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The Editors' Corner

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The Editors' Corner

Anthony Tuck and Rex Wallace

We are pleased to announce the inaugural volume of *Rasenna: Journal of the Center for Etruscan Studies*. Our first volume begins with an article by Carlo de Simone, which we think is a particularly appropriate way to launch this scholarly enterprise. Carlo de Simone is a distinguished linguist with a long and illustrious career in Etruscan language studies and his work continues to invigorate this area of the field. In the paper published here he discusses methodological issues surrounding the interpretation of three key lexical items in the *Tabula Cortonensis*.

The primary function of *Rasenna* is to publish peer reviewed articles and book reviews, but we expect to take advantage of the speed and flexibility of digital publication to provide timely information on excavation opportunities in the region, announcements and reviews of museum shows, and other similar kinds of information. On-line publication is the norm in the physical sciences and we hope that this journal will help speed its acceptance in the humanities as well. To our knowledge, there is no other on-line academic resource in Etruscan Studies for the publication of scholarly research. We are delighted to be the first, but we certainly hope to be one of many in the coming years.

Etruscan Studies is a vibrant and diverse field of inquiry, and we look forward to serving all of the constituencies of the community. We therefore encourage submissions from scholars in all research areas. Our electronic format gives us considerably more flexibility than most hard-copy journals because space is, at least at this point, not an issue. We are permitted to publish monograph-length articles, articles accompanied by photographs at a high resolution, and book review articles rather than book notices. We have the capability to embed sound and video files in publications. And this is at no cost to the author or the reader. Costs associated with the construction, hosting, and maintenance of the web site, are borne by the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The journal is provided to the scholarly community at no charge, and this fits perfectly our commitment to a free and open exchange of scholarly ideas.

The format of journal articles and book reviews is in a state of flux. It will take some time for us to decide on a style that works best for us as editors and for you as readers. Once we are satisfied with the 'look' of published documents, the format and style we adopt will be reflected in the discussion regarding submissions. It will also take us a few more submissions to become comfortable with the software that we are using for on-line publication. As our level of proficiency increases we expect the amount of time that elapses between submission, review process, and publication to decrease.

We conclude our initial editorial missive by thanking Marilyn Billings and Meghan Banach, our colleagues at the University's W.E.B. Du Bois library. They encouraged us to make *Rasenna* and the electronic resources hosted by the Center

for Etruscan Studies a part of the University's Scholarworks program. Without their technical assistance, advice, and boundless good cheer this project would not have gotten off the ground. We also acknowledge the work of Jason Lorenz at UMass Amherst's Digital Commons. He put together a web design for the journal that we find both elegant and functional. Finally, we thank Elizabeth Sager at the Berkeley Electronic Press. She provided last minute technological refinements.

Anthony Tuck and Rex Wallace, co-editors

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