

## PREFACE

---

ELISABETTA GOVI

Its optimal conservation has made the city of Marzabotto, whose ancient name was probably Kainua, renowned among the Etruscan cities. Ever since the first archaeological investigations in the middle of the nineteenth century, the site has been compared to Pompeii,<sup>1</sup> because its preservation facilitated the reconstruction of both the entire urban layout and its components (houses, workshops, sacred buildings, tombs). During research in the twentieth century, the city was a focus of scientific debate because of its foundation rite and related structures, which represent extraordinary archaeological traces of the city's founding in the Etruscan ritual, described in Latin literary sources. Today, our available knowledge about the city has been enriched by important new discoveries and the systematic study of old excavations, which have rewarded renewed attention. Thus, Marzabotto deserves to be considered in this series of Etruscan Cities, even if it was set apart from the Tyrrhenian *duodecim populi* to which the series is generally dedicated. This city perfectly embodies the Etruscan model of a founded and planned city, offering a very useful ensemble for comparison with other sites. The idea of writing a book about this city arises from the necessity to summarize the most recent finds, collecting the advances made in the last twenty years of study and research.

Recently other publications have been dedicated to Marzabotto;<sup>2</sup> however, this is the first book on the topic written in English and for a wide international audience. The main purpose is to update our information about the site and at the same time display

the study and research methodology, which is integrated, complex, multidisciplinary, and experimental: Marzabotto has therefore been transformed into an exciting laboratory, as the "Kainua Project" demonstrates.<sup>3</sup> This volume shows the results of a study based on a "city-scale" perspective: in this way, cultural phenomena are always analyzed not only from an urban but also from a regional point of view, and can be compared and integrated with what is known about Etruria Padana and its cities and Etruria in its entirety. Thus, the reconstruction of the history of the city aims to present the most complete scenario, despite the total lack of written sources.

This book embodies more than thirty years of research in Marzabotto, conducted by the team from the University of Bologna, first under the direction of Giuseppe Sassatelli and recently under my supervision. Here are displayed the results of the annual excavation campaigns carried out since 1988, and the studies by young researchers, often dedicated to the reassessment of old excavations.

Marzabotto has a long excavation history and, for a long time, was considered a key field of interest for researchers not only of Etruscan studies, but also of urban planning and ancient architecture. From the middle of the twentieth century, after a long period of excavation, a notably different approach was applied by Giuseppe Sassatelli, who, from 1988, carried out uninterrupted investigations with a precise scientific goal that was not limited to merely adding context to our present knowledge. He developed an investigative method based on scientific precision, constantly an-

chored to the finds and stratigraphic data, and involving a wide multidisciplinary spectrum, indispensable for correct historical reconstruction. Thus, with the excavation first of House 1 of *Regio IV*, 2 and then of the urban peripteral temple of Tinia, he set up an integrated approach, combining multiple perspectives in a graded scale from the individual excavation contexts to the entire urban framework, and avoiding a sector-based vision. From the analysis of building and production techniques to the elaboration of general typologies, and from object data to the interpretation of the historical and cultural phenomena that produced them, this approach is today a consolidated investigative system. The recent “Kainua Project,” set up from a wide, interdisciplinary perspective to tackle scientific issues with new, effective instruments, is proof of his success.<sup>4</sup>

My sincere gratitude goes to all the authors for having enthusiastically taken part in this challenge. Special thanks to Stefano Santocchini Gerg for generously helping me in the editorial review; to Anna Serra and Carlotta Trevisanello for the translation of some chapters of the volume; and to Joelle Mary Crowle for the linguistic revision of the entire text.

The work of the archaeologists has been supported over the years by many collaborations within the University of Bologna, in the Departments of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences; of Architecture; of Civil, Chemical, Environmental, and Materials Engineering; and of Physics and Astronomy. My thanks go to all these colleagues.

The research was possible thanks to the ongoing economic support of the University of Bologna, Alma Mater Studiorum, which we thank for having always believed in the Marzabotto project.

My heartfelt thanks also go to the National Minis-

try of Cultural Heritage and the local preservation offices that, over the years, have directed the museum and the archaeological area, currently the Soprintendenza Archeologia, belle arti e paesaggio per la città metropolitana di Bologna e le province di Modena, Reggio-Emilia e Ferrara (Archaeological, Fine Arts and Landscape Superintendence of Bologna, Modena, Reggio-Emilia and Ferrara) and the Direzione Regionale Musei Emilia-Romagna (Regional Museum Direction of Emilia-Romagna). From the beginning, a close and continual collaboration was created with the University, favoring research in both the field and the laboratory, a connection that has helped the academic growth of many young archaeologists. In fact, some officials from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage that had previously taken part in research on the city have contributed to this publication and so I thank P. Desantis, T. Trocchi, and F. Timossi. This shows the synergy between the parties, an important asset for Italian research.

I am deeply grateful to Nancy de Grummond and Lisa Pieraccini, the editors of the “Cities of the Etruscans” series and to the University of Texas Press for agreeing to include Marzabotto in the editorial project on Etruscan cities, giving us a golden opportunity to describe our findings. Nancy and Lisa supported us, giving valuable advice on the structure of the text and the English translation. To them goes my sincere gratitude.

## NOTES

1. Brizio 1887b.
2. Govi 2007; Bentz and Reusser 2008.
3. Garagnani and Gaucci 2017.
4. Garagnani and Gaucci 2017.