Etruscan Literacy in its Social Context

edited by
Ruth D. Whitehouse
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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

Abbreviations

Introduction

Ruth D. Whitehouse

1

The Social Context of Proto-Literacy in Central Italy: the case of Poggio Civitate

Anthony Tuck & Rex Wallace

9

Etruscan Inscriptions on Pottery Vessels: contexts and functions (8th–6th centuries BC)

Jean Gran-Aymerich & Jean Hadas-Lebel

21

Potters’ Signatures: the relationship between craftsmen and artefacts

Valentina Belfiore & Lucilla Medori

41

Etruscan Vase Painters: literate or illiterate?

Dimitris Paleothodoros

69

‘Drawing’ Inscriptions: preliminary remarks on writing artisans

in 7th century BC Faliscan territory

Maria Cristina Biella

91

Engravers and Readers of Inscribed Etruscan Gems

Laura Ambrosini

103

The International Etruscan Sigla Project: an introduction

Giovanna Bagnasco Gianni & Nancy T. de Grummond

113

Traces of Orality in Writing

Daniele Maras

125

Writing Time and Space in Ancient Etruria

Massimiliano Di Fazio

135

Writing Against the Image

Larissa Bonfante

145

Between Etruscans and Phoenicians: the impiety of Thefarie

Maurizio Harari

151

Evidence for Etruscan Archives: tracking the epigraphic habit in tombs, the sacred sphere, and at home

Hilary Becker

159

Personal Names in Early Etruscan Inscriptions: an anthropological perspective

Ruth D. Whitehouse

181

Addresses of contributors

195

Notes for authors

197
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


CIE  Corpus Inscriptionum Etruscarum

CH  Corpus Inscriptionum Italicarum

CSE  Corpus Specularum Etruscorum


Etruscher in Berlin 2010  Etruskische Kunst in der Berliner Antikensammlung. Eine Einführung.  Schnell & Steiner, Regensburg


LIMC  Lexicon Iconographicum Mitologiae Classicae


REE  Rivista di epigrafia etrusca (in Studi Etruschi)

SE  Studi Etruschi


TLE²  Pallottino, M. 1968. Testimonia linguae Etruscae. 2nd ed. La Nuova Italia, Florence