

## BOOK REVIEW

*Caere: Cities of the Etruscans*. By NANCY THOMSON DE GRUMMOND and LISA C. PIERACCINI. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016. Pp. xl + 294. Hardcover, \$55.00. ISBN 978-1-4773-0843-1.

For too long, if scholars wished to understand the history of an Etruscan city they would search through multiple sources looking for relevant sections about it. Nancy de Grummond and Lisa Pieraccini have sought to resolve that issue in producing *Caere*, the first in a new series called “Cities of the Etruscans”. *Caere* contains the history, culture, and modern interpretations of the southern-most major Etruscan city and is an important text for the future of Caeretan studies. The editors hope that it will be useful to both the student and the researcher. They collaborated with 22 prominent Etruscologists from both Europe and North America.

*Caere* proceeds from the Iron Age through post-Roman period, exploring the development and examining material culture. *Caere* contains 25 chapters divided into six parts with two appendices, an album of six maps, 17 color plates, in addition to the 159 black and white photos, and a general index. There are extensive endnotes for each chapter and separate bibliographies. You can read the chapters either as stand-alone contributions or as a chronological procession.

Part I summarizes historical and physical settings. Mario Torelli gives a broad Caeretan history from founding to absorption into the Roman imperium, connecting text to remains. Ingrid Edlund-Berry provides an overview of the topography and natural resources found nearby. Orlando Cerasuolo focuses on Orientalizing objects that make up Caeretan tomb groups and the cultural exchange they imply. Rex Wallace explains the language, while also describing the famous inscriptions of the city. Vincenzo Bellelli connects the many excavations within Caere, painting a complete picture of public infrastructure, defense and private buildings.

Part II looks at pan-Mediterranean connections of Caere. Larissa Bonfante focuses on images and how the local artisans adapted Greek myths into an Etruscan mindset for local clientele. Laura Michetti provides an overview of the development of the harbors with a particularly helpful focus on Pyrgi. Jean MacIntosh Turfa evaluates the Battle of Alalia, ca 535 BCE, and the connection to the courtyard building at Montetoso.

Part III, the shortest section, explores the necropolis. Stephan Steingräber takes on the task of explaining tomb development and variety of architecture in the Banditaccia cemetery, providing diagrams and maps of the tombs. Alessandro Naso examines the development of early painted tombs like the Sorbo Tumulus.

Part IV examines ritual identity. Nancy Winter and Patricia Lulof collaborate placing Caere in the ever-growing body of architectural terracottas. They explain radical changes taking place in Caeretan roof design and its place within central Italic roof architecture. Pieraccini surveys concisely the feasting that occurred in conjunction with funeral practices. De Grummond provides a broad look at worship through the epigraphic, literary and votive evidence both in urban and extra-urban sanctuaries.

Part V, the longest section, covers the artisanal work. Giovannangelo Camporeale summarizes how workshops and artistic exchange influenced the local economy through the 4th century BCE. Tom Rasmussen examined the development of bucchero through vessel types, unique production methods and how they trace their development to earlier Italic forms. De Grummond places the two Sarcophagi of the Spouses within terracotta figural production and explains their use as ash urns. Pieraccini explores the stamped braziers, looking at how stamp types can inform our understanding of workshop groups.

Richard De Puma explores the large gold items found in the Regolini-Galassi tomb, along with other luxury imports. Faya Causey focused on the amber, looking mostly at the Regolini-Galassi chain necklace. Helen Nagy briefly surveys the terracotta figures, looking at the different types and their find spots. Francesco Roncalli reunites the Caeretan painted plaques from disparate museum locations, examining both their ancient context and their discovery's history. Maurizio Harari admirably covers 200 years of archaic pottery, looking at themes and innovations, allowing Laura Ambrosini to continue explaining the growth of pottery production through the Classical and Hellenistic periods.

Part VI examines the post-Etruscan city. Torelli covers Caere in the Roman period, again seamlessly blending the texts and remains, such as the Clespina hypogeum. De Grummond closes the book with a chapter on the post-late antique growth, and then subsequent excavations in Caere.

Jessica Trelogan, Ingrid Edlund-Berry, and Beth Chichester created six wonderful maps that scale from the Mediterranean down to Caere, including all place names mentioned. Including the maps at the beginning is a fantastic idea, making

them easy to reference. The half page summary at the start of each part is very helpful to the time pressed scholar. As this series of books grows, it is my hope that future editors will continue to use the same section organization, which will allow easier comparison between cities. Caere does a wonderful job of balancing cemetery and city excavation and many bring together both old excavation reports, modern research, and some include previously unpublished material, helping disseminate research to the Anglophone community. They also did a spectacular job of bringing together items from several different museums across the world.

Although overall, I find the book aimed at the specialist it is still accessible to the public. The book defines most technical terms and translates most foreign phrases, but needs greater consistency. A glossary might be helpful in future volumes of the series. This type of book series is a fantastic place for new scholars to begin in understanding the ever-growing dialogue on the Etruscans.

However, the authors should make sure to clearly articulate conclusions in their chapters. I found myself wanting at least one chapter on the utilitarian material from Caere to provide a more complete picture of objects from all levels of Caeretan society. I hope the authors plan on including this type of work in the next book. A consolidated chapter dedicated to the Regolini-Galassi tomb would have also been a welcomed addition even though the tomb is discussed across several chapters.

It is nice to have a single volume on all aspects of an Etruscan city. Etruscan Studies will benefit from grounding the field in research. This book is an important one for the libraries of all Etruscologists. It is also affordable for the non-academic or graduate student. I look forward to the next book in the series.

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