

Etruscan Studies

Volume 8

2001

Article 10

Book Notes

Guide to the Etruscan and Roman Worlds
at the University of Pennsylvania Museum
of Archaeology and Anthropology

by Donald White, Ann Blair Brownlee,
 Irene Bald Romano, and Jean McIntosh Turfa.

University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Philadelphia 2002. xii & 100 pp.
129 illustrations, mostly color.
ISBN 1-931707-37-5/ \$29.95 cloth.
ISBN 1-931707-38-3/ \$14.95 paper.

Issued in both paperback and hardbound editions, this volume documents the excellent Etruscan and Roman collections of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, which are set to reopen in newly-renovated splendor in March of 2003. The book begins with a historiographic summary of the collections, well illustrated with period photographs of earlier installations and of some of the individuals who helped build the collections, for instance John Wanamaker, Maxwell Sommerville, and Hermann Hilprecht. A second chapter deals with the Etruscan world and is arranged chronologically (Villanovan, Orientalizing, Final Days), geographically (Faliscan warriors and weavers), and topically (daily life, language, technology, religion, and sacred architecture). The third chapter on the Roman world deals with topics pertinent to the new display of the museum's collection of Roman objects: emperors, the Puteoli marble block, religion, Minturnae, trade and industry, domestic life, and death and burial. A final chapter summarizes the legacy of classical civilizations. This is a useful introduction to an outstanding collection.

Italy and The West. Comparative Issues
in Romanization by Simon Keay and Nicola Terenato.

Oxbow Books, Oxford 2001. 233 pp.
ISBN 1-84217-042-2.

Nineteen papers on the issue of Romanization are included in this compendium. The papers are divided into three groups: Italy, the Provinces, and Discussion. Several of the contributions to the first group will be of interest to students of the Etruscans and pre-Roman Italy: Massimiliano Munzi on "Strategies and forms of political Romanization in central-southern Etruria;" Nicola Terenato, "A Tale of three cities: the Romanization of northern coastal Etruria;" J.H.C. Williams, "Roman intentions and Romanization: Republican Northern Italy, c. 200-100 BC;" and Jean-Pierre Valat, "The Romanization of Italy: Conclusions."

*Gli Etruschi. Storia e Civiltá*by Giovannangelo Camporeale.

UTET Libreria, Torino 2002.
 603 pp., 93 figs., and 355 pls.
 45.96 Euros.

This is one of the most comprehensive and scrupulously researched general summaries of Etruscan culture to be published in recent years. It is divided into two major parts. The first is a discussion and summary of general topics: historiography, sources, environment and urbanization, history, art, religion, political organization, public life, private life, literature, and influences. The second section, which is topographical and covers Etruria proper, Etruria Padana, and Etruscan Campania, is especially useful because it documents a great deal of information that has only emerged recently. As such, this second section is a wonderful update by a major authority on Etruscan archaeology of Luisa Banti's 1968 classic work on Etruscan cities and their culture.

*The World of the Early Etruscans*by David Ridgway.

Paul Aströms Förlag, Jonsered 2002.
 53 pp. ISBN: 91-7081-189-X/ \$11

This slim volume reproduces David Ridgway's 2000 Félix Neubergh Lecture at Göteborg University. Topics covered in the first chapter include chronology, the question of origins, the nature of the Orientalizing phenomenon, communities, pirates, and women. A second chapter that deals with issues of pro-Hellenic bias should be required reading in any course on the Etruscans. Chapter 3, on the early Etruscans and Greece is especially welcome given Professor Ridgway's knowledge of both Etruria and early Greece. The fourth and final chapter deals with the Etruscan language. This is a sensible and very readable summary of some very thorny and fundamental problems.

*The Tomb of Lars Porsenna at
Clusium and its Religious
and Political Implications,*
by William M. Gaugler.

*Appendices with technical data by
William J. Venuti and Peter A.J. Englert,
Foreword by Harry C. Rutledge.
Laureate Press, Bangor, Maine 2002.
137 figures & frontispiece, 1 table,
xxviii & 206 pp.*

The search for the tomb of Lars Porsenna at Chiusi, which is known today only from literary sources of doubtful veracity, has clearly been the lifelong passion of the author. Included in this work are chapters on the tomb itself, Lars Porsenna as an historical figure, the triumph and burial of Porsenna, Etruscan religion and divination, topographical and structural considerations, political implications, and conclusions, all this based on a literal reading of Pliny. The most interesting part of the book is the author's search for the actual site of the tomb, but much of the wide-ranging discussion is highly speculative given the ephemeral nature of the evidence.