

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS OF VOL. I.



INTRODUCTION.

	PAGE
Recent researches into the inner life of the Etruscans—Nature of the documents whence our knowledge is acquired—Object of this work to give facts, not theories—Geographical position and extent of Etruria—Its three grand divisions—Etruria Proper, its boundaries and geological features—The Twelve Cities of the Confederation—Sites of Etruscan cities—Origin of the Etruscan race—Ancient traditions—Theories of Niebuhr, Müller, Lepsius, and others—The Lydian origin maintained—Oriental character of the Etruscans—Analogies in their religion and customs to those of the East—Their language still a mystery—The Etruscan alphabet and numerals—Government of Etruria—Convention of her princes—Lower orders enthralled—Feudal system—Religion of Etruria, its effects on her political and social state—Mythological system—The Three great Deities—The Twelve Dii Consentes—The shrouded Gods—The Nine thunder-wielding Gods—Other divinities—Fates—Genii—Gods of the lower world—Extent and nature of Etruscan civilization—Literature—Sciences—Physical conveniences—Sewerage—Roads—Tunnels—Superiority to the Greeks in the treatment of woman—Arts of the Etruscans—Their Architecture—To be learned chiefly from tombs—Walls of cities—Gates—The arch in Italy worked out by the Etruscans—Sepulchres—Peculiarities which distinguish them from the Roman—Imitations of temples or houses—Plastic arts—Character and styles of Etruscan art—Works in terra cotta—In bronze—Statues and various implements—Works in wood and stone—Sepulchral sculptures— <i>Scarabei</i> —Mirrors, classified according to subjects—Value of these monuments—The pictorial arts of Etruria—Painted tombs—Varieties of subject and style—Pottery of Etruria—Earliest ware not painted—Painted vases classified and described—Why placed in sepulchres—Tombs rifled in bygone times—Vases of native or Greek manufacture?—Date of the painted vases—The Etruscans maligned by the Greeks and Romans—European civilization indebted to Etruria—Pre-eminence of Tuscan intellect in all ages	xxi
APPENDIX. Vases classified according to form and use.	xciv

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xii

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

VEII.—THE CITY.

	PAGE
Historical interest of Veii—Site determined to be near Isola Farnese—First view of Veii—Isola—The Cicerone—The mill—Fragments of Walls—Forum of Roman Veii—Piazza d' Armi, the Arx of Veii—Capture of Veii—The <i>cuniculus</i> of Camillus—La Scaletta—Columbarium in the cliffs—Ruins of a bridge—Natural bridge, called Ponte Sodo—Remains of the ancient walls—Singular masonry—Use of bricks—Ponte Formello—Ancient road—Ponte d' Isola—Antiquity of Etruscan bridges—Extent of the Etruscan city—Past greatness and present desolation—Roman <i>municipium</i> —Progress of destruction—Interior of a <i>capanna</i> —Shepherd life on the Campagna—History of Veii—Fourteen Wars with Rome—Heroism and fate of the Fabii—Ten years' siege—Legend of the Alban Lake—Fall of Veii—Isola Farnese, the necropolis of Veii—Ancient roads and water-courses—Hints to travellers	1
APPENDIX. The mine of Camillus—Sepulchral niches, and modes of sepulture—Ponte Sodo—Veii one of the Twelve—Isola Farnese not the Arx of Veii, nor the Castle of the Fabii	37

CHAPTER II.

VEII.—THE CEMETERY.

Little to be seen in the necropolis—Sepulchral tumuli—Scenery around Veii—Grotta Campana, a painted tomb—Singular parti-coloured figures—Interpretation of the paintings—Helmet with a death-thrust—Great antiquity of the tomb proved by the paintings and masonry—Ancient sepulchral pottery and urns—Analogy between tombs and houses—No epitaph for the glorious dead	45
---	----

CHAPTER III.

CASTEL GIUBILEO.—FIDENÆ.

The banks of the Tiber—Site of Antemnæ—Anglo-Roman Sports—Campagna scenes and sounds—Sites of ancient deeds—Ponte Salaro—Site and vestiges of Fidenæ—Historical notices—A panorama	62
APPENDIX. The eight captures of Fidenæ	75

CHAPTER IV.

SUTRI.—SUTRIUM.

Vandals still in Italy—Via Clodia—Baccano and its lake—Monte Razzano—Campagnano—Monte Musino—Popular legends—Scrofano—Monterosi—Ronciglione—Site of Sutrium—Ancient walls and gates—Village learning—History of Sutrium—Alliance with Rome—Rock-hewn church—Cata-	
---	--

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xiii

	PAGE
combs—Amphitheatre of Sutri—Roman or Etruscan?—Its peculiarities and beauty—Tombs in the Cliffs—Grotta d' Orlando—Legends of Sutri—Cave of the Madonna—Hints to travellers—Capranica—Vicus Matrini—Road to Vetralla	76
APPENDIX. Emplecton masonry	106

CHAPTER V.

NEPI.—*NEPETE*.

Park-scenery—Nepi—Remains of its ancient walls—Picturesque ravines—Few traces of the necropolis—The modern town—Caution to travellers—History of Nepete	109
---	-----

CHAPTER VI.

CIVITA CASTELLANA.—*FALERII (VETERES.)*

Road from Nepi—Beauties of the Campagna—Civita much visited, but little explored—Ancient walling and tombs—Glen of the Treia—Glen of the Saleto—Walls and Tombs—Conical pit sepulchres—Curious cemetery in the cliffs—Shafts or chimneys—Etruscan inscriptions on the rock—Ponte Terrano—The viaduct—Beauties of the ravines around Civita—A word to travellers	115
---	-----

CHAPTER VII.

FALLERI.—*FALERII (NOVI.)*

Tombs with porticoes—Singular inscription on an Etrusco-Roman tomb—Walls and towers of Falleri—Porta di Giove—Cliffs with sepulchral niches—Porta del Bove—Magnificent piece of walling—Extent of the city—Theatre—Convent of Sta. Maria di Falleri—Is the city Etruscan or Roman?—Historical notices of Falerii—The three cities of the Falisci—Legend of the treacherous schoolmaster—The city rebuilt—Civita Castellana an Etruscan, Falleri a Roman site—Shepherd-guides—The Hyksos of Etruria	129
APPENDIX. The three towns of the Falisci—Falerii one of the Twelve—Æquum Faliscum—Falleri not the Etruscan Falerii	148

CHAPTER VIII.

FESCENNIUM.

Historical notices—Site of Fescennium uncertain—Beauty of the Ager Faliscus—Peculiarities of the scenery—Corchiano—Etruscan remains—Etruscan inscription on the rock—Ancient roads and watercourses—Tomb with a portico and inscription—Gallese—Vignanello—Soriano—Discovery of an Etruscan city—Fine relic of the ancient walls—The city is probably Fescennium or Æquum Faliscum	151
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xiv

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER IX.

ORTE—*HORTA*.

	PAGE
Scanty records of Horta—Position of the town—Locanda Ripetti—Local antiquaries—The necropolis—Excavations—Curious relics of antiquity—Castellum Amerinum—The Vadimonian Lake—Pliny's description of it—Its actual condition—Why chosen as battle-ground—Vale of the Tiber—Bassano—Via Amerina	163

CHAPTER X.

FERONIA AND CAPENA.

History of Capena—Its site—Difficult of access—Look to your steed—Legend of St. Domenick—Soracte—View from the ascent—Convents on the summit—S. Oreste—Probably an Etruscan site, and Feronia—The shrine of Feronia—Geology of Soracte—Travellers' trials—Local remains at Capena—Character of the site—Scenery of this district—Rignano—Wolves of Soracte, ancient and modern—Asbestic feats—Tombs of Sabina	173
---	-----

CHAPTER XI.

MONTE CIMINO—*MONS CIMINUS*.

Lake of Vico—View from the summit of the Pass—The great Etruscan plain—Etruria as it was, and is	189
--	-----

CHAPTER XII.

VITERBO.—*SURRINA*.

Local Chroniclers—Annio of Viterbo, and his forgeries—Viterbo supposed to be the Fanum Voltumnæ—Vestiges of an Etruscan town—The Museum of Etruscan relics—Tomb of the beautiful Galiana—Lions of Viterbo	194
APPENDIX. Surrina—Galiana's epitaph	199

CHAPTER XIII.

FERENTO.—*FERENTINUM*.

Numerous Etruscan remains around Viterbo—Bacucco—Historical notices of Ferentinum—Remains on the site—The Theatre—Its Scena—Peculiar Gateways—Series of arches—Architectural renown of Ferentinum—Singular sepulchres entered by wells—Vitorchiano	201
APPENDIX. Bacucco the site of Aquæ Passeris	211

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xv

CHAPTER XIV.

BOMARZO.

	PAGE
Bye-roads in Italy—Scanty accommodation—Bomarzo—Etruscan town in the neighbourhood—Name unknown—Excavations in the necropolis—Grotta della Colonna—Rusticated masonry—Grotta Dipinta—Ancient caricatures—Sea-horses and water-snakes—Serpents on Etruscan monuments—Curious sarcophagus—Characteristics of the tombs of Bomarzo—Sepulchral furniture—An alphabet potted for posterity—Remains on the Ciminian	212
APPENDIX. Polimartium—Sarcophagus in the British Museum	226

CHAPTER XV.

CASTEL D' ASSO.—*CASTELLUM AXIA*.

A Cicerone—The Bulicame—The Etruscan plain—Sepulchral glens—A street of tombs—Sculptured façades, like houses—Moulded doorways—Inscriptions—Sepulchral interiors—Economy of space—Produce of this necropolis—Sepulchral varieties—The site is but recently discovered—Antiquity of the tombs—Site of the Etruscan town—Not the Fanum Voltumnæ—More probably is Castellum Axia—Tombs in the neighbourhood	229
APPENDIX. Etruscan mouldings—Inscriptions	241

CHAPTER XVI.

NORCHIA.—*ORCLE?*

This necropolis is of recent discovery—Road from Viterbo to Vetralla—Inn at Vetralla—Path to Norchia—First view of the necropolis—The temple-tombs—Who formed them?—The pediments and their sculptures—Bas-relief under the portico—Date of the tombs—Magnificent façades and mean interiors—Sepulchral varieties—Mouldings—No inscriptions—Site of the Etruscan town—Ancient name doubtful—Picturesque beauty of the site	243
--	-----

CHAPTER XVII.

BIEDA.—*BLERA*.

Scanty notices—Romantic glens—A true city of the dead—Site of the ancient and modern towns—Ancient bridge, and rock-hewn roads—Fragments of ancient walling—The modern town—Count S. Giorgio—His power, and courtesy—A second ancient bridge—Rock-sunk roads—The Count's domain—The Cemetery of Blera—Great variety in the sepulchres—Cornices—Door-mouldings—Conical tomb with trench and rampart—Sepulchral interiors—S. Giovanni di Bieda—Via Clodia—Lake of Bracciano and its shores	260
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xvi

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XVIII.

CORNETO.

TARQUINII—THE CEMETERY.

	PAGE
Road from Vetralla—First view of Tarquinii and its Cemetery—Corneto, its inns, interest, and antiquity—Signor Carlo Avvolta—Bruschi Gardens—Painted tombs—GROTTA QUERCIOLO—First impressions—An Etruscan banquet—Dancers—Wild-boar hunt—Greek style of art—Superiority of the Etruscans to the Greeks in their treatment of the fair sex—Colours used in this tomb—GROTTA DEL TRICLINIO—Striking scenes—Banquets and dances—Peculiarities of the figures—Etruscan modesty—Apparent incongruity of festive scenes to a sepulchre, explained—Religious character of music and dancing among the ancients—Are these scenes symbolical?—Colours in this tomb, how laid on—CAMERA DEL MORTO—Death-bed scene—Topsy dance and jollity—Egyptian character of the figures—GROTTA DE' POMPEI—Its peculiarities—Typhons on the pillar—Etruscan inscription—Date of these paintings—Latin inscriptions—The Pompeys of Etruria—Ariosto's pictures of Etruscan tombs—Funeral procession on the wall—Charun with his hammer and snakes—Procession of souls and demons—Etruscan inscription—GROTTA DEL CARDINALE—Temple-like tomb—Paintings on the walls—Byres' work—Cisapennine cockneys—Spirite1 combats—Souls in charge of good and evil spirits—Scenes in the Etruscan hell—Etruscan Cupid and Psyche— <i>Omnes una manet nox</i> —The Montarozzi—GROTTA DELLE BIGHE—A <i>symposium</i> —Dances—Funeral games of the Etruscans—Date of these paintings—GROTTA DEL MARE—Marine monsters—GROTTA DEL BARONE—Horse-races—Brilliancy of the paintings—Archaic character—GROTTA FRANCESCA—Etruscan <i>ballerine</i> —Dilapidated paintings—GROTTA DELLA SCROFA NERA—Banquets and boar-hunts—The black sow—Date of this tomb—GROTTA DELLE ISCRIZIONI—Funeral games—Races—A Bacchic dance—A Sacrifice—High antiquity of these paintings—Review of the painted tombs—Demonology of the Etruscans—Speculations on the paintings—Sepulchral luxury of the ancients—Other painted tombs, now destroyed—Monkish record of them—The tumuli on the Montarozzi—The Mausoleo—Tumular sepulchres—The warrior-tomb—Vast extent of this cemetery—Excavations, ancient and modern—The pottery of Tarquinii—Curious bronzes—Tomb of the Mercareccia—Lamentable decay of its sculptures—Singular chimney or shaft—Mysterious caverns	275
APPENDIX. Chaplets in Etruscan tombs—Lost tombs delineated by Byres—Avvolta's warrior-tomb	365

CHAPTER XIX.

TARQUINII—THE CITY.

Origin of Tarquinii—Legends of Tarchon and Tages—Metropolitan claims of Tarquinii—Legends of Demaratus and his son—The Tarquins—History of Tarquinii—Scanty remains on the site—Scenery—The Acropolis and ancient walls—Tomb on the site of the city—Utter desolation of Tarquinii	371
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

xvii

CHAPTER XX.

GRAVISCÆ.

	PAGE
Gravisca, the port of Tarquinii—Its site disputed—Le Saline or S. Clementino—Legend of St. Augustine—Ruins on the right bank of the Marta—Discovery of an ancient arch and embankment—A port confessed—Here stood Gravisca—Desolation of this coast	387

CHAPTER XXI.

VULCI.

Vulci entirely of modern renown—Montalto—Regisvilla—Ponte Sodo—Ponte della Badia—Magnificent bridge, draped with stalactites—Date of the bridge and aqueduct—Site of the ancient Vulci—Its history almost a blank—The necropolis—Its discovery accidental—Lucien Bonaparte—Tomb of the Sun and Moon—Painted tomb—The Bonaparte excavations—Barbarism of Italian excavators—Necropolis of Vulci unlike that of Tarquinii—The Cucumella—Its towers and contents—Analogy to the sepulchre of Alyattes at Sardis—Other tumuli—Warrior-tombs—Grotta d' Iside—Egyptian articles in an Etruscan tomb—Specimens of Etruscan female beauty—Painted pottery of Vulci—Bronzes and jewellery	397
APPENDIX. The painted tomb at Vulci	428

CHAPTER XXII.

MUSIGNANO.

Hints and warnings to travellers—A surprise—Canino—A caution—Lucien Bonaparte's villa at Musignano—Cabinet of vases—Bronzes—Flesh-hooks—Portraits of the Bonaparte family—Interesting sarcophagus	430
APPENDIX. Eyes on the painted vases—Two singular sarcophagi	438

CHAPTER XXIII.

TOSCANELLA—TUSCANIA.

Toscanello—Accommodation for the traveller—Campanari, brothers—Campanari's garden, and model tomb—Banqueting-hall of the dead—Etruscan sarcophagi explained—Etruscan passion for jewellery—Painted sculpture—Occupants of the model sepulchre—Tomb of the Calcarello—Sarcophagus of the Niobids—Remarks on sarcophagi of stone and earthenware—Capital of Paris and Helen—No history of this ancient town—Extant vestiges—Church of S. Pietro—The necropolis of Tuscania—Grotta Regina and its Labyrinth—Columbaria in the cliffs—Campanari's excavations—Etruscan collection in the British Museum—Value of sarcophagi—Environs of Toscanella	440
--	-----

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-02003-9 - The Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria, Volume 1

George Dennis

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

xviii

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER XXIV.

STATONIA.

	PAGE
Etruscan sites—Ischia—Italian squalor—Farnese—Castro—Picturesque desolation—Remains of antiquity—Proverbial gloominess—Site of Statonia disputed—Valentano—Lago Mezzano—Lake of Statonia and its floating island	462

CHAPTER XXV.

PITIGLIANO AND SORANO.

Phantom perils—Pitigliano and its “Baby”—Etruscan remains—Walls, roads, and tombs—Beauty of the ravines—Popular legends—Sorano—Casa Fantanti—Nox ambrosia—Romantic scenery—Few antiquities	471
--	-----

CHAPTER XXVI.

SOVANA—*SUVANA.*

Italy an unknown land to the antiquary—Mr. Ainsley’s discovery of an Etruscan necropolis at Sovana—Its site—A city of the plague—No ancient history—The Fontana—Etruscan mermaid—Poggio Prisca—Egyptian-like sepulchres—Sopraripa—Grotta Pola, and its portico—House-tombs—Abundance and variety of sepulchres—Numerous Etruscan inscriptions—Rock-sunk roads—Great interest of Sovana	480
APPENDIX. Mouldings of tombs at Sovana—Etruscan inscriptions	498

CHAPTER XXVII.

BOLSENA—*VOLSINII.*

Italian custom-houses—Acquapendente—Bye-roads—Le Grotte—San Lorenzo Vecchio—The Volsinian lake—Charms of a southern winter—Historical notices of Volsinii—Servile insurrection—Site of Volsinii, not at Bolsena, but on the table-land above—Vestiges of the Etruscan city—Roman relics—The amphitheatre—Scenery—Signs and wonders at Bolsena	501
---	-----

CHAPTER XXVIII.

MONTE FIASCONE—*FANUM VOLTUMNÆ?*

Lake of Bolsena—Its islands, miracles, and malaria—Monte Fiascone—Antiquity of the site—Cannot be Trossulum—May be Cenarea—More probably is the Fanum Voltumnæ—Speculations on that celebrated temple—Panorama of the Etruscan plain	514
--	-----

CHAPTER XXIX.

ORVIETO.

Delights of the pack-saddle—Glorious situation of Orvieto—Its Etruscan character—Its ancient name unknown—Etruscan tombs and relics—The Duomo of Orvieto	524
--	-----