribution, is characterized by two aisles each consisting of six equal bays, up to cover a distance of 45 meters and a height of 5 meters. In this space so divided shall be read at least three phases that were added by overcoming the structure of the first plant (figure 5).

The third portion includes the only north-south cross-wall, covering a height of about 10 meters to reach the level of the second floor (figure 6). It closes the central portion and enter through any openings in a room particularly enigmatic, ennobled by the presence of an octagonal pillar and three pillars leaning against the wall, all retain their crown and the first capital plan that identifies the strings start from time. Thanks to this particular one can easily understand the level of the floor covering and calculate the proportion of vault keystone.

The tower was identified as a tower door is hollow, or compartments that compose it are open from the inside. It is reached through a winding path partially equipped with steps, which starts at the third bay from the west on the southern front, and covers an altitude difference of about 17 meters, where the tower appears to lean semicircular area was identified as a square guard, culminating with a spur of the wall also indicates a strengthened element (figure 7).

Reached the ground floor of the tower we see that the trapezoidal room rests on the rock for its entirety pillars, but throughout its development is governed by two large galleries ogival placed transversely upon warping the top.

The road, which departs from here, faces a basement tunnel structure and a masonry pointed arch just inside the bag read, in both cases is not defined, neither the function nor the connection with other adjacent rooms.

One could say that actually what is readable in the room not just reading trapezoidal complicates the castle as a whole and even from this position is reached the bridge site on a tributary of Keziv, we have the distinct feeling that we are not traveling the original access road.

The work done on the castle has mainly focused on surveying with the identification of strong and basic geometry. Parallel has made a direct survey of the decorative details, openings and significant functional elements that could be uniquely identifiable indicators of specialized construction techniques. The analysis of materials and mortars, with the identification of where they were found and with the careful stratigraphic record, concluded the first phase of work. Observations can now be structured with regard to the fortification of Montfort subject to two fundamental principles; the first formal function, the second structural-technological-constructive. Formally as specified in the description, we are in the presence of a donjon, on a moat and chemise with slope that define at least the main system of the settlement. There is not also uniformity in construction technology that makes we think that architectural plant be contemporary. The dungeon and the slope perimeter consisting of ashlar stone size consistent counted in

the Roman foot 29, 576.

Knowing that the literature on an opinion different from the classical setting suggested here, we bring attention to the construction technique of the donjon which is to obey the principles of gravity exuberant relying on size of building elements which do not find an analogy in the structures assigned to the Teutonic order, usually consist of masonry lot. Continuing the possible sequence of events that involved the fortification of Montfort, we assume that the perimeter wall, like a crown along the last terrace, has been implemented in the last phase medieval therefore based directly on classical slope structures. The central area which branches off from the donjon and reaches the wall provided the only north south still visible is of particular interest to present clearly a first implant resting on pillars with cross-shaped section (figure 8), then varied with buffering action and partial elimination of this structure to adapt functionally the area which occurred requirements. The structure then surely ogival resting on cross pillars can be traced back to the first Crusader system. I suggest also marks cutters found in the third bay on the only portal still intact, which in turn is enriched by a decorative strip made up, stick and throat that moves in a zig zag to link the leading arc. This first medieval phase, for decorative and constructive analogy, it could date back to Baldwin II era, and be attributed to the work of the Templar Knights<sup>7</sup> (figure 9).

The number of collisions, acts to redistribute the central area, have different bills and appear to have been made with quarry material less oxidized the previous stage or perhaps this difference is due to a more light weathering on these faces.

Regarding the implementation that construction is carried out, this is a match in the so-called hollow tower gate and a possible date around the end of 1100 early 1200 century. This date is attributed to the acquisition of the castle by the Teutonic they actually are used to create hollow towers along a defensive circuit<sup>8</sup>.

There are elements that appear problematic and that there are at this stage because of a malfunction within the complex. So we try to focus on these points to be able to verify their solution placing them in a more coherent overall framework. The first element is the structure of the donjon that metric and structural reasons for not presenting a wall bag plant as seems likely to belong to a period of late antiquity. Another problem is the pillar in the octagon room which concludes the high castle. It is an octagonal pillar for size and material of the plant seems to be coeval donjon, this pillar has the hardware (nut, shaft and capital) consisting of two pieces assembled with a white lime<sup>9</sup> and

<sup>6</sup> A. SEGRÈ *Metrologia e circolazione monetaria degli antichi*, N. Zanichelli, Bologna 1928.

<sup>7</sup> MALCOLM BARBER, *Processo ai Templari, una questione politica*, ECIG, Genova 1998.

<sup>8</sup> They remember the fortified complex on the Danube experience Teutonic castle building in the Balkans to northern crusades against the Mongol invasion. For further information see ANTONIO CASSI RAMELLI, *Dalle caverne ai rifugi blindati*, Mario Adda Editore, Bari 1946.

<sup>9</sup> The lime was analyzed and classified as slaked with residual chart.

measures the overall element not are consistent with the classic form (figure 3).

The thought turns to a possible remodelling of the pillar took place in the second stage, when it determines reused, but being out of context metric for restructuring called for by new owners, is reduced and a new location.

This could be explained not only for finding an item originally monolithic and later adapted and recomposed, but also for having found a mark on the capital stonecutter which is identical to another placed on a dung that was erratic instead belong to the ribbed portion of 'system pertaining to the third stage.

Only the pillars elements are reused while the shafts of columns are placed in the brickwork in the previous room there are drums column visible function shrinking bag.

Another anomaly is the mark found on a dung erratic in the fifth bay in the south aisle; it in composition, methods used and the proportions are similar to a mark found inside Castle Maniace in Syracuse<sup>10</sup>, built in the first half of the thirteenth century<sup>11</sup>.

This may suggest that specialized work in the service of the Swabian court have moved from Sicily and Cyprus to the site of Montfort and vice versa. This conjecture would be of great spy organization that followed the political work of Frederick II and that, shortly before, the organized outposts (figure 10).

There is no doubt that Hermann von Salza was, during the cross-Frederick, Frederick II's right hand in dealing with orders of chivalry and Pope Gregory IX<sup>12</sup>. Such evidence can only be built on to redefine the role of site Montfort during the crusade of Frederick II of Swabia.

The analysis shows that the structure of the territory so well fortified actually located outside the main lines of defense and is the heart of fortified positions that barring the two main entrances: one from Mount consists of the castle Chateau de Roi; the second, pursuing the waterway, is controlled and barred from the castle at the mouth of the harbor Kzive.

In both cases we must note that the monitoring sites had been reorganized in order Templar Crusader period.

You can not avoid thinking that the site of Montfort was concerned from the templars at least in its early stages. There are similar structures in Italy, which are as Montfort remote location, away and with access roads controlled by other forts<sup>13</sup>. This is usually fortified territorial structures dedicated to the production, or to strategic locations to process materials economically and militarily relevant such as iron and its processing. It is obvious that extract and process a resource that means being placed in a sensitive site and unable to attack a defence. Must therefore

re make possible "invisible" for both the fortified many workers who had settled along both department stores for home storage of the finished product. A castle of this type was to have in case of attack a single solution for defence: the abandonment. The site of Montfort is in this precise situation. The presence of iron is widespread even in the building structure, because the segments that constituted the great hall of the octagon pillar present in internal joints iron clamps, also Kzive the river is full of "mills" with millstones around the cliffs overlooking the castle are characterized by large arched openings as if they were organized quarries.

The mortar, we talked about previously, appears to have a color characteristic substantially white and reddish many impurities that suggest residual hematite; Not least the square in front of the gate tower is actually a circular vaulted room where they found residues of earthenware with traces of molten iron (figure 11).

All this may mean that in reality we are witnessing an oven for the extraction of iron derived from crushed rock and that the circular plaza is actually lower in the main factory fitted with air bellows.

In fact, the semi-cylindrical structure has at its summit an unusual and unique opening perfectly oriented in the direction of sea winds (figure 12).

The site, in addition, is rich in flint, as well as being close to the river Belus, famous for its sand glass already known in classical<sup>14</sup> and equally famous Crusader period<sup>15</sup>.

What Montfort then really was? A castle-archive-oriented thinking as most of the literature on the merits, or a site of great strategic military importance for supporting the Crusades?

In questa seconda veste potremmo pensare a Montfort come un centro estrattivo siderurgico di primo piano. La ricerca fin ora effettuata inizia a delineare alcuni caratteri peculiari del sito.

The first is that the structure combined Montfort - Guest House has a reciprocal relationship in the building phases, another character is that the two structures are functionally subordinated to the other one o'clock, and that the processing undergone in the Teutonic phase does not alter the predominant function of the site, including the fact and you can venture the hypothesis that residential facilities and media production costs, placed in the fifth level of the castle, have been added by the Teutonic to encourage the export of iron using the river link for directly to the door of their castle on the mouth of Kzive. How curious that we add the magnetic deviation used for topographic stopped working on some specific points of Montfort perhaps because of the proximity to large concentrations of ferrous material. There remains only one question that once the castle fell into the hands of this Baibars not know what to do to the point that in 1271 destroyed it and then, as some

<sup>10</sup> VLADIMIR ZORIC, *Marchi di Lapidici. Il caso di Castel Maniace di Siracusa* in CARMELA ANGELA DI STEFANO, ANTONIO CADEI, a cura di, *Federico e la Sicilia, dalla terra alla corona*, Arnaldo Lombardi Editore 2000 (prima edizione. 1995) Vol I, pag 411.

<sup>11</sup> ARTURO ALBERTI SIRACUSA, *Il Castel Maniace*, in DI STEFANO, CADEI, Op.Cit. Vol I, pag 377.

<sup>12</sup> ERNST KANTOROWICZ, *Federico II Imperatore*, Edizioni Garzanti, Milano 2000.

<sup>13</sup> Cfr. the site of Rocca San Silvestro in Tuscany.

<sup>14</sup> C. PLINII SECUNDI, *Naturalis Historiae*, apud Hackios, 1669, libro XXXVI

<sup>15</sup> FULCHERIO CARNOTENSIS, *Gesta Francorum Iherusalem peregrinantium*, in S. DE SANDOLI, *Itinera Ierosolimitana cruce signatorum*, Gerusalemme Franciscan Printing Press Jerusalem 1978, Vol I pag 129.

authors say, was no longer inhabited<sup>16</sup>.

Actually found traces of coarse earthenware paste that organizes the water pipes on the floor original, certainly subsequent to the permanence of the crusaders.

It is assumed that the cabling of surface water is attributable to the intervention Arabic. The fact that the Teutonic have required a time of truce to leave the Montfort in Arab hands by the need of such a request to transfer that held in the archive site, suggests a different purpose: namely to dismantle the structures of production and iron working well to evacuate or hide the finished product that they could carry.

The feeling that the castle was dismantled in some parts is strong, despite having to deal with the numerous earthquakes, and the most recent war.(C.M.R.L)

### THE SO-CALLED GUEST HOUSE.

Built close to the cliff face north, below the castle of Montfort, the Guest House impresses with its unique size and grandeur. The interest in this property is often passed in the background, a bit 'for the lack of documents that legitimize the authorship, a little' to the proximity of the most imposing and magnificent Castle of Montfort<sup>17</sup> in addition to being identified as a more small mill, the mill, then transformed into a Guest House<sup>18</sup> (figure 13).

It is a dilapidated building, almost millennial, positioned slightly higher than the river bed that runs at a distance of 30 meters and has nearly a rectangular plan, developed on two levels, with a tower protruded on the main facade. The failure of the material and eliminations have undermined much of the static structure and several collapses and vegetation cover that prevents an immediate reading of the architectural (figure 14).

The ground floor is currently inspected thanks to access the original, partly compromised by subsequent revisions, which leads into three rooms with a barrel vaulted ogive parallel evolution of the mountainside.

The whole floor is covered with a large amount of debris that is not possible to determine the original pavement. The first two environments, should be part of one original block, while the third, coinciding with the everted body seems to have been added at a later stage (figure 15).

Act as spies two long walls that divide the classrooms, one within the first block, consisting of a rough stone and unsophisticated, denounces his posterior to the compartment is located in the non-attack time, a second diaphragm, comprising a bag having the chance to appreciate again the compartment of a window, the last spy environment during the time.

We, therefore, in the presence of two major phases of con-

struction that saw the creation of separate original nucleus subsequently expanded in keeping with the usual technological principles. While the times of the first two rooms are built with stones hewn and fitted with a knife, the third has a finer time to be well equipped with stones cut and polished in steps, also emplaced knife.

Openings and connections deserve special attention: the first room is served by three high windows nails, two on the left and right of entry, all traceable to a single type ; in the second room is the only window orthogonal to the barrel, but now technology and internal consistency similar to those of the first room.

The space coincides with the protruded portion is illuminated by a single window showing the first four different construction types: even if engaged on the barrel, it intersects with the typical nail nucleus, but following the sweep of the barrel has an lintel surmounted by an arc discharge created in blocks. The walls to the ridge are made up to one third of the tax once the rock outcropping, properly modeled (figure 16).

On this wall there are some steps: the first, opposite the entrance, we can observe, among the crashes that block an entrance with steps with curved walk that would lead to the upper floor; Almost completely blocked by collapses inside glimpse of a vertical shaft of arrival, and four possible directions of horizontal connection, including the room where you can access it. A first analysis seems to be air ducts.

The only tunnel yet inspected visually, has an almost square section of the order of 50-60 cm per side and measured to a depth of 14 meters (figure 17). two surveys allow us to say that this led physically passes just below the entrance of the staircase shortly before described, and results in the second room of the first block, connecting a third opening, also the square and, like the previous one, with a well with vertical movement.

The modern room has finally opened up between the collapses that suggests the start of a ladder. Consistent with bill compartment, the scale is well incorporated in the base of the canton. Blocks carved ad hoc design a well-maintained access to which is grafted with 90 ° curved and then continued by a straight parallel to the long side of the compartment.

The first floor shows at the original nucleus, three bays with ribbed vault in one almost intact. Among the fallen rocks can be seen on the upstream side, the top of an ancient port ogival that a compartment with a sort of chimney draw-backing floor up.

On the last room you can imagine even a fourth bay with ribbed vault almost totally collapsed, with decoration similar to previous (figure 18). From this environment, different pieces of residual wall make us imagine the possibility that the structure continues to the west (figure 19).

An opening is still intact, at the foot of the excavation of the wall, still on the upstream side, placing it on a scale that straight, going up to level curve and the last section leads to a sort of landing.

From here was to start a second flight, witnessed by a nearby access stylistically similar to the entry and still pick up

<sup>16</sup> DEN-R.D.PRINGLE, *A Thirteenth Century Hall at Montfort Castle in Western Galilee*, in *Fortification and settlement in Crusader Palestine*, The Antiquaries Journal, 66 (1986), Pag 54

<sup>17</sup> ADRIAN J. BOAS, *Archaeology of the Military Orders*, Routledge 2006; Kurt Forstreuter, *Der Deutsche Orden am Mittelmeer*, Verlag Wissenschaftliches archiv Bonn (1967).

<sup>18</sup> DEN-R.D.PRINGLE, 66 (1986), Pag 54 Op. Cit.

a few tens of centimetres.

We are not yet able to say whether the first three bays and fourth were built simultaneously with the necessary precautions for the exchange of plant or if all the protruded part is a later addition.

However, we believe the existence of a nucleus formed by the constructive rooms on the first block in which perhaps had already provided the floor

The doubts stem from two conflicting elements: the square openings that spaced the brain of the barrel on the ground floor and suggests an additional overhead lighting, and scales well embedded in the primitive structure that we hardly seem to have been completed at a later time.

From what you described so far makes it easy mind that, at a time unspecified, the structure due to instability of the mountain must have suffered a collapse of the upper and soaring collapsing that has left few traces.

Reaching the top surface of the last existing field, it is still possible to appreciate the stereotomy of a quoin, likely dropped from Montfort (figure 20).

Along the development of the vertical connection is still viable is a loophole now blocked by landslides that faces south, or directly to the mountain ridge;

This may be the clue to an ancient path along the south side of the Guest House led to the castle of Montfort.

A wealth of information we receive from the observation of every detail. We are not yet able to deduce with certainty more information by reading the prospectus of the wall. The construction of the facade courses homogeneous and degrading about four floors of retreat, while changing the implementation in at least three servings of masonry construction phases complaint not particularly far apart.

Vestments made it look as though the same work with different techniques for the function to which the septal wall was performed.

The first band blanks made with courses and wedges, which suggest that it is faced with a device that, once, had to be coated with a stone or even a more refined grading.

A string course well shaped and finished second place on the exchange floor facade seems to bear witness that there is a coating.

A low-end, intermediate between the two rows of openings, suggesting a change of angle of any slope, while the two highest vestments of the prospectus, divided by a final string course, which are more refined as part exposed terminal.

the hypothesis is more convincing than watching the left side of the tower protruded where we found a break with the pattern facing slope (figure 21).

Only the windows of the second order are rearranged and tidied up for the addition of a squaring decorated with segments that would perhaps have given a more noble to the prospectus. It thus adds a third construction phase.

The general idea is that we are in the presence of a single project lasted over the years and changed during construction, in a very short time, from the foundation work to the end.

Another subject of investigation is represented by what was commonly identified as the dam. A barrage of-way

along the river from Chateau de Roi arises in a system of walls of which now remains only the alignment on both sides of Kzive (figure 22).

We must emphasize that the thick vegetation, extensive size of the object, and the few findings explorable, make it more than ever difficult to read.

A first fragment of a wall on the right side of the river, nestled among the scrub a hint of shoe orthogonal to the current direction and leaves room for the hypothesis that was topped by a sort of lookout point.

The argument, rather than proven by existing findings, based on analysis of the potential of the site. An exceptional acoustic communication is easily put in the Guest House, situated on the opposite side, the castle of Montfort.

The narrow gorge of Kzive it works exceptionally as a sounding board, allowing the voice to be amplified and reach a height of 200 meters as a perfect ear of Dionysius. The argument is strengthened if we look at the window watching the gate tower of the above Montfort, targets exactly the place we are discussing.

A second wall fragment comes much more dense orthogonally to lean to the left of the main façade of the Guest House. The double face of the wall survivor gives us a more than rich literary and crosses between stone-cutters. It is well marked incisions, placed in full view in the face of the main segments and occupying up to one third of the block on which are engraved.

Recall that the cross power was the one adopted by Godfrey of Bouillon for the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem which were added four Greek crosses inside the four quadrants (figure 23).

Are thus signs that reveal a precise paternity: Templar Knights.

Among other cuts also recognize symbologies more typical of work already seen in the European medieval castles and especially in Frederick's castles.

A wall more than three feet deep that has the front to the east-oriented path from Chateau de Roi, consists of a vertical hanging made of large square blocks and polished, mounted in horizontal courses at times staggered to change the size of the blocks (figure 24); the home front is composed of a first section with hanging vertical like the outside, which continues north toward the river, and a second currently covered by thick vegetation.

The upper part of this wall had some room to accommodate a small size or location. The vegetation and finds it still recognize the plans finished and in some sections of earthenware covered with a fine texture.

An opening on the main facade, totally blocked by landslides, was to give access to the first room of the floor. Again the assumptions are many and all yet to be assessed.

A final factor not yet considered but it deserves at least a note of attention is represented by something entirely unique: each window on the ground floor, including the inside between the two blocs, and the window on the stairs between the first and second floors, facing south towards the mountains outside of the architrave have holes that clearly denounce the 'existence of a grating closing.

This particular though seemingly insignificant it was ac-

tually the subject of lengthy consideration, it was not usual in the Middle Ages used the iron in construction, especially as the construction technologies were structured so as to avoid the use of resources difficult to find locally.

But it was good use, especially in wartime, save for the production of iron weapons and armor. The assumptions may appear to only two: either the structure was reused in later times as a prison or iron in this area was a primary resource.

In light of the observed and trying to give a reading of the Guest House, Hospital, divorced from preconceptions derived from a sort of "taken for granted," it points out the uniqueness of the position immediately assume that a structure that performs a function of great social importance.

As is known, a guest is usually located on major roads and beaten by the pilgrims. In this case the building at the foot of the Montfort is particularly sheltered, and deeply wedged in the valley of Kzive, so as to be not visible until you pass.

Further observe the many travel diaries written by various personalities from the most educated<sup>19</sup> and sent in time of war, to develop the logistics of the Crusaders<sup>20</sup>, no mention shelter for pilgrims on this site, and there is no word in the documents the Teutonic<sup>21</sup>.

This could be due to two main causes: a loss of evidence that they have the original function, the other is that the settlement had not quite such a role.

We read texts among some experts that this site could be home in a mill, later converted into a guesthouse<sup>22</sup>. In a functional reading of the article, including a proposal that puzzles us not to recognize any trace in the structure of the building elements and technological features that should have a mill, including reins of the barrier, gore, intake and exhaust channels, rooms arranged in a central distribution in the structure are not reflected in any case.

Also the exposure that puts the entire structure directly to the north slope of the hill of Montfort is found to be in the shade all day, both summer and winter. This clearly clashes with the attention that is traditionally given to the action of natural daylight and heating, which is considered valuable and healthy. Even mills directly places to touch the river, and there are at least five along the Kzive are all located on the right bank, not to be covered by the shadow of the mountain, so as to get a bit 'too sunny d 'winter.

Only the building in question is positioned away from the shore and located on the left side, indicating a focus on creating fresh environments. These simple observations

<sup>19</sup> GUGLIELMO DI TIRO, *Historia della guerra sacra di Gerusalemme. Della terra di promessa e quasi di tutta la storia recuperata da' cristiani: raccolta in 23 libri*, tradotta in italiano da M. Giuseppe Horolloggi, In Venetia: appresso Antonio Pinelli, 1610

<sup>20</sup> S. DE SANDOLI, *Itinera Ierosolimitana cruce signatorum*, Gerusalemme Franciscan Printing Press Jerusalem 1978, Vol I-II-III-IV

<sup>21</sup> *Tabulae ordinis teutonici ex tabularii regii berlinensis codice potissimum*, edit Ernest Gottfried Wilhelm Strehlke, Berolini apud Weidmannos, MDCCCLXIX.

<sup>22</sup> DEN-R.D.PRINGLE, 66 (1986) Op. Cit.

now make us rule out being in the presence of a mill or a Guest House.

The hypothesis of the existence of a dam, as proposed by the majority<sup>23</sup>, makes us skeptical for various reasons technology-constructive and not be the place for the design of an artifact like that. The water level would rise and would have jeopardized the mills upstream and downstream of this structure, given the reins of the various plans, but especially the gore.

Place so that is not our belief in the presence of an old mill, the question becomes complicated when the we left the ground to the first floor, where, as we have seen, pillars, open at times pointed arch support with ribs setback.

The rooms have a Gothic convincing but still "archaic". Decorations very classical but essential and geometric. We would say almost dry decorations in their elegance. This contrasts well with the front rather rough and coarse or finishing holes. The collapse does not enable us to understand in depth the overall volume. The present level is almost once a strong and significantly reduces the vertical emphasis instead should have had the four bays that make up the most representative part of the first floor.

The analysis shows how the proposal is still far from the truth the interpretation of the role that this structure acquitted in the history of time. Today we sense that the name of hospitality must be derived not so much from its original function, as erroneously believed, but as a transposition of the last owner of the attribute: the Hospital of the Teutonic Order.

There is as yet simplistic to place the Guest House in order functional as a gateway to the castle because we are still investigating other possibilities that this structure lies in its architectural design: a steel center of primary strategic importance in close relationship with the fortified site of Montfort, and he then assumed the particular value of the structures, the role of a real imperial palace. (L.A)

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<sup>23</sup> DEN-R.D.PRINGLE, 66 (1986) Op. Cit.



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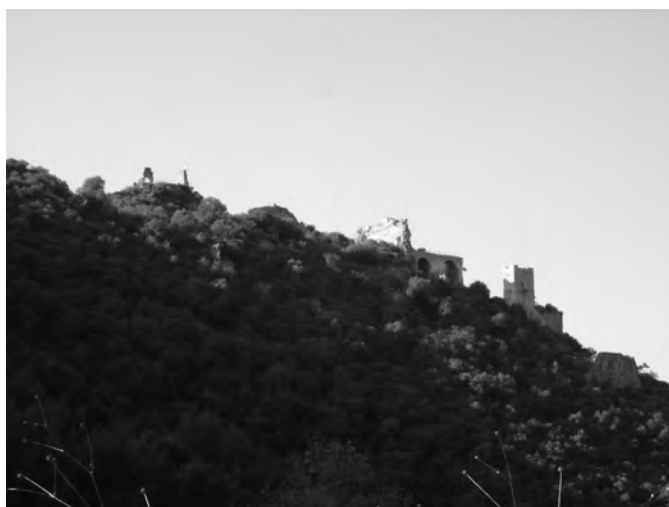


Fig. 1 - View from north-east of the site of Montfort.

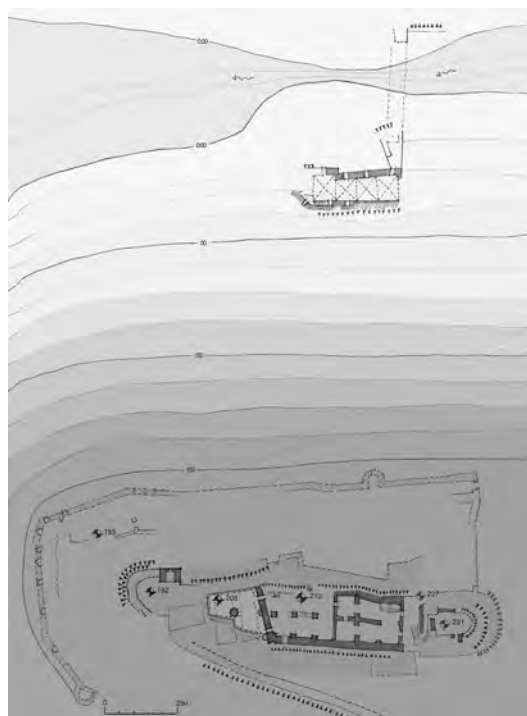


Fig. 2 - Montfort: general planimetry



Fig 3 - Montfort polygonal hall.



Fig 4 - Montfort: wall of the keep.



Fig 5 - Montfort: graphic of three building phases.



Fig 6 - Montfort: view from east of the north-south wall.



Fig 7 - Montfort: view of the square call of the gate tower.



Fig 8 - Montfort: cross pillar.

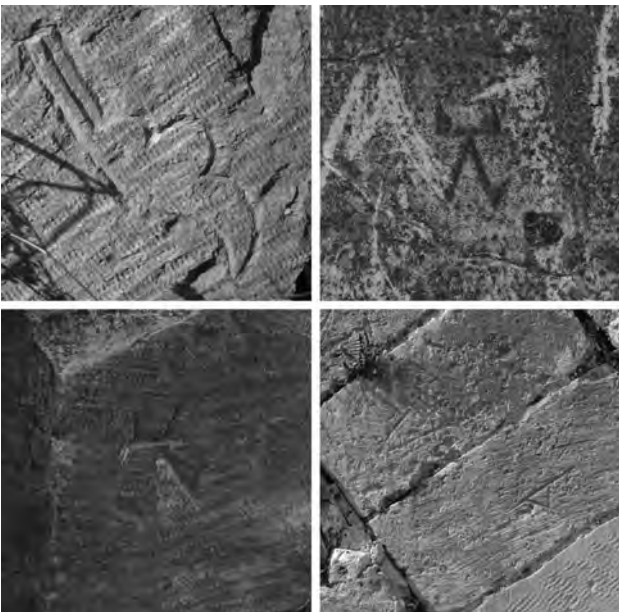


Fig 9 - Montfort: possible Templar stonemason marks

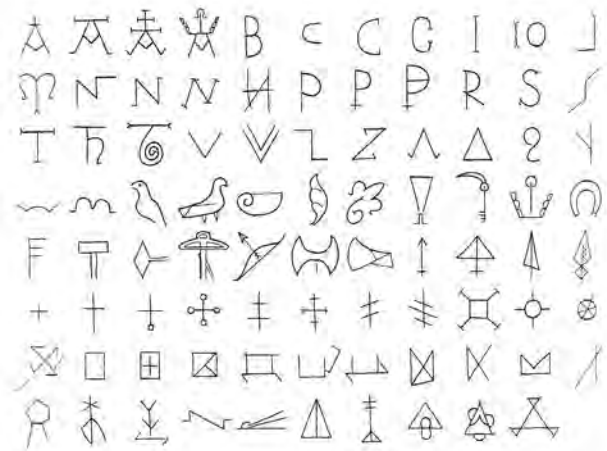


Fig 10 - Montfort: marks found in Castel Maniace in Syracuse already published in "Federico II e la Sicilia" (Op. Cit.)



Fig 11 - Montfort: iron waste founded in gate tower area.



Fig 12 -View from west of Montfort castle, note the opening front along the lower end of the apparatus wall.



Fig 13 - Guest House: principal facade of the gothic building in the valley.

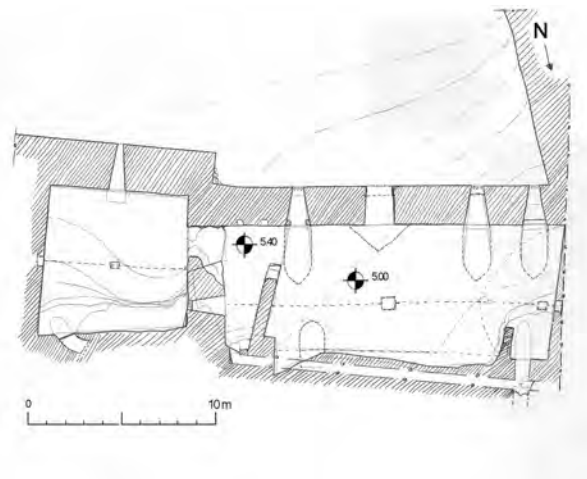


Fig 14 - Guest house: ground floor map.



Fig 15 - Guest house: ground floor west view. (first room)



Fig 16 - Guest house: ground floor, detail of the rock wall with the vault.



Fig 17 - Guest house: ground floor, pipe in the rock wall of the first room.



Fig 18 - Guest house: first floor, view from west to the only cross vault still exist.



Fig 19 - Guest house: first floor, entrance detail to the stairs that link the second collapsed floor.



Fig 20 - Detail of an ashlar with almond-shaped ribs found on the top of the last vault.



Fig 21 - Guest house: detail of hanging between the nucleus and the enlargement.



Fig 22 - Wall fragment on the right side of the river.



Fig 23 - Detail of a stonecutter mark with potent cross

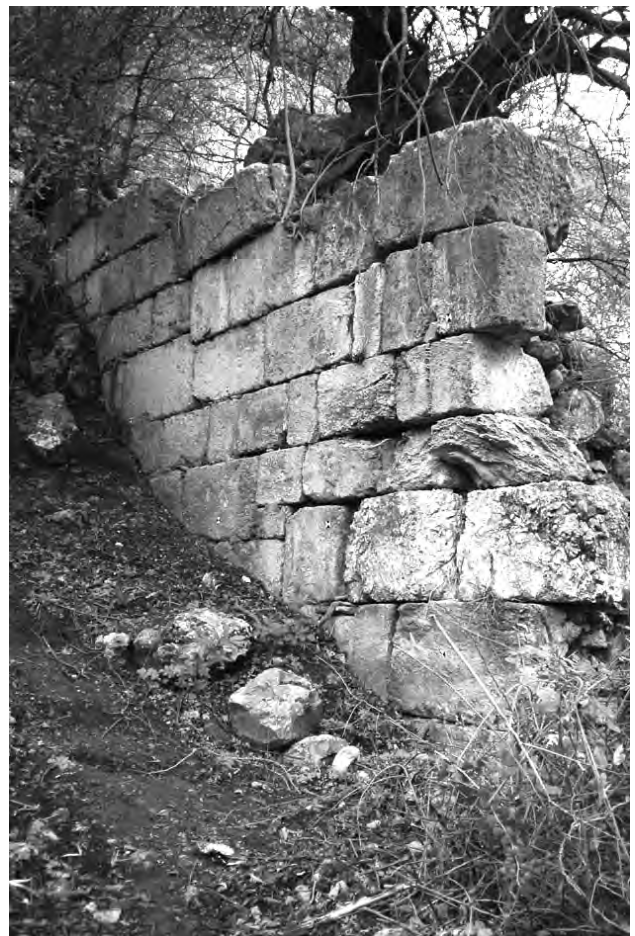


Fig 24 - View and design of the east side of the dam.