PREFACE

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“Of all the cities of Etruria, none takes so prominent a place in history as Veii,” wrote George Dennis at the beginning of his *Cities and Cemeteries of Etruria*. Almost 170 years after the beautiful and mysterious description was published, Veii continues to reveal the characteristics of its historical importance. I have accepted with enthusiasm the challenge of editing this volume—which is the first entirely written in English on the Etruscan city of Veii since the publication of *Veii: The Historical Topography of the Ancient City*, by J. B. Ward-Perkins—and I am grateful for this opportunity to present to an international public the historical importance of Veii as revealed in the new results of research focused on the town, its necropoleis, and its territory.

Over the past twenty years, none of the other cities of Etruria has had the privilege of being so intensively and continuously excavated as Veii. The archaeological record together with our understanding of Veii has tremendously increased and changed in this short time. Since 1996, each year between May and November, under the summer sun or the autumn rain, dozens of students have received their training in field archaeology in different sectors of the town as part of the “Veii Project” of the Sapienza University of Rome. Fieldwork took place in a landscape that still preserves the beautiful bucolic appearance described by Propertius (4.10.27–30; see the introduction). Inspired by that poet, I have imagined the different chapters of this volume as parts of a unique narrative that unifies the different studies of the settlement *nunc intra muros*

(“now within your walls”) and of the cemeteries, *in vobis ossibus* (“over your bones”).

Another goal in creating this volume has been to bring together scholars who belong to different schools. From protohistorians to Etruscologists and historians, the different voices of researchers on Veii have indeed found their place in this volume. The result is a polyphonic narrative, with a number of important different views on relevant issues appearing in the chapters, illustrating the vibrant current debate on Veii among scholars. The appendix to this book, “A Chronology of Veii,” provides a useful timeline as a backdrop and unifying element for these dialogues.

In the introduction, Gilda Bartoloni, Jacopo Tabolli, and Orlando Cerasuolo describe the work of the “Veii Project” as the logical outcome of the history of research at Veii. A new periodization for Veii is now possible in light of the past twenty years of excavation. This introduction also presents the general topography of Veii and the characteristics of the town.

Part I then presents an overview of the most significant methods used by the different projects in recent years at Veii. Valeria Acconcia synthesizes in her chapter the results of the several recent excavations on the plateau and focuses especially on a case study of Piazza d’Armi (the small area south of the main plateau of Veii), where a lengthy sequence has been revealed that encompasses all the phases of the Etruscan town. The stunning discovery there of a male inhumation burial set within a protective hut leads to the hypothesis that an early leader or even founder of Veii

was revered in this area. Roberta Cascino next addresses the importance of the survey conducted by the British School at Rome in the 1950s and 1960s at Veii, together with some of the most important discoveries achieved in those years. Finally, Stefano Campana presents the preliminary results of the “Emptyscapes,” a Marie Skłodowska-Curie EU-funded project, which involved the use of noninvasive magnetometry covering the entire town of Veii and has resulted in the creation of exciting new maps of the road system of the plateau that are without parallel in the study of Etruscan cities. The combination of the different projects, approaches, and methods has created the potential for a holistic understanding of the archaeology of Veii. In addition, this part of the volume constitutes the foundation for part II of the volume, which is focused on the diachronic history of the Etruscan town.

In part II we thus present our narrative of Etruscan Veii. Data from the settlement, from the necropoleis, and from the territory are combined in the description of the history of Early, Orientalizing, Archaic and Late Archaic Veii. Too often the description of Veii—and many other Etruscan towns—lacks a systematic discussion of the formative periods between protohistory and history, which, especially for Veii, is crucial to fully illuminating the archaeology of the town. First, the long journey from small Middle Bronze Age villages widespread in the territory to proto-urban Veii is described by Francesco di Gennaro. Folco Biagi then discusses the evidence from the time of the passage from the Final Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age, which corresponds to the birth of Veii. Alessandra Piergrossi next addresses the complex theme of the eighth century BCE at Veii, a moment of great richness for this early city, when the local aristocracy revealed all its power. The vivid network of interactions between Veii and “the others” is described as a journey, moving first outside the territory and reaching the closest neighbors, narrated by Jacopo Tabolli. A quite significant find is a drinking cup from the cemetery on via d’Avack decorated with a scene of vessels and cargo that is highly suggestive as to the shipping prowess of Veii.

Orlando Cerasuolo introduces the group of chapters focused on the Orientalizing period (seventh century BCE), presenting the various kinds of evidence,

especially for the years of continuous interactions between Rome and Veii. Gilda Bartoloni and Anna De Santis offer a synthesis of the characteristics of the political structure and organization of the territory during the Orientalizing period, suggesting a possible original model for the exploitation and control of the land operated by Veii. Next are chapters on interactions with faraway lands, with the Greeks discussed by Francesca Boitani, and the Near East by Annette Rathje.

A general introduction to Archaic Veii is presented by Gilda Bartoloni and Laura Michetti, with an overview of the settlement, the sanctuaries, the necropoleis, and the territory of Veii. They include the recently discovered terracotta sculptures from Piazza d’Armi that allow for the reconstruction of the charming image of a large dog and his owner (a leader or lord?). The central role of the sacred areas in the definition of the Archaic culture of Veii is addressed in two chapters, by Giovanni Colonna and Ingrid Edlund-Berry. Colonna discusses the fascinating history of the most important sub-urban sanctuary of Veii, Portonaccio—and the famous Veientine terracotta masterpiece statues of Aplu and Hercle (Apollo and Herakles). Edlund-Berry presents in detail the cult evidence from the urban sanctuaries. At the end of this part of the volume, Daniele Federico Maras addresses the complex topic of the epigraphic evidence from Veii, where a local school of scribes in the sanctuary of Portonaccio was one of the most important in all Etruria. Finally, Luca Pulcinelli describes the history of the defensive fortifications of Veii, from the Final Bronze Age ditch to the Iron Age ramparts, to the monumental Archaic tufa city walls.

Part III summarizes the different aspects of material culture at Veii. In the first chapters the authors describe the pottery production typical of Veii during the Iron Age (Sara Neri), during the Orientalizing period (Silvia ten Kortenaar), and during the Archaic, Late Archaic, and Classical periods (Maria Teresa Di Sarcina and Federica Pitzalis). Luciana Drago and Matteo Milletti next describe the different metal products. Francesca Boitani focuses on the wall paintings, providing new data from the Tomb of the Roaring Lions and the Tomb of the Ducks, which constitute the earli-

est evidence of wall painting in the western Mediterranean. Iefke van Kampen presents an overview of extant stone sculpture at Veii. Barbara Beilelli Marchesini describes the evidence for pottery production, presenting also the first workshop where bucchero was certainly produced, in the area called Comunità. An analysis of the evolution of architectural terracottas at Veii, by Nancy A. Winter and Claudia Carlucci, marks the end of this part.

The final part (IV) of this volume, “Legacy of the City,” focuses on the end of the Etruscan town of Veii. In this part Christopher Smith discusses the well-known historical event of the Roman conquest of Veii (396 BCE), especially in relation to the complex figure of the Roman consul M. Furius Camillus and his role between Veii and Rome. The survival of Veii and its re-foundation by Augustus in 12 BCE as the *Municipium Augustum Veiens*, together with the medieval history, are parts of another fascinating story, echoing the legacy of Etruscan Veii.

I am particularly grateful to Nancy de Grummond and Lisa C. Pieraccini, the editors of the *Cities of the Etruscans* series, and to the University of Texas Press for giving me the privilege to edit this, the first to follow the series’s inaugural volume, *Caere*. My greatest thanks to the Irish Research Council and the Trinity College Dublin for allowing me to work on the editing on this volume as part of my Postdoctoral Fellowship at TCD between 2016 and 2018. I would like to thank Orlando Cerasuolo for sharing with me the initial plan of this work and for his continuous contributions and valuable work on the images of the volume. I would also like to thank the anonymous referees for their suggestions, which guided the final editing of the volume. I hope this book will allow the archaeology of Veii to prove again its historical importance worldwide. To all the authors, who are colleagues and friends, my most sincere thanks for having shared this amazing journey through the archaeology and the history of Etruscan Veii.

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