

L. CAPPUCINI, *LO SCARICO ARCHEOLOGICO DI MONTE SAN PAOLO A CHIUSI* (Biblioteca di 'Studi Etruschi' 52). Pisa/Rome: Fabrizio Serra Editore, 2011. Pp. 160, illus. ISBN 9788862273862. €440.00.

The book is a catalogue and study of the material coming from the excavation of the site of Monte San Paolo near Chiusi. Despite being dominated by funerary remains, our knowledge of Etruscan Chiusi and the growth of its settlement in the Iron Age and Archaic period has been, over the last two decades or so, profoundly altered by recent investigations on the hills located near the main hill where the later city, and now modern town, developed. Thanks to these investigations, we now know that Iron Age and Archaic Chiusi did not consist of a single settlement on this latter hill, but developed on these former hills at least until the sixth century B.C. This has contributed to the abandonment of a monolithic model for Etruscan urbanization, characteristic of the large urban centres of coastal Southern Etruria, which consisted of the occupation of single very large tufa plateaux and the formation of a relatively unified settlement in the early Iron Age. Chiusi represents, in this respect, not an exception to this model, but an example of the variety of occupation patterns which are now recognized in the growth of urban centres across Etruria.

Monte S. Paolo, the highest hill in the hinterland of Chiusi and located near the modern town, was excavated in 2001, although neither systematically nor fully. Earlier investigations had already identified the occupation of Monte S. Paolo in the first phase of the Italian Iron Age, which, in conjunction with evidence from nearby hills, allows us to hypothesize that the development of Chiusi on more than one hill dates back to this period and continued into the Archaic period.

The excavation of 2001 was preceded by a surface survey, part of a wider study of Archaic Chiusi by the author. The survey identified two areas (MP1 and MP2), respectively 300 and 200 square metres in extent, located near the summit of the hill, characterized by a high concentration of archaeological material, mostly fragments of architectural terracottas, building material and pottery: the material from these two areas formed the basis for the decision to excavate a few test trenches (saggi A–D) in the vicinity. The archaeological stratigraphy of all these trenches was unfortunately found to have been destroyed by modern agricultural and looting activities with the sole exception of Trench C where archaeological deposits with intact stratigraphy were excavated. In this trench, building material probably belonging to a structure located on the hill was found in a large dump pit. The material that forms the catalogue consists of all the artefacts recovered in the excavation of Trench C and from the surface survey of area MP1, which is closest to Trench C, and some other material originating from older survey and chance findings.

After a brief introduction to the site, the history of its discovery and the 2001 excavation, the catalogue is organized according to artefact forms and types: after a brief analysis of the ceramic wares (impasto, red impasto, bucchero, Red Ware and pasta grigia), the catalogue of architectural terracottas is followed by that of pottery vessels divided into forms, mostly pertaining to eating and drinking, and storing liquids and foodstuffs. A chapter is dedicated to the figured cylinder-seal-stamped and stamped decoration of some ceramic fragments: each piece is analysed both stylistically and, where possible, iconographically. The publication ends with concluding remarks; these are preceded by a chapter that discusses two fragments of decorated architectural elements from area MP2 that are likely to belong to an early fifth-century B.C. cult structure, known from other similar fragments now in the Archaeological Museum of Chiusi. In the concluding chapter, the author assesses the material coming from the dump pit of Trench C to be homogeneous in date and therefore to be evidence of a single act of destruction of a nearby earlier structure: he dates this material between the end of the seventh century and c. 560 B.C. and provides a hypothetical reconstruction of the highly decorated roof of such a structure on the basis of the architectural terracottas and other roof elements found in the pit. The rest of this chapter is dedicated to a contextualization, from the point of view of local Chiusine production and consumption, of the ceramic material, largely consisting of banqueting vessels, and a comparison of these vessels with contemporary or near-contemporary material from other analogous elite domestic contexts in Etruria, most prominently Poggio Civitate. An overall comparison with Poggio Civitate allows us, according to the author, to interpret the hypothetical destroyed building at Monte S. Paolo as an aristocratic residence, the nature of which, domestic or cultic, remains, however, ultimately unknown.

Although this publication appears, at first sight, simply an analytical study of a small and fragmented corpus of material from an unsystematic excavation of an Etruscan Chiusine Archaic site, it is, in fact, a lot more than this: the analytical chapters are particularly valuable for

providing a detailed study of a phase, the sixth century B.C., that remains largely known at Chiusi from funerary evidence only.

*Institute of Archaeology, University College London*  
[c.riva@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.riva@ucl.ac.uk)

CORINNA RIVA

doi:10.1017/S0075435814000124

F. PITZALIS, *LA VOLONTÀ MENO APPARENTE: DONNE E SOCIETÀ NELL'ITALIA CENTRALE TIRRENICA TRA VIII E VII A.C.* (Studia archaeologica 181). Rome: 'L'Erma' di Bretschneider, 2011. Pp. 329, illus. ISBN 9788882655938. €230.00.

The aim of this book, based on Pitzalis's doctoral dissertation, is to examine the evidence on women in Central Italy in the first Orientalizing period, more precisely through funerary archaeology. The introduction sets and justifies the chronological and geographical boundaries for this study, and resolutely places the book in the context of gender archaeology and, more widely, gender studies. P. states her intent to track down the eponymous 'will of women', its rôle and impact on ancient societies, something we tend to overlook, because (she says) of our modern preconceptions. She then proceeds briefly to recall the development of gender studies and gender archaeology. She is careful, however, to point out that her book departs somewhat from traditional gender archaeology, focusing as it does on the study of feminine funerary goods identified through archaeological considerations; an approach, according to the author, that might be considered highly unorthodox by researchers in gender archaeology.

The first chapter is a catalogue of all available evidence on women's burial in the chosen area of research, grave after grave. It is organized geographically, first the Ager Faliscus, then South Etruria and, finally, Latium Vetus. Each entry starts with a general presentation, stating whenever possible the shape and dimensions of the grave, whether it uses inhumation or cremation, the position of the body and the state of the grave goods. The latter are then described more precisely, according to type and material. We then find a 'datation' section, with reference to the various authors responsible for it. This is followed by a full bibliography on the grave, and, if need be, by observations which might include, for example, anthropological studies of the bodies, or the circumstances of the discovery. There is a synthesis and a brief analysis of the collated data after each geographical area. One can find at the end of the book a series of plates illustrating with photographs and drawings the grave goods described in the catalogue. There are also five additional sheets synthesizing the catalogue in a series of tables. This impressive amount of evidence is presented in such a way that it is very easy to use it again, and this alone makes P.'s book a very valuable tool for researchers interested in this particular subject matter.

The second chapter of the book is devoted to 'gender indicators' (*indicatori di genere*). It is a synthetic analysis of several elements present in the catalogue: the first section of this chapter deals with the objects linked to spinning and weaving. Each grave good related to those activities is examined in turn. In a second section, P. takes a look at the goods related to clothing, ornaments and beauty, once again one type of object after the other. There is a brief conclusion to this chapter, which is more concerned with reorganizing the data from the catalogue than with analysis.

The third chapter deals with 'rôle indicators' (*indicatori di ruolo*). Once again, it is a very precise and detailed description of every type of object. This chapter offers two sections, the first on metallic objects, the other on 'prestige goods'. The first section allows P. to illustrate the rôle women may have played in sacrifices and meat-related activities. As for prestige goods, P. notes that women seem to have had more status indicators in Central Italy than elsewhere.

In the fourth and final chapter, P. draws some conclusions from the synthesis she presented. She begins with a strong rejection of the old idea that Tyrrhenian Italy was some sort of matriarchy. She then tackles every aspect of a woman's life: domestic and artisanal activities, matrimony, lineage and social mobility, writing, banquets, the sacred and, finally, political power. Her conclusion is that whereas we should not think that society was entirely controlled by women (because that would be absurd), a few exceptional women did manage to gain considerable power and influence.

The value of this book, which is real, does not lie so much in this conclusion as in the impressive collating and organization of data, which will undoubtedly prove very useful to researchers.

*Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV)*  
[buchetelisabeth@yahoo.fr](mailto:buchetelisabeth@yahoo.fr)

ELISABETH BUCHET

doi:10.1017/S0075435814000136