

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51447-7 - The Urbanisation of Etruria: Funerary Practices and Social Change, 700-600 BC

Corinna Riva

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

THE URBANISATION OF ETRURIA

FUNERARY PRACTICES AND SOCIAL CHANGE, 700–600 BC

In this survey of the burial and settlement evidence of late Iron Age Etruria, Corinna Riva offers a new reading of the sociopolitical transformations that led to the formation of urban centres in Tyrrhenian Central Italy. Through a close examination of burial ritual and the material culture associated with it, Riva traces the transformations of seventh-century elite funerary practices and the structuring of political power around these practices in Etruria, arguing that the tomb became the locus for the articulation of new forms of political authority at urban centres. Challenging established views that deem contact with eastern Mediterranean regions crucial to these developments, Riva offers a radically new interpretation of the so-called Orientalising material culture, taking a long-term perspective on local changes and east–west contact across the Mediterranean.

Corinna Riva is Lecturer in Mediterranean archaeology at University College London. A scholar of Iron Age Italy and the first millennium BC in the central Mediterranean, she is co-director of the Upper Esino Valley Survey Project. She is co-editor, with Nicholas Vella, of *Debating Orientalization: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Processes of Change in the Ancient Mediterranean* and, with G. Bradley and E. Isayev, *Ancient Italy: Regions without Boundaries*.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51447-7 - The Urbanisation of Etruria: Funerary Practices and Social Change, 700-600 BC

Corinna Riva

Frontmatter

[More information](#)



THE
URBANISATION
OF ETRURIA

FUNERARY PRACTICES AND
SOCIAL CHANGE, 700–600 BC

CORINNA RIVA

University College London



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51447-7 - The Urbanisation of Etruria: Funerary Practices and Social Change, 700-600 BC

Corinna Riva

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

www.cambridge.orgInformation on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521514477

© Corinna Riva 2010

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2010

Printed in the United States of America

*A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.**Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data*

Riva, Corinna.

The urbanisation of Etruria: funerary practices and social change, 700-600 BC / Corinna Riva.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-0-521-51447-7 (hbk.)

1. Etruria – Social life and customs. 2. Etruria – Antiquities. 3. Excavations (Archaeology) – Italy – Etruria. 4. Iron age – Italy – Etruria. 5. City and town life – Italy – Etruria – History. 6. Cities and towns, Ancient – Italy – Etruria – History. 7. Urbanisation – Italy – Etruria – History. 8. Etruscans – Funeral customs and rites. 9. Social change – Italy – Etruria – History. 10. Etruria – Social conditions. I. Title.

DG223.3.R58 2010

937'.501 – dc22 2009022909

ISBN 978-0-521-51447-7 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CONTENTS

List of Illustrations

vii

Acknowledgements

xi

CHAPTER I

THE ANCIENT CITY AND ETRURIA

I

CHAPTER II

A LONG PROCESS AND RAPID CHANGE

II

CHAPTER III

ORIENTALISING: ACCESSIBILITY AND TRANSFORMATION

39

CHAPTER IV

THE TRANSFORMATION OF FUNERARY IDEOLOGY

72

CHAPTER V

THE TRANSFORMATION OF POLITICAL AUTHORITY

108

CHAPTER VI

THE TRANSFORMATION OF GRAVE-GOODS

141

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51447-7 - The Urbanisation of Etruria: Funerary Practices and Social Change, 700-600 BC

Corinna Riva

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

CONTENTS

CHAPTER VII
ETRURIA AND ITS URBAN MEDITERRANEAN
NETWORK

177

Bibliography

193

Index

239

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1. Etruria with sites mentioned in the text, map.	<i>page</i> 3
2. Plan of Tarquinia with the main Iron Age cemeteries, map.	15
3. Plan of <i>Caere</i> with the main Iron Age cemeteries, map.	16
4. Plan of <i>Veii</i> with the main Iron Age cemeteries, map.	17
5. Tomb of the Statues, Ceri, section and reconstruction of the statues.	45
6. The Mediterranean basin with sites mentioned in the text, map.	46
7. Sardinia with sites mentioned in the text, map.	49
8. Campana Tomb, <i>Veii</i> , reproduction of the wall painting of the back wall of the first chamber.	60
9. Golden <i>fibula a disco</i> from Regolini Galassi Tomb, <i>Caere</i> .	61
10. Ivory comb from the Circolo degli Avori, Marsiliana d'Albegna.	61
11. <i>Bucchero oinochoe</i> from the Montetosto <i>Tumulus</i> , <i>Caere</i> .	63
12. San Paolo <i>olpe</i> from the San Paolo <i>Tumulus</i> , <i>Caere</i> .	64
13. San Paolo <i>olpe</i> , upper and lower friezes.	65
14. San Paolo <i>olpe</i> , detail of <i>Daidalos</i> .	67
15. <i>Impasto</i> hut urn from tomb, Arcatelle 17 (M2), Tarquinia.	75
16. Impiccato Tombs I and II, reconstruction of the graves and their grave-goods.	78
17. <i>Tintinnabulum</i> from the Tomba degli Ori, Bologna.	79

18. <i>Impasto</i> urn from Tomb 86, Bufolareccia, <i>Caere</i> .	84
19. Tomb AA1, Quattro Fontanili, <i>Veii</i> , grave-goods.	85
20. Montescudaio urn, biconical cremation urn from Montescudaio near Volterra.	87
21. Wheeled bronze vessel from Tomb 2, Olmo Bello, Bisenzio.	102
22. Bronze vase-stand from Circolo degli Acquastrini, Vetulonia.	103
23. Bronze vase-stand from Circolo degli Acquastrini, Vetulonia, detail of the warrior heads.	104
24. Bronze tripod from Circolo di Bes, Vetulonia, detail of warrior decoration on tripod leg.	105
25. <i>Beckenwagen</i> from Tomb 871, Casal del Fosso, <i>Veii</i> .	107
26. Vaccareccia <i>Tumulus</i> , <i>Veii</i> , tomb plan.	110
27. Multichamber tomb from Cuccumelletta area, Vulci, tomb plan.	111
28. Tomb 1 'del rasoio lunato di Bronzo', Populonia, tomb plan.	113
29. Development from the <i>fossa</i> tomb to the chamber tomb, plans and sections.	114
30. Tomb of the Hut under <i>Tumulus</i> II, <i>Caere</i> , plan.	115
31. Tomb of the Hut, interior chamber.	116
32. Tomb I 'del Colonnello' under <i>Tumulus</i> I, <i>Caere</i> , plan.	117
33. Tomba degli Animali Dipinti at <i>Caere</i> , plan.	118
34. Tomba degli Animali Dipinti at <i>Caere</i> , detail of sculpted ceiling.	119
35. Tomb of the Shields and Seats, <i>Caere</i> , tomb interior.	119
36. Regolini Galassi Tomb, <i>Caere</i> , plan.	121
37. Montetosto <i>Tumulus</i> area, plan.	127
38. Montetosto <i>Tumulus</i> , near <i>Caere</i> .	128
39. Tomb of the Five Chairs, <i>Caere</i> , reconstruction of tomb interior.	129
40. Tomb of the Five Chairs, <i>Caere</i> , reconstruction of tomb interior with statuette on stone seat.	130
41. <i>Podium</i> of <i>Tumulus</i> I, Banditaccia, <i>Caere</i> .	131
42. Summit of <i>Tumulus</i> II, Banditaccia, <i>Caere</i> .	132
43. Monumental staircase of Sodo II <i>Tumulus</i> , Cortona.	133
44. Cuccumelletta area, Vulci, plan.	135
45. Bronze boss-rimmed basin, Museo Nazionale Etrusco di Villa Giulia, Collezione Castellani, inv. 51186.	142
46. Bronze cauldron with animal head attachment from Regolini Galassi Tomb, <i>Caere</i> .	143
47. Cypro-Phoenician bowl from Bernardini Tomb, <i>Praeneste</i> .	145
48. Banqueting frieze, Murlo, terra-cotta plaque.	147
49. Ricci <i>hydria</i> , black figure <i>hydria</i> , <i>Caere</i> .	157
50. <i>Buccherio kyathos</i> from the Vaccareccia <i>Tumulus</i> , <i>Veii</i> .	164
51. <i>Buccherio kotyle</i> from the Vaccareccia <i>Tumulus</i> , <i>Veii</i> .	165
52. <i>Buccherio kantharos</i> from Tomb 5 Monte Michele, <i>Veii</i> .	166
53. <i>Buccherio</i> lid from the Calabresi Tomb, <i>Caere</i> .	167
54. <i>Buccherio askos</i> from the Calabresi Tomb, <i>Caere</i> .	168

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-51447-7 - The Urbanisation of Etruria: Funerary Practices and Social Change, 700-600 BC

Corinna Riva

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

ix

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 55. <i>Bucchero askos</i> from the Calabresi Tomb, <i>Caere</i> . | 169 |
| 56. <i>Bucchero kyathos</i> with gift-giving inscription from the San Paolo
<i>Tumulus, Caere</i> , interior and exterior figured decoration. | 170 |
| 57. <i>Bucchero kyathos</i> with gift-giving inscription from the San Paolo
<i>Tumulus, Caere</i> . | 171 |
| 58. Marsiliana, aerial photograph of excavated area. | 186 |
| 59. Marsiliana, stone structures from excavation area. | 187 |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book has its origins in a PhD thesis that was submitted to the University of Cambridge under the supervision of Simon Stoddart and Nigel Spivey, to whom I am grateful for their guidance and genuine support, and was examined by Robin Osborne and Tom Rasmussen, both of whom gave me precious advice on how a book could take shape out of those early ideas. Some time has passed, and my ideas have changed and widened beyond Etruria: I owe what I hope is intellectual maturity to many other colleagues and friends who have offered encouragement, important comments, and support through this time, and with whom I have shared many exciting moments of intellectual exchange, casual or otherwise, on several occasions, whether during a seminar discussion or over a coffee.

It is impossible to acknowledge them all here in person, but I would like to express my warmest gratitude to some in particular who have contributed significantly to the shaping of this book. Robin Osborne and Nicholas Purcell have been very influential to me during my time in Oxford: they have encouraged me to rethink and question many assumptions that I had taken for granted. Whilst in Oxford, I had the pleasure of sharing my ideas with Emily Kearns and Chris Gosden, who has been a perceptive critic of ideas that I had developed in an earlier draft. Nicholas Vella has been an invaluable intellectual companion since our days together at the British School at Rome and during our time together in Oxford while concocting a symposium on Orientalising. Peter van Dommelen and Bernard Knapp have also read parts of earlier drafts during my time

in Glasgow and have shared much of their knowledge across the Mediterranean, from Cyprus to Sardinia. Annette Rathje has been a generous and very supportive reader: I thank her for inviting me to Copenhagen, where I was able to talk more with her about seventh-century Etruria. I also had the pleasure of discussing this subject with Alessandro Naso, to whom I am grateful for his advice and help from Etruria to *Picenum*. During my time in the field in the Marche, I have had the most satisfying discussions on settlements and landscape with my survey project's co-directors, John Pearce and Maria Pretzler. Cyprian Broodbank, Lena Isayev, Vedia Izzet, and Raffaella Ciuccarelli have all provided precious advice on the book in so many ways. David Wengrow has been not only a wonderful colleague in the time of writing but also a thoughtful friend; teaching his graduate students about the seventh-century Mediterranean has been the most challenging experience, and I am grateful to his students for this experience. Christopher Smith has read a few earlier chapters: this has led us to embark on a fruitful dialogue on the *gens* and Etruria, which I hope will continue. Cristiano Iaia has been the most generous and open scholar during the writing of this book: the comments he has offered have been most incisive, and I am grateful to him for taking time to write several infinite e-mail messages, so dense and rich with information and ideas that it took me months to assimilate everything. Finally, the anonymous readers for Cambridge University Press gave very helpful comments that have greatly improved some of the chapters.

Denitsa Nenova prepared the maps, and Luciano De Camillis is responsible for the line drawings. The photographic archives at the Soprintendenze per i Beni Archeologici della Toscana and dell'Etruria Meridionale and at the Vatican Museums offered the concession to publish some images. I thank the staff at these archives for their help. Some passages of the book appeared in a similar or different format elsewhere (chapter 3 in C. Riva and N. Vella [eds.] 2006 *Debating Orientalization: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Processes of Change in the Ancient Mediterranean*, London; S. Hales and T. Hodos 2009 *Material Culture and Social Identities in the Ancient World*, Cambridge; chapters 3 and 5 in R. Osborne and B. Cunliffe. [eds.] 2005 *Mediterranean Urbanization 800-600 BC*, Oxford). I thank the editors of these volumes for giving me permission to use some of this material. I am also grateful to St. John's College, Oxford, and the British School at Rome for giving me financial support and the opportunity and freedom to mature in my ideas. The research and writing have been carried out in the Sackler Library in Oxford, the library of the British School at Rome, and the Institute of Classical Studies library in London; I thank all the staff at these libraries for their constant help and friendliness. Beatrice Rehl has been an invaluable and most pleasant editor; it has been a pleasure to have been guided by her. Other friends and my larger family have always been behind me, and especially my mother, Ada, with all her love. Finally, I want to thank Luciano, without whom this book would not have been completed: the book is dedicated to him.