

FOREWORD

With this volume we introduce a new feature in the *Cities of the Etruscans* series of the University of Texas Press, whereby we will expand the examination of Etruscan habitation sites by incorporating studies of single, smaller Etruscan communities. Our series began with the idea of creating volumes dedicated to the urban centers of the Etruscans, considering that ancient texts tell us that the Etruscans had an alliance of Twelve Peoples or city-states. Such sites, identifiable through a combination of literary and archaeological evidence, raise questions about the formation and development of urban environments and the accommodation of large populations within cities that played a highly significant role in historical events. Abundant material evidence both helps to establish the identity of these towns and their inhabitants and allows researchers to address a wide range of topics related to society, religion, economy, trade, art, and government.

Thus far in the series the volumes on Caere and Veii have been completed, and as we worked on these volumes we realized the value of including Etruscan settlements not necessarily defined as a city proper. In this way the series as a whole can offer a full and varied examination of Etruscan life, culture, and habitation. In the region inhabited by the Etruscans there are numerous smaller specialized habitation sites, varying in size and population, that served such varied functions as fortress, sanctuary, trade center, harbor, and production zone (or sometimes combining two or three such functions). These settlements may be situated close to urban areas or found in

the remote countryside. Regardless of their location, they greatly enhance our understanding of Etruscan settled life. They fill in an important gap, providing significant data about communities outside of city walls. It is our hope that by incorporating this expanded view of Etruscan cities and communities, our series will also provide a model for how scholars can better approach the ancient Mediterranean as a whole.

Cetamura del Chianti is thus the subject of the first volume in the newly named series, *Cities and Communities of the Etruscans*. This hilltop settlement may serve to illustrate the type of information that comes from examining the smaller communities and how such data can broaden our view about the larger settlements. Cetamura is located almost exactly at the crossroads of four major Etruscan cities that are to be studied in the series: Chiusi, Arezzo, Volterra, and Fiesole. Without Cetamura there is quite a large gap in habitation between these cities. Further, since Cetamura, unlike those four sites, is not inhabited in modern times, it offers the chance to follow up on discoveries without the frustration that comes when a modern town and its installations block progress in excavation. It also offers the chance to excavate a larger percentage of the known site than will ever be possible for some of the great cities because they lie under modern ones.

In regard to time period, Cetamura is exceptional for what it reveals about the era when some large cities were disintegrating in southern Etruria amid wars with the Romans during the fourth to first centuries BCE. Very likely some of its inhabitants came from the south to the north with the understanding that there would be a new mode of living on the hilltops, one that would allow them still to prosper in difficult times. They created an artisans' zone where a number of crafts were practiced side by side, a pattern that may have been more common than has been recognized in the archaeological record of the cities.

Cetamura also provides a model for habitation in which a sanctuary was created immediately adjoining the artisans' zone, and we have clear evidence that the artisans frequented the sanctuary. This situation allows us to focus on the religious practice of a specialized stra-

tum of society. The Cetamura sanctuary is unique for many reasons, not least of which is the fact that it fostered cult worship of Lur and Leinth, two relatively little known Etruscan deities. Are they the main deities typical for a small community like Cetamura, as opposed to major city protectors such as Uni, Tinia, or Menerva?

The two wells of Cetamura are exceptional for providing stratigraphic columns in which it is possible to follow not only the cultural development but also the nature of the environment of Chianti over a period of some six hundred years. A staggering amount of wood, some of it worked, and as an assemblage quite rare, was retrieved from the two wells. Studies of pollen and seeds also vividly reveal the history of the oak forests and the vineyards of Chianti from Etruscan to Roman times. In fact the site is of the greatest interest for what it tells us about the oft-discussed issues around the “Romanization” of the Etruscans. One of the latest-known Etruscan settlements, Cetamura provides crystal-clear evidence of the moment when it became the property of a Roman, evidently one of the soldiers of Octavian who retired right after the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE.

There are numerous other Etruscan settlements, some smaller and some larger, that deserve to be studied with a close-up lens in the way that Cetamura is examined in this volume, so that their special contributions to this civilization may be recognized and integrated into the study of habitation within a larger archaeological scope. The aim is to provide a spectrum of sites, not so much to contrast city and countryside (though this is of course important) as to try to understand the relationship between sites of different sizes, functions, economic and social systems, and environments and how they may have been drawn together in networks of exchange of goods and ideas. The picture we have of Etruscan civilization at present is very rich but is also notoriously still riddled with gaps that limit our understanding. Incorporating the smaller communities, often fascinating in themselves, into the larger study of Etruscan habitation can provide fuller and more detailed comprehension of life in ancient Etruria.

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