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978-0-521-10359-6 - The Iron Age Community of Osteria dell'Osa: A Study of Socio-Political Development in Central Tyrrhenian Italy

Anna Maria Bietti Sestieri

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Anna Maria Bietti Sestieri, one of the finest Italian protohistorians, deals in this monograph with a major archaeological site, the Iron Age cemetery of Osteria dell'Osa, near Rome. The cemetery materials provide rich insights into the emergence of the city-state in central Italy in the crucial period 900–580 BC. Paying particular attention to the causes of variation in burials – ritual, gender, age, status – Dr Bietti Sestieri is able to develop a convincing picture of the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age *Latium* in the wider context of southern Etruria and Campania.

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. . . l'on en saurait très long si dix habitats seulement avaient été fouillés dans le but de comprendre la vie des hommes, et non dans la seule préoccupation de récupérer leurs outils dans l'ordre de leur superposition . . .

André Leroi-Gourhan, *Préhistoire de l'art occidentale*. Mazenod, Paris, 1965, p. 34

There is . . . a criticism of basic western distinctions by which culture is usually thought, such as the supposed opposition between history and structure or stability and change . . . this brief Hawaiian example suggests there is no phenomenal ground – let alone any heuristic advantage – for considering history and structure as exclusive alternatives.

Marshall Sahlins, *Islands of history*. University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1985, pp. 143–4

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