

2008

Review of G. Poggesi, ed., *Artimino: Il Guerriero di Prato Rosello- la Tomba a Pozzo del Tumulo B*

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Recommended Citation

Tuck, Anthony (2008) "Review of G. Poggesi, ed., *Artimino: Il Guerriero di Prato Rosello- la Tomba a Pozzo del Tumulo B*," *Etruscan Studies*: Vol. 11 , Article 16.

Available at: https://scholarworks.umass.edu/etruscan_studies/vol11/iss1/16

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G. Poggesi, ed. *Artimino: Il Guerriero di Prato Rosello –
la Tomba a Pozzo del Tumulo B*

Morgana Edizioni, Firenze, 1999.
pp. 109. ISBN 88-85698-82-4

by Anthony Tuck

This crisp, efficient volume presents the results of intermittent excavations at the necropolis of Prato Rosello, located approximately two kilometers southeast of Artimino. The cluster of tumuli appears to have served as the necropolis of a settlement located elsewhere on the hill. The burials were first identified in 1966 after a fire destroyed the dense vegetation that had previously obscured the site and the results of the initial excavations are presented in G. Poggesi's first chapter, "La necropoli di Prato Rosello." The tumuli consisted of circular stone retaining walls surrounding small chambers constructed from stone slabs. Chambers were accessed by dromoi, some with indications of sloping stairwells.

Examination of each tumulus yielded little in the way of funerary assemblages. In fact, Poggesi notes that the excavation of Tumulus X was hastened after the site was beset by clandestine looting. However, fragmentary materials recovered from these chambers suggest an active use of this area of the cemetery from the first half of the seventh century to the first decades of the sixth century BCE.

Excavation of Tumulus B in 1991, however, yielded some surprising results. After the clearing of the tumulus' chamber and dromos, excavators revealed a circular walling of stones immediately to the left of the chamber, unnoticed by the site's looters. Examination of this feature revealed the presence of an earlier pozzo burial, also occupying the tumulus. Poggesi's second contribution to this volume, "La tomba a pozzo del Tumulo B," presents the architecture of this intriguing burial as well as a detailed catalogue of the burial assemblage.

The pozzo, appreciably larger than the later chamber tomb, was delineated by a low wall of stacked field stones and contained a dolio burial. The intrusion of the left wall of the chamber tomb onto the area of the pozzo's wall indicates that the pozzo's construction preceded that of the chamber. Within the dolio, excavators recovered a fragmentary bronze cinerary urn, fibulae, a bronze pendant, a silver clasp and gold decorative appliqué, apparent-

ly intended for the cinerary urn. Immediately outside the dolio but within the pozzo, excavators recovered a second bronze vessel, this one in a better state of preservation and preserving a bi-conical form. Several ceramic vessels consisting of bi-conical vessels and cups were also found outside of the dolio. Lastly, the excavators describe the burial as that of a warrior due to the additional recovery of a bronze kardiophilax, an iron lance point and an ornamental sword made of bronze, iron, wood and bone, hence, the volume's title.

G. Giachi and M. Lippi's follow Pogessi's catalogue with a chapter entitled, "I resti organici del Tumulo B, examining both the preserved residue of the lance's wooden shaft and the preserved pollen from the burial. The authors conclude that the pollen samples point to the burial occurring some time in the spring.

E. Pacciani's examination of the human remains, "Analisi dei reperti ossei umani incinerati," strongly suggests the individual buried here was a male, although the limited preserved elements of the skeleton make conclusive identification impossible.

However, the volume is not limited to an analysis of the archaeology of this necropolis. Also included is P. Pallecchi's chapter, "Prato Rosello: Nota sulla Geologia e sui Materiali Utilizzati per la Costruzione dei Tumuli," and F. Checca and P. Tolone's presentation, "Problematiche di restauro," focusing the intriguing issues of conservation that confronted the excavation team.

Finally, the volume includes two additional chapters, A. Bertini and P. Paoletti's "Note sul Progetto Espositivo," and L. Viviani's "Il Guerriero di Prato Rosello: L'immagine in Copertina." These chapters are welcome additions to the sometimes rigid form of the traditional site report. Indeed, the enthusiasm and energy radiated by their authors are excellent reminders of the importance archaeological research can often take in the communities that welcome such work.

In spite of these final two contributions, this volume will be of primary interest to scholars interested in the emergence of the Etruscan elite class. As an excavation report, this volume is an excellent presentation of the pozzo burial of Tumulus B. Each area of study is presented succinctly and with illustrations and photographs that compliment the text at every turn. Indeed, the pairing of what appear to be two elite burials within the same tumulus, separated chronologically by such clear stratigraphic evidence, encourages further speculation on the emergent aristocracies of this region of Etruria. One hopes that this unusual burial and its publication will encourage further analysis of the processes of social formation in early Italy.

However, in order for the evidence from the pozzo burial of Tumulus B to find a place in the dialogue concerning this subject, the volume must be made more widely available. Unfortunately, *Artimino: Il Guerriero di Prato Rosello – la Tomba a Pozzo del Tumulo B*, suffers from a highly limited distribution. The volume is virtually impossible to find outside the comune of Carmignano and, at the time of writing, attempts to contact the publisher for distribution information remained fruitless.

Nevertheless, the material presented here deserves a wide audience. For scholars interested in attaining a copy, I would suggest contacting the Artimino Archaeological Museum directly to request a copy: Museo Archeologico Comunale di Artimino, Villa "La Ferdinanda", Viale Papa Giovanni XXIII, Artimino Comune di Carmignano, tel. 055/8718124.