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New Proposals on Some Iron Age Contexts from Vulci and Pontecagnano with Pyxides and Tablet Weaving Belts

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Abstract

The analysis of the miniature bronze pyxis of Sardinian manufacture deposited in the burial assemblage of the male Tomb 6107 at Pontecagnano (a Villanovan site on the Salerno Gulf) and dated 850-780/70 BC leads the author to assume that it was the 'textile tool box' of the wife of the deceased and to look in this assemblage (Tomb 6107) for other objects that may be connected to textile work, the major activity of women in antiquity. Two small bone pieces, that were also deposited in the ash urn, could thus be interpreted as two belt links between a clasp (a small tool) used for horizontal tablet weaving technique. This belt worn by the weaver serves to maintain the proper tension of the warp threads. This experimental reconstruction of the bone pieces (belt links) was possible thanks to the funerary assemblage HH 11-12 at Veii (dated around 730 BC) which attests a belt in context with a clasp and spools (textile kit), but also through a clasp attested in Tomb 5053 of Pontecagnano (unpublished). Thus, these two bone belt links were probably part of a tablet weaving kit deposited in the assemblage (Sardinian Pyxis, clasp and tablet weaving belt). The belt links have survived while the belt was not preserved and unfortunately, the clasp got lost.

Keywords: Vulci, Pontecagnano, bronze pyxis, Early Iron Age, bone tools, belt links, tablet weaving, experimental reconstruction.

Ripa Veientana. Per una storia del territorio tra Veio e Roma dall'VIII al IV secolo a.C.

ALESSIO DE CRISTOFARO, ALESSANDRA PIERGROSSI

Abstract

The contribute aims to debate and define some territorial and political issues related to the part of territory just north of the river Tiber between Veii and Rome from the VIIIth to the beginning of the IVth century BC, when Rome finally conquers the Etruscan rival. In the last decades there were many researches and excavations devoted to Veii and its territory which significantly enriched and renewed our knowledge on the history of the Etruscan centre. Analyzing new and old finds and using literary sources we try to delineate the territorial system on the border between the two cities.

Keywords: Veii, Ager Veientanus, Ager Romanus Antiquus.

Il Tumulo della Regina di Tarquinia e lo spazio scenico per l'immortalità

ALESSANDRO MANDOLESI, MARIA ROSA LUCIDI

Abstract

The research on the Mound of Queen (excavations 2008-2014) showed a long stretch of the perimeter of the monument and the front of the tomb, focused on the large vestibule / entrance on which there are three funerary rooms: the large central room, which is unexplored and the two side rooms. The mound presents a cross plan, the oldest so far documented in the architecture of Tarquinia. The works revealed the magnificence of princely burial and unexpected pictorial and sculptural decorative peculiarities. In the back came to light a podium-altar, and remains of stone animal sculptures refer to a group of sculptures that decorated the mound. The entrance of the tomb opens to the West, towards the sea, and had to be protected by a wooden roof of which remain on the steps large post holes. The main element of the Interior is coated with white plaster in alabaster plaster that covered the entrance and burial chambers: chalk's luck baked in the Middle East is due to its versatility in use. The chromatic impact offered by the vestibule paintings had to be very impressive, with issues related to the celebration of the death and the gentry identity, as you can see from the painted fragments that show geometric patterns and figures made with the colors of the oldest Tarquinian painting, red and black. We are faced with the first pictorial experiences of Tarquinia, the second half of the seventh century BC, with a monumental representation, as is the case at once in large tombs of Cerveteri.

Keywords: Tarquinia, Mound of the Queen, princely burial, funerary paintings, Orientalizing.

La galerie étrusque del conte Des Varannes e le riproduzioni delle tombe di Chiusi

GIULIO PAOLUCCI

Abstract

After the second half of the XIX century there was in Chiusi a collection of miniatures of the main Etruscan tombs discovered in the territory. The miniatures were commissioned by Federigo Sozzi who exhibited them into his house. In 1862 some of them were sold to the Count Edouard Le Normant Des Varannes and one year later they were described in a publication which is taken in exam in this article.

Keywords: etruscan, Clusium, collecting, reproduction, grave.

Lucio Mariani fotografo

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Abstract

The *Lucio Mariani Photographic Collection*, housed in the Gabinetto Fotografico Nazionale of the ICCD (Istituto Centrale per il Catalogo e la Documentazione), has recently been studied, complete with digitization and catalogue. Lucio Mariani (1865-1924), professor of archeology at the Universities of Pisa and Rome, undertook several study tours in the Mediterranean countries, documenting them with his own photographs. In this paper we consider in detail five of the photo albums he arranged to illustrate some of his main interests: Crete, Greek sculpture and polygonal masonry. The images clearly show the late 19th century cultural approach to archaeology, always conscious of its social and anthropological aspects.

Keywords: Greece, Crete, polygonal masonry, archaeological photography, history of archaeology.

Raniero Mengarelli a Cerveteri. Appunti dal carteggio inedito*

RITA COSENTINO

Abstract

In this article some unknown aspects of Raniero Mengarelli's activity at Cerveteri shall be disclosed. The analysis of some unpublished documents preserved in the historical archives of the Soprintendenza of Villa Giulia (Rome), including an assiduous correspondence kept by Mengarelli with the Institutions of the time and some collaborators described by him as "poorly collaborative" shows very clearly a versatile personality of a man gruff by nature, who nonetheless knew very well how to combine the predominant and known mission of the "digger" and scholar to that of the manager (*ante litteram*), without neglecting a brilliant and modern vision of territorial policy.

Keywords: Raniero Mengarelli, Banditaccia necropolis, Goffredo Ricci, "l'autostrada", excavations at Caere.

Musei e territorio storico

PIER GIOVANNI GUZZO

Abstract

Museums and historical territory. The main features of the recent reform of the organization of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Environment and Tourism are analyzed. Several and absolute critical issues can be recognized regarding the separation between museums and territorial protection, the weakening of the superintendences (also in connection with the new rules of the public administration), the educational role towards the general public performed, so far by the close union of superintendences and museums.

Keywords: superintendences, museums, territory, protection, valorisation.

Recensione a:

M.-L. HAACK (éd.), *La construction de l'étruscologie au début du XX^e siècle*. Actes des Journées d'études internationales des 2 et 3 décembre 2013 (Amiens), Ausonius Scripta Receptoria 3, Bordeaux 2015, pp. 222.

DAVIDE ANGILERI