PREFACE

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No comprehensive and up-to-date book dedicated to the great Etruscan city of Caere (modern Cerveteri, Italy) currently exists in English. Instead, to make sense of this ancient city we work from independent and diverse studies, in different languages and in various journals, exhibition catalogues, and monographs—a process that makes it difficult to acquire a satisfactory view of the city as a whole. As someone who has spent much time at Caere and attempted to introduce students to the city, I have found the absence of a unified and up-to-date volume on the topic challenging.

The idea of writing a book dedicated to ancient Caere arose from an awareness of this lacuna in scholarship, but an even more important objective for the project was my desire to honor Mario A. Del Chiaro, my doctoral professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, who inspired in me an interest in and love for the material culture of this great Etruscan city. He was directly responsible for bringing my attention to Caeretan stamped ware years ago. His own work has been preeminent in the study of red-figure pottery produced at Caere and places him in the front rank of those who pioneered Etruscan studies in the United States. His prolific output as an archaeologist both in print and in the field is indicated by the list of his publications and excavations in appendix B of this publication.

A recent exhibit dedicated to the Etruscan city of Caere took place at Lens (Musée du Louvre–Lens), France, and Rome (Palazzo delle Esposizioni), Italy, in 2013–2014.¹ Its impressive catalogue supplies recent descriptions and discussions of Caeretan material

(both urban and funerary) and is a welcome contribution to the field of Etruscan Caere—especially because the last exhibits and catalogues exclusively devoted to Caere date to 1980 and 1986² and both focused on material solely from tombs. G. Nardi is near to completion of her lengthy and detailed book dedicated to ancient Caere, a publication eagerly awaited. Of special interest for all involved with the creation of the present volume is another book bringing great honor to Mario Del Chiaro and certainly relevant for issues concerning Etruscan cities, *Les potiers d'Étrurie et leur monde: Contacts, échanges, transferts. Hommage à Mario A. Del Chiaro* (Paris, 2014).

From the initial goal of a unified book on Caere came the idea—formulated by Nancy Thomson de Grummond, to whom I am grateful—of doing a book series dedicated to all (or as many as possible) of the important Etruscan cities. The task seems daunting, but certainly necessary and worthwhile—not only for scholars who are already well versed in Etruscan art and archaeology, but more importantly for younger generations, who will now have textbooks available that cover each city's early history, urban formation, sacred building programs, craft production, cemetery traditions, and the characteristic qualities seen in its art and cultural practices. Each of the planned volumes will offer, we hope, a fresh and intelligent synthesis with new perspectives and up-to-date distilled analysis.

An international team of scholars (including long-time friends and young colleagues now working on Caere) has come together to honor Professor Del Chiaro here by writing chapters on various topics that

cover a full range of subjects, such as Caere's early history, economy and land, trade relations and contacts with other Mediterranean peoples, the urban plateau, tomb architecture and tomb painting, the temples, sanctuaries, and shrines, and the many craft products in clay, gold, and amber. The book is arranged generally in chronological order, insofar as practical. We also felt that it was important to provide detailed information about the local geography of Caere and its environs and Etruscan Italy in general; therefore an album of maps has been prepared with the greatest diligence under the guidance of Ingrid Edlund-Berry, who worked with cartographers at the University of Texas, Austin, Jessica Trelogan and Beth Chichester. A generous grant from the von Bothmer Fund of the Archaeological Institute of America helped to make possible the enhancement of the illustrations. A time-

line for Caere is provided as a study help (appendix A: "A Chronology of Caere").

Since the prose and poetry of the Etruscans have not survived, we are forced to rely on their material culture and fragmentary epigraphical records. Despite not having a large extant body of literature, the Etruscan civilization has left much for us to work with in its archaeological evidence. The careful task of such "deciphering," with thorough interdisciplinary approaches, has been the focus of this study. It is the hope of the editors that this account will offer a new way of understanding ancient Caere.

NOTES

1. *Lens-Roma*.
2. *Gli Etruschi e Cerveteri; Monte Abatone*.