ARCHAEOLOGY IN ETRURIA 2003–2009

INTRODUCTION

The last report on archaeology in Etruria was occasioned by the *Etruscans Now!* conference, held at the British Museum in December 2002 (the acts appeared as J. Swaddling and P. Perkins (eds), *Etruscan Studies* 9 and 10 [2002-2003 and 2004-2005]). Although the period covered by this report is shorter, the number of new publications, exhibitions and excavation projects in the period under consideration is greater. This review therefore focuses on the most significant new publications and discoveries, as well as the more prevalent topics in Etruscan archaeology of the past five to six years.

RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

Since the last report, printed sources of information on Etruscan archaeology have remained largely unchanged, but several important new internet resources have become available. Information on Etruscan studies and excavations is regularly published in *Studi Etruschi*, which remains the major journal of the field. The *Notizie degli Scavi* regularly publishes field reports of Etruscan excavations. *Etruscan Studies* covers American research in the field. The *Annali della Fondazione per il Museo* '*Claudio Faina*' has been efficient in publishing the foundation's yearly conferences and the latest information on archaeological work in Umbria. The latest installements include: G.M. Della Fina (ed.), *I greci in Etruria. Atti dell'11 convegno internazionale di studi sulla storia e l'archeologia dell'Etruria* (Rome 2004); G.M. della Fina (ed.), *Gli Etruschi e il Mediterraneao: commerci e politica. Atti del XIII convegno internazionale di studi sulla storia e l'archeologia dell'Etruria* (Rome 2006); G.M. della Fina (ed.), *Etruschi, greci, fenici e cartaginesi nel Mediterraneo centrale. Atti del XIV convegno internazionale di studi sulla storia e archeologia dell'Etruria* (Rome 2007).

The popular *Archeo* and *Archeologia Viva* are often the first to publish the latest discoveries and provide excellent colour illustrations. *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, *Papers of the British School at Rome* and *Mélanges d'Archéologie et d'Histoire de l'École Française de Rome, Antiquité* regularly include important Etruscan scholarship, especially excavation reports of the foreign institutions in Italy.

The conferences of the Istituto di Studi Etruschi ed Italici continue to be the most important meetings for Etruscologists. The two latest installments of proceedings have been published: S. Gori and M.C. Bettini, *Gli Etruschi da Genova ad Ampurias. Atti del XXIV Convegno di Studi Etruschi ed Italici, Marseille-Lattes, 2002* (Rome/Pisa 2006) (reviewed by J.M. Turfa, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2008.05.09); and *La città murata in Etruria. Atti del XXV Convegno di Studi Etruschi ed Italici, Chianciano Terme, Sarteano, Chiusi* (Rome/Pisa 2008) (Reviewed by I. van der Graaf, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009.07.70). Topical conferences and their publications are countless. The most important of them will, therefore, be mentioned in sections of this report covering specific subjects.

Etruscan News, Bollettino della Sezione Americana del'Istituto di Studi Etruschi ed Italici (available online: http://ancientstudies.fas.nyu.edu/page/etruscan), which has been published regularly since 2002, is devoted to the study of Etruscan archaeology, art history and linguistics, and is a great resource for the latest excavation reports, reviews, articles, news of museum exhibitions and conferences as well as announcements of other Etruscan and Roman news items.

Useful internet resources on recent and as yet unpublished excavations are the websites of the archaeological soprintendenze of Italy, in particular of Umbria (http://www.archeopg.arti.beniculturali.it/) and Emilia-Romagna (http://www.archeobo.arti.beniculturali.it/).

Among other useful and significant web resources, is the new electronic journal, inaugurated in 2008 by the Classics Department and the Center for Etruscan Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Rasenna: Journal of the Center for Etruscan Studies* (http://scholarworks.umass.edu/rasenna/). The journal aims to publish peer-reviewed articles that address topics across a range of interdisciplinary perspectives and to provide substantive reviews of the latest books in the field as well as to encourage scholarly responses to published articles. The electronic medium affords publication opportunities that cannot be matched by print journals due to cost and formatting constraints, and permits the publication of full-colour images, video segments and audio clips. Links to other sites can be embedded in the text. Publishing electronically can halve the amount of time elapsing between the submission of an article and its appearance in print, thus permitting more efficient transmission of scholarly ideas. Finally, given the rising cost of print production and decreasing funding for library resources, an electronic publication ensures that the international community of scholars has free and unlimited access to the latest research in the field.

A further useful service provided by the Center for Etruscan Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is an electronic archive of back issues of the journal *Etruscan Studies* dating from 1994 to 2001 (http://scholarworks.umass.edu/etruscan_studies/). More recent volumes will be posted as they become available.

Another new journal dedicated to Etruscan studies is *Officina Etruscologica*, which hopes to fill a gap in the archaeological sector of publications and to facilitate access to scholarship in the field. Conceived as a continuing workshop for the analysis and elaboration of information, the journal will provide a new way of communicating research on Etruscan and Italian archaeology, covering subjects ranging from the end of the BA to the period of Romanization. Focusing on archaeological records and finds from new field research or from materials recovered in museums, it will contribute to the current debate on methodology and keep pace with scientific progress in the field of anc. culture, whilst providing a convenient place for sharing new ideas and information. The journal will appear twice a year, and will include monograph issues of interest to the wider public as well as to the scholarly community. The first monograph issues will deal with the following topics: (1) the archaeology of production: workshops, furnaces and craftsmen's quarters; (2) between appropriation and re-elaboration: the circulation and diffusion of models; (3) Veii.

Among the **general publications** on Etruscan art and archaeology, V. Izzet, *The Archaeology of Etruscan Society* (Cambridge 2007) (reviewed by M.R. Ciuccarelli, *European Journal of Archaeology* 11 (2008), 105) discusses the changes that Etruscan society underwent at the end of the Ar period, dealing with various types of evidence, from mirrors to domestic and funerary architecture. Unique to this work is the theoretical framework, which considers material culture as playing an active role in structuring societies. A lively general illustrated guide to the architecture, painting and sculpture of the Etruscans is F. Borelli and F. C. Targia, *The Etruscans: Art,*

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Architecture, and History (Los Angeles 2004), which is particularly valuable for its 200 colour illustrations. Aimed at a younger audience, but of use to all students of Etruscan culture, is G.M. della Fina's *Etruschi: Vita quotidiana* (Rome 2005).

For specialists in the field, *Italia ante Romanum imperium. Scritti di antichità etrusche, italiche e romane (1958-1998)* (Pisa 2005) gathers together the writings of Giovanni Colonna in an impressive six-volume publication.

Etruria offers an exceptional opportunity to probe the extent of ritual practices in the anc. world, because of the diverse range of evidence available for the study of **Etruscan religion**. Etruscan religion has been a very prominent focus of investigation, with numerous conferences and volumes dedicated to the various aspects of mythology, ritual, divination and other pertinent topics, many of them in English. J.-R. Jannot, *Religion in Ancient Etruria* (Madisson WI 2005, transl. J.K. Whitehead; original French version 1998) and N.T. de Grummond and E. Simon (eds), *The Religion of the Etruscans* (Austin 2006) (reviewed by A. Carpino, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2006.08.57) provide comprehensive overviews of Etruscan religion, based on combined literary, archaeological and artistic evidence. Our understanding of Etruscan gods and their mythologies has also been expanded by the publication of N.T. de Grummond, *Etruscan Myth, Sacred History and Legend* (Philadelphia 2006) (reviewed by B.B. Powell, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2007.06.16) and L. Bonfante and J. Swaddling, *Etruscan Myths* (London/Austin 2006). The *Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum* (*ThesCRA*) (Los Angeles 2004-2006) also offers many contributions dealing with various iconographical and archaeological aspects of Etruscan religion. M. Gleba and H. Becker (eds), *Votives, Places and Rituals in Etruscan Religion. Studies in Honor of Jean MacIntosh Turfa* (Leiden 2008) (reviewed by L. Cleland, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009.06.55) offers a collection of essays that focuses on Etruscan ritual through different case-studies considering mortuary customs, votive rituals and other religious and daily-life practices. The archaeology of Etruscan religion was also the topic of the international colloquium *Material Aspects of Etruscan Religion*, held in Leiden in 2008 (B. van der Meer, forthcoming). Several important articles on Etruscan religion can be found in C. Schultz and P. Harvey (eds), *Religion in Republican Italy* (Cambridge 2007) (reviewed by R. Stewart, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2008.05.05).

An additional topic that has come into fashion in the past few years is the **archaeology of identity**, which looks at the development of individual and group identities and the processes by which these form, change and interact. In this respect, the interactions between the various cultures of Italy, the Mediterranean and Europe continue to be an important investigative direction, exemplified by the volume G. Bradley, E. Isayev and C. Riva (eds), *Ancient Italy Regions without Frontiers* (Exeter 2007). The colloquium *Gender Identity in the First Millennium BC Italy*, held in London in 2006 (E. Herring and K. Lomas [eds], 2009) dealt specifically with female identity and the role of gender in the formation of identities in early Italy. Another symposium, *Communicating Identities in Iron Age Italic Communities*, held in Copenhagen in 2008 (M. Gleba and H. Hornæs [eds], Oxford forthcoming) explored the many and varied identities of the Italic peoples of the IA from N to S of the Apennine peninsula, both the personal identities of the individuals and the identities of groups on various political, social, gender, ethnic and religious levels.

The field of Etruscan **epigraphy and language** has benefited from several recent publications and new online resources. E. Benelli, *Iscrizioni Etrusche. Leggerle e capirle* (Ancona 2007) is an introduction to non-specialists, although many entries will prove useful to specialists as well. R.E. Wallace, *Zikh Rasna* (Ann Arbor/New York 2008) is a comprehensive description of Etruscan grammar and inscriptions designed for classicists, linguists and archaeologists, as well as interested readers from other disciplines. Besides presenting all the grammatical elements of the language, the text also covers important methodological approaches, the alphabet, regional variations in language and orthography, historical changes and the evidence for connecting Etruscan to Lemnian and Raetic. It treats nearly 200 inscriptional texts from a wide variety of genres, with word-by-word analyses of great value to students.

More specialized, but of great value for the study of Etruscan palaeography, epigraphy and language, is G. Colonna and D.F. Maras, *Corpus Inscriptionum Etruscarum* I.5 (Pisa/Rome 2006) (reviewed by J.M. Turfa, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2007.07.04 and R.E. Wallace, *Rasenna* 2/1 [2009]). The fascicule deals with the inscriptions from Veii, mainly from the Ar period, but also contains addenda to volume II, from the Faliscan, Capenate and Sabine territories. A long awaited revised edition of *Thesaurus Linguae Etruscae. I. Indice lessicale*, edited by E. Benelli with the collaboration of M. Pandolfini Angeletti and V. Belfiore (Pisa/Rome 2009), is a wonderful update of the first 1978 edition by M. Pallottino.

Of relevance to both epigraphic and religious studies is a much needed and excellent new classified collection of Etruscan votive epigraphic material by D.F. Maras, *Il dono votivo. Gli dei e il sacro nelle iscrizioni etrusche di culto* (Pisa/Roma 2009).

Another major contribution to the study of Etruscan language, as well as religion, is the first complete analysis of and comment on a unique Etruscan document; L.B. van der Meer, *Liber Linteus Zagrabiensis. The Linen Book of Zagreb. A Comment on the Longest Etruscan Text* (Leuven 2007) (reviewed by J.M. Turfa, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2008.05.37). Known as the Mummy Wrappings of Zagreb, it is dated to the first half of the 2nd Ct BC and contains the longest known Etruscan text (ca. 1,330 words).

Several important studies on Etruscan and Italic names have appeared. M. Morandi Tarabella, *Prosopographia Etrusca* I,1 (Rome 2004) is a catalogue raisonné of all known southern Etruscan family names from the 7th to the 1st Ct BC that includes 629 alphabetically ordered entries, while S. Marchesini, *Prosopographia Etrusca*, II, 1, *Studia. Gentium Mobilitas* (Rome 2007) sketches a picture of ethnic movements and the consequent admixture of people (*gentes*) in Ar Etruria, especially in the southern part of this territory. P. Poccetti (ed.), *L'onomastica dell'Italia antica: aspetti linguistici, storici, culturali, tipologici e classificatori* (Rome 2009) is a publication of a conference dedicated to the complex topic of the onomastic patrimony of Italy.

A wonderful new tool is provided by the *Etruscan Texts Project* (*ETP*), an online *editio minor* of Etruscan inscriptions published under the auspices of the Classics Department and the Center for Etruscan Studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (http://etp.classics.umass.edu/). Reliable web resources devoted to the study of the Etruscan language are virtually non-existent, so the presence of *ETP* establishes a scholarly outpost on the frontier of the electronic medium. *ETP* makes recently recovered Etruscan inscriptions available to the scholarly community in a user-friendly format. The corpus includes inscriptions that have been recovered since 1988 and thus not published in H. Rix, *Etruskische Texte* (Tübingen 1991). *ETP* updates the corpus on a monthly basis as Etruscan inscriptions are recovered and made public.

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In the field of archaeological remains, the publications are, again, too numerous to provide a complete list here, so only the more significant among them will be mentioned. An important contribution to the discussion of early Etruscan and Rom **architecture** is G. Cifani, *Architettura romana arcaica. Edilizia e società tra Monarchia e Reppublica* (Rome 2008) – a comprehensive catalogue of 121 contexts in Rome and its surroundings which have yielded remains of buildings dating to the Ar period, including recent finds such as the so-called Auditorium villa and the Ar houses on the Palatine.

On architectural **terracottas**, a major contribution to the field is the monumental N.A. Winter, *Symbols of Wealth and Power. Architectural Terracotta Decoration in Etruria and Central Italy, 640-510 BC* (Ann Arbor 2009), which provides a definitive overview of the evidence for these roofing elements that will enhance our knowledge of Etruscan and anc. architecture. The third volume of the triennial *Deliciae Fictiles* conventions, featuring papers on new discoveries and research on architectural terracottas in anc. Italy, has appeared (I. Edlund-Berry, J. Kenfield and G. Greco [eds], Oxford 2006). The fourth *Deliciae Fictiles* conference (October 2009) focused on mostly handmade terracotta roof decoration from Etruria and central Italy, Campania and Sicily featuring images of gods, monsters and heroes.

A lavishly illustrated volume, S. Steingräber, *Abundance of Life: Etruscan Wall Painting* (Los Angeles 2006) (reviewed by R. De Puma, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2007.08.54) traces the stylistic and iconographic evolution of Etruscan **wall paintings** over a span of 500 years, analyzing what they reveal about Etruscan daily life, religion and funerary rites. The volume, written by one of the most important authorities on the subject, provides an update to the author's still unsurpassed *Etruscan Painting. Catalogue Raisonné of Etruscan Wall Painting* (New York 1986) and includes the latest discoveries and a careful review of the present state of our knowledge about this important area of Etruscan studies.

An important contribution to the field of Etruscan **vase painting** is M.E. Masci, *Picturae Etruscorum in Vasculis. La raccolta vaticana e il collezionismo di vasi antichi nel primo Settecento. Musei Vaticani: Museo Gregoriano Etrusco* (Rome 2008), the first volume to appear in a new series, *Documenti e Monografie*, that will make available the riches of the Vatican archives in order to reconstruct the history of the collection of the Museo Gregoriano Etrusco. It reproduces in colour the drawings and watercolours made by the painter Bartolomeo Poli in 1734, of Etruscan, Attic and Apulian vases in the Vatican collections, often presented together with the original vases.

Numerous important studies on **ceramics** have appeared, particularly on bucchero. P. Perkins, *Etruscan Bucchero in the Collection of the British Museum* (London 2007) (reviewed by R. De Puma, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2008.08.33) aims to provide a complete up-to-date listing and description of the collection of bucchero in the British Museum, which consists of over 300 items including examples of all the important regional productions of bucchero. This replaces a previous, partial publication of the collection in 1932.

Other works to be noted are: A. Naso (ed.), *Appunti sul bucchero: atti delle giornate di studio* (Florence 2004); W. Regter, *Imitation and Creation. Development of Early Bucchero Design at Cerveteri in the Seventh Century BC* (Amsterdam 2003); S. Stopponi (ed.), texts and illustrations by F. Capponi and S. Ortenzi, *Museo Claudio Faina di Orvieto. Buccheri* (Perugia 2006), the tenth catalogue to be published from this rich collection, covering 460 black or grey bucchero vases in a wide range of shapes and types, mostly typical of the regions of Orvieto and Chiusi.

M.C. Biella, *Impasti Orientalizzanti con decorazione ad incavo nell'Italia centrale tirrenica* (Rome 2007) studies the Or fabric decorated with images and ornamental designs cut out of the polished, dark surface of brownish impasto; these were originally inlaid with a coloured material so that the tableware had the appearance of precious *niello* or intaglio. The dark impasto fabric was related to the deep black bucchero from S Etruria. The book is a painstaking account of the provenances, centres of production and chronology of these vases, made in the course of the 7th Ct BC, principally in Falerii and Capena. L.M. Michetti, *Le ceramiche argentate e a rilievo in Etruria nella prima età ellenistica* (Rome 2003) is the first systematic overview of Etruscan 'silvered pottery', including a catalogue of 700 entries. Based on careful consideration of known archaeological contexts, this monumental study provides conclusions regarding the identification of production centres (Volsinii, Falerii and Volterra) and the assessment of chronology and iconography, in particular Tarentine influences. Another important contribution on a vast but largely neglected class of fineware with linear decoration is D. Frère (ed.), *Ceramiche fini a decoro subgeometrico del VI secolo a.C. in Etruria meridionale e in Campania* (Rome 2007).

While the publication of *Corpus Vasorium Antiquorum* (*CVA*) fascicles continues, an invaluable new website is the *CVA* project (http://www.cvaonline.org), which began digitizing the available fascicles in 2002, finishing in September 2004. The project is ongoing; new fascicles are being published and participating museums have the opportunity to contribute to the online database.

Several contributions on Etruscan **mirrors** should be noted: A.A. Carpino, *Discs of Splendor: The Relief Mirrors of the Etruscans* (Madison WI 2003); and N.T. de Grummond, *Corpus Speculorum Etruscorum. Great Britain 3: Oxford* (Rome 2007), which covers the mirrors from the Ashmolean Museum, Claydon House and the Pitt Rivers Museum.

B. van der Meer, *Myths and More on Etruscan Stone Sarcophagi* (Louvain/Dudley, MA 2004) is the first systematic treatment of Etruscan **stone sarcophagi** since Helbig's study of 1952. The main focus of the volume is on the iconography and its interpretation, but it also discusses chronology, provenance and the people interred.

The first systematic investigation of **textile** production in Etruscan and Italic societies is M. Gleba, *Textile Production in Pre-Roman Italy* (Oxford 2008). Featuring a comprehensive analysis of textile remains and textile tools from the period, the book recovers information about funerary ritual, the sexual differentiation of labour (the spinners and weavers were usually women) and the important role played by the exchange of luxury textiles in the emergence of an élite.

Luxury objects in alabaster, glass, bone, ivory and ostrich egg, mainly from the Tarquinia, are collectively published in F. Colivicchi, *Materiali in alabastro, vetro, avorio, osso, uova di struzzo. Materiali del Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Tarquinia* by (Rome 2007) (reviewed by J.M. Turfa, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009.08.53).

Etruscan **jewellery** and its artistic influence has been the focus of several exhibitions throughout the world, with particular reference to the major collections of Campana. The exhibition *Castellani and Italian Archaeological Jewellery* was on display in Paris, New York and Rome in 2004-2006: see A.M. Moretti Sgubini and F. Boitani, *I Castellani e l'oreficeria archeologica italiana (*Rome 2005); F. Gaultier and C. Metzger, *Trésors antiques. Bijoux de la collection Campana* (Paris 2005); S.W. Soros and S. Walker, *Castellani and Italian Archaeological Jewelry* (New York 2004).

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The second and last installment on the Guglielmi collection, which was an outcome of extensive archaeological research carried out in Vulci in the first decades of the 19th Ct, has been published: M. Sannibale (ed.), *La raccolta Giacinto Guglielmi, Parte II: Bronzi e materiali vari. Musei Vaticani, Museo Gregoriano Etrusco, Cataloghi, 4/2* (Rome 2008) (reviewed by M.C. Biella, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2009.06.02).

Finally, several important festchrifts with Etruscans topics should be mentioned: S. Bell and H. Nagy (eds), *New Perspectives on Etruria and Early Rome* (Madison, WI 2009); J. Swaddling and P. Perkins (eds), *Etruscan by Definition: Papers in Honour of Sybille Haynes* (London 2009).

SITE REPORTS

Numerous important site reports and syntheses on specific sites have appeared.

On the Etruscan town of **Marzabotto**, E. Govi, *Marzabotto, an Etruscan Town* (Bologna 2007) provides a richly illustrated introduction, while M. Bentz and C. Reusser, *Marzabotto. Planstadt der Etrusker* (Mainz am Rhein 2008) is a detailed and up-to-date synthesis on the subject. The latter includes recent excavations, such as the newly discovered sanctuary of Tinia (since 1999) which is important both architecturally and in terms of votive finds. The famous Gr marble kouros can now be attributed to this sanctuary. A new find from the sanctuary is a bronze kore statuette holding a flower bud in her right hand, one of the finest products of Etruscan sculpture.

A new contribution to studies on anc. **Felsina** is G. Sassatelli and A. Donati, *Storia di Bologna. Bologna nell'antichitá* (Bologna 2005). M.E. Tamburini-Müller, *La necropoli Campo del Tesoro-Lavatoio di Verucchio (Rn)* (Bologna 2006) is dedicated to the study of the earliest Etruscan burial nucleus of **Verucchio**; the material is partly preserved in the Museo Civico Archeologico di Bologna. M. Bonamici, *Volterra: l'acropoli e il suo santuario. Scavi 1987-1995* (Pisa 2003) (reviewed by W.V. Harris, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2005.05.11) makes available the results of nine years of excavation on the acropolis of **Volterra**, which focused on the Hel phase and on the earlier levels dating back to the BA.

New studies on **Chiusi** include: M. Iozzo, *Materiali dimenticati, memorie recuperate. Restauri e acquisizioni nel Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Chiusi* (Chiusi 2007), which deals with a fragment of a Gr vase discovered in 2003 in the area of Fonte Rotella that turned out be a part of a krater known since the 19th Ct and currently in the Archaeological Museum of Florence, thus confirming the Clusine provenance of the vase.

See also, A. Minetti, *L'orientalizzante a Chiusi e nel suo territorio* (Rome 2004), which for the first time collects together all the information on the grave goods of about 80 mainly unpublished tombs of this period and addresses the issues of chronology, typology and topographical distribution of tombs; and G. Paolucci, *Documenti e memorie sulle antichità e il museo di Chiusi* (Pisa/Roma 2005).

On **Orvieto**, there is *Etruschi a Orvieto: Il Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Orvieto: collezioni e territorio* (Ponte San Giovanni 2006).

R. Leighton, ***Tarquinia***. *An Etruscan City* (London 2004) (reviewed by P.S. Lulof, *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* 2005.07.30) is a study exclusively dedicated to one Etruscan site, but it also presents the results of thorough research within a deep understanding of Etruscan society, based on all available sources. The book is an introduction to this key site as well as to important topics in Etruscan archaeology and is an example of a welcome new phase in Etruscan studies that attempts to put physical sites into the broadest socio-economic and political context possible.

Mario Cygielman and L. Pagnini, *La Tomba del Tridente a Vetulonia* (Pisa/Rome 2005) presents the results of a study of the documentation of early excavations, in this case the records of an excavation carried out in 1902 by Isidoro Falchi of an EOr tomb in **Vetulonia** with extremely luxurious grave goods. These include the remains of several chariots, armour, wool-working equipment, as well as gold, silver and amber ornaments.

EXCAVATIONS

Bologna and surrounds

In Emilia Romagna, much work has been carried out by the Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici dell'Emilia-Romagna in the Bologna area.

A Proto-Felsinean necropolis was discovered at **Marano Castenaso**, a suburb of Bologna, and was excavated by the Soprintendenza Archeologica dell'Emilia Romagna. Nine cremation burials were excavated, all dated to the 7th Ct BC, eight of which contained intact wooden boxes and one of which was *a pozzetto* tomb. Four tombs were covered with a layer of pebbles. Eight tombs had single funerary stelae and burial no. 2 had two. The burials contained vases and bronze items, in some cases decorated with amber and glass paste. Over tombs 7-9, the 'Stele of the Swords' was found with traces of paint still present on its surface. It has a typical Proto-Felsinean horseshoe shape and is decorated with waterfowl, wheels, palmettes and a feline (**Fig. 1**). Two figures brandishing swords are depicted at the base. This is the first scientifically excavated necropolis of the Proto-Felsinean period.

New Etruscan necropoleis (**Fig. 2**) were discovered in **Bologna** on Piazza Azzarita, Piazza VIII Agosto, Via Belle Arti and ex Manifattura Tabacchi, while settlement remains were excavated on Via Andrea Costa and in the Fiera Quarter. In the necropolis of Via Belle Arti, among the 170 burials dated to the 8–7th Ct BC, a burial containing two horses was found, the cast of which is currently exhibited in the Civic Museum of Bologna. The animals, buried under a large tumulus of river pebbles, were probably buried with their hind legs tied and were found still with bronze bits in their mouths. A large bronze lance was placed on the neck of one of the horses at throat level; it is likely that this was the weapon used to sacrifice the animals. It is not possible to attribute the tumulus to a single tomb: more likely the horse sacrifice may be connected to several surrounding burials or even to a larger area of the necropolis.

Verucchio

Patrizia von Eles reports that, since 2005, the excavation of the Villanovan Lippi necropolis at Verucchio has recommenced. Its main objectives are: (1) to verify as much as possible the topographic organization of the necropolis, and, with this in mind, more than 350 tombs excavated by Brizio, Scarani, Zuffa, Gentili and Bermond Montanari have been integrated into the GIS system; (2) to dedicate particular attention to the stratigraphic relationships and post-depositional processes in order to identify the articulation of funerary structures and to acquire detailed information regarding funerary rituals, integrating these data with the knowledge acquired by Gentili and Bermond Montanari; (3) to develop and implement a database in order to integrate and cross-analyse the data from the old and new excavations. This database can be used for the investigation of other Villanovan necropoleis and easily adapted to any necropolis, in particular those with cremation burials.

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