BOOK REVIEW


Dr. Nancy de Grummond’s book, *Cetamura del Chianti*, is the latest from the University of Texas Press’ Cities and Communities of the Etruscans (see Caere and Veii) and the first of hopefully many that focuses on non-urban Etruscan sites. De Grummond organized the book into eight chapters, bookended by summary chapters, while Chapters 2 through 6 advance chronologically through Cetamura’s history. The book starts with maps and site plans. Finally, the book ends with a timeline, extensive notes, references and an index, all of which are helpful for the scholar looking to incorporate Cetamura into their work.

In Chapter 1, “Introduction,” de Grummond presents the geographic location of Cetamura del Chianti to the reader. Next, she provides the condition of the site before the modern era, along with a brief history of how the area became an archaeological dig. Finally, she wraps up the introduction with a complete outline of the other chapters and the significant features from each period.

In Chapter 2, “Early and Middle Etruscan Periods,” De Grummond reviews the bucchero pottery used during this period of occupation. She also includes the pollen studies that help the reader understand the components of the forests around Cetamura. The chapter is concluded with an examination of a sacred deposit from zone I, examining the faunal remains alongside the pottery recovered.

De Grummond begins Chapter 3, “Late Etruscan Phase 1,” with a historical overview of the period between 300-150 BCE before diving into the evidence of occupation at Cetamura del Chianti at this time. The two wells that the site is now known for are introduced briefly in this chapter to situate their chronology.

However, the wells are discussed in more detail in Chapter 5. De Grummond continues by examining the construction, and small finds of structures B, C, J, N and, most importantly, K in the area dubbed the Artisans’ Quarters. From the finds in and around structure K, De Grummond identifies it as a kiln, one of the
few identified in the Etruscan world. The chapter is concluded with a typology of pottery and small finds from this period.

In Chapter 4, "Late Etruscan Phase 2," the development of structures A, B and D and their accompanying artifacts is discussed. The rest of the chapter is dedicated to Structure L, which De Grummond identifies as a sanctuary, and the seven votive offerings found around the building.

De Grummond devotes all of Chapter 5 to the wells of Cetamura. While well #2 was cleaned out during the late Roman empire, limiting the evidence of use to the architecture itself, from well #1, thousands of artifacts and organic remains were recovered and subsequently grouped into eight time periods from 300 BCE to 1200 CE. De Grummond takes the reader through each of these groups addressing the organic artifacts and pollen analysis, along with datable material recovered. She also points out any unique artifacts from each group.

Chapter 6 covers Roman Cetamura from 50 BCE to Late Antiquity. Most of the evidence for occupation comes from the wells and the bath complex that was previously excavated. Within the bathhouse, a deposit of coins possibly from the dismissal of Octavian’s troops recently came to light, further adding to the understanding of Roman Cetamura.

In Chapter 7, "Cetamura as a Community," De Grummond summarizes the evidence previously presented to explain in a cohesive narrative the development, growth and decline of Cetamura. She uses Cetamura to examine Etruscan Society at non-urban sites. She peoples the structures, bringing them alive, and places the site within the larger region of Northern Etruria.

Chapter 8, "Cetamura after Antiquity," reviews how the hill was lightly used during the Medieval period before diving into the excavation history from Alvaro Tracchi to 2016. De Grummond also presents other projects that have examined Cetamura, although she quickly points out methodological inconsistencies, like with Aversano’s viticulture study.

This model of collecting and presenting recent academic articles and field reports into a single affordable volume will also help expand current knowledge of the Etruscans and start to correct the misinformation that still exists about the Etruscans. This volume is accessible to those just entering the field of Etruscan Archaeology. It is also of great value to the scholar with its extensive notes, bibliography and detailed maps.
Mercy High School, andrewjohn.carroll@gmail.com