

Etruscan Literacy in its Social Context

*edited by
Ruth D. Whitehouse*

Etruscan Literacy in its Social Context



edited by
Ruth D. Whitehouse

VOLUME 18
ACCORDIA SPECIALIST STUDIES ON ITALY
(Series Editors: Ruth D. Whitehouse)
ACCORDIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Published by
Accordia Research Institute
University of London
c/o Institute of Archaeology
Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record of this book is available from the British Library

Computer typeset by the Accordia Research Institute

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers

Published 2020

© Accordia Research Institute, University of London

Cover: layout & design © Accordia Research Institute

Image: Crocefisso del Tufo cemetery at Orvieto, inscription over tomb entrance; photograph by Ruth Whitehouse

ISBN 978 1 873415 37 5

Printed and bound in Great Britain

This book is dedicated to the memory of John Wilkins (27.4.1935 – 8.3.2017)
scholar of language, literacy and society of ancient Italy

Contents

Preface and Acknowledgements	<i>ix</i>
Abbreviations	<i>x</i>
Introduction <i>Ruth D. Whitehouse</i>	<i>1</i>
The Social Context of Proto-Literacy in Central Italy: the case of Poggio Civitate <i>Anthony Tuck & Rex Wallace</i>	<i>9</i>
Etruscan Inscriptions on Pottery Vessels: contexts and functions (8 th –6 th centuries BC) <i>Jean Gran-Aymerich & Jean Hadas-Lebel</i>	<i>21</i>
Potters' Signatures: the relationship between craftsmen and artefacts <i>Valentina Belfiore & Lucilla Medori</i>	<i>41</i>
Etruscan Vase Painters: literate or illiterate? <i>Dimitris Paleothodoros</i>	<i>69</i>
'Drawing' Inscriptions: preliminary remarks on writing artisans in 7 th century BC Faliscan territory <i>Maria Cristina Biella</i>	<i>91</i>
Engravers and Readers of Inscribed Etruscan Gems <i>Laura Ambrosini</i>	<i>103</i>
The International Etruscan <i>Sigla</i> Project: an introduction <i>Giovanna Bagnasco Gianni & Nancy T. de Grummond</i>	<i>113</i>
Traces of Orality in Writing <i>Daniele Maras</i>	<i>125</i>
Writing Time and Space in Ancient Etruria <i>Massimiliano Di Fazio</i>	<i>135</i>
Writing Against the Image <i>Larissa Bonfante</i>	<i>145</i>
Between Etruscans and Phoenicians: the impiety of Thefarie <i>Maurizio Harari</i>	<i>151</i>
Evidence for Etruscan Archives: tracking the epigraphic habit in tombs, the sacred sphere, and at home <i>Hilary Becker</i>	<i>159</i>
Personal Names in Early Etruscan Inscriptions: an anthropological perspective <i>Ruth D. Whitehouse</i>	<i>181</i>
Addresses of contributors	<i>195</i>
Notes for authors	<i>197</i>

Preface and Acknowledgements

The conference from which this volume arises was held at the Institute of Classical Studies (School of Advanced Studies), University of London in September 2010. Its aim was expressed in its name, preserved in the title of this volume: *Etruscan Literacy in its Social Context*. The conference itself took its name from a research project organised by myself and John Wilkins with Kathryn Lomas as Research Fellow and funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council. This project, which ran from 2005 to 2009, was restricted to the earlier period of Etruscan writing (8th to 5th centuries BC). The aim of the conference was to draw on the interests and expertise of the larger Etruscology community to explore the social context of Etruscan writing on a broad chronological, geographical, and thematic basis.

The current publication, intended to follow soon after the conference, has been sadly delayed by the illness and then death of John Wilkins, to whom the volume is dedicated.

In the last year the scholarly community has also lost Larissa Bonfante, doyenne of Anglophone Etruscan studies and a good friend to *Accordia*. It is a melancholy privilege to include what may be her last published paper in this volume.

My debt to John is immeasurable, in intellectual as well as personal terms. He introduced me, previously exclusively a prehistorian, to an exploration of ancient societies illuminated by the study of their writing, however fragmentary its survival and difficult its interpretation. Our joint interest in exploring how writing functioned in ancient society was behind two successive research projects and the conference published in this volume.

I would like to thank Kathryn Lomas for her major contribution to the organisation of the conference and for all her hard work on the *Etruscan Literacy* Project. I am also grateful to Mike Edwards, former director of the Institute of Classical Studies, for hosting the conference at the ICS.

I wish to record my gratitude to the contributors to the volume, who have responded to the delay in publication with patience and tolerance and whose understanding has helped me through a difficult process.

Ruth D. Whitehouse
London
January 2020

ABBREVIATIONS

Castellina 2011	Gran-Aymerich, J. & Domínguez-Arranz, A. (eds) 2011. <i>La Castellina a sud di Civitavecchia, origini ed eredità. Origines protohistoriques et évolution d'un habitat étrusque.</i> L'Erma di Bretschneider, Rome
CIE	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Etruscarum</i>
CII	<i>Corpus Inscriptionum Italicarum</i>
CSE	<i>Corpus Speculorum Etruscorum</i>
ES	Gerhard, E., Klugmann, A. & Koerte G. 1840–1897. <i>Etruskische Spiegel, I–V.</i> Reimer, Berlin
ET	Rix H. (ed.) 1991. <i>Etruskische Texte. Editio minor.</i> Gunter Narr, Tübingen
Etrusker in Berlin 2010	<i>Etruskische Kunst in der Berliner Antikensammlung. Eine Einführung.</i> Schnell & Steiner, Regensburg
Gli Etruschi 2015	<i>Gli Etruschi maestri di scrittura. Società e cultura nell'Italia antica.</i> Silvana editoriale, Cinisello Balsamo
Italia 2005	Colonna G., 2005. <i>Italia ante Romanum imperium. Scritti di antichità etrusche, italiche e romane (1958-1998)</i> Istituti editoriali e poligrafici internazionali, Pisa
LIMC	<i>Lexicon Iconographicum Mitologiae Classicae</i>
Rasenna 1986	Pallottino, M. et al. (eds) 1986. <i>Rasenna: storia e civiltà degli Etruschi.</i> Scheiwiller, Milan
Rediscovering Pompeii	Franchi Dell'Orto, L., & Varone, A.,(eds) 1990. <i>Rediscovering Pompeii Exhibition Catalogue (New York 12 July – 15 September 1990).</i> L' Erma di Bretschneider, Rome
REE	<i>Rivista di epigrafia etrusca</i> (in <i>Studi Etruschi</i>)
SE	<i>Studi Etruschi</i>
ST	Rix H. 2002. <i>Sabellische Texte. Die Texte des Oskischen, Umbrischen und Südpikenischen.</i> Winter, Heidelberg
TLE ²	Pallottino, M. 1968. <i>Testimonia linguae Etruscae.</i> 2nd ed. La Nuova Italia, Florence