JOURNAL OF ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

VOLUME 27 2014

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REVIEW ARTICLES AND LONG REVIEWS
AND BOOKS RECEIVED

AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

Table of contents of fascicule 2
Reviews

I. Edlund-Berry	San Giovenale: an early Etruscan habitation quarter at the Borgo	504
J. Sewell	Rethinking the Etruscan atrium house	509
G. Cifani	Temples I and II at the Ara della Regina, Tarquinii	513
G. Cifani	Early developments in monumental architecture	517
A. Murock Hussein	The final report on the Veii survey by the BSR	520
H. Di Giuseppe	Veio: la collina di Comunità, su deposito votivo e il suo culto	525
L. L. Brice	Republican crisis management, old-school style	530
G. Davies	*Amicitia* and diplomacy: "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"	532
S. González Sánchez	Progressive imperialism and the power of language	535
P. Gros	La frise dorique en Italie: nouvelles analyses formelles et sémantiques	539
T. P. Wiseman	Archaeology and history: the house of Augustus	544
J. T. Peña	Ten studies on pottery and other materials from the Fori Imperiali excavations	552
Y. Perrin	De la *Domus Transitoria* à la *Domus Aurea*. La fabrique néronienne de l'Oppius: art et chronologie	556
P. Berni Millet	Roma, *Portus* y el Mediterráneo	571
A. Kaiser	Space syntax: Ostia by the numbers	575
A. O. Koloski-Ostrow & S. E. Ostrow	New approaches to urban sanitation, pollution, and propriety in *Hispania* and for the City of Rome	578
A. Wallace-Hadrill	Microhistories of Roman trade	584
M. Junkelmann	Two museum exhibitions on gladiators	589
A. L. C. Emmerson	A modern excavation of four tomb precincts at Pompeii	592
K. Olson	The material world of the Roman *fullo*	596
E. Fentress	Slave matters	599
A. Martin	A new typology for Campanian Orange Ware and questions of manufacture and dating	602
P. M. Kenrick	Italian *terra sigillata* from the Stenico collection	607
F. Vermeulen	Urban survey of Ocriculum: the limits of the possible?	609
D. L. Stone	Geophysics and the city	612
M. Millett	Urban archaeological survey in practice: an older and a newer project	618
T. de Haas	Surveying the territory of *Firmum Picenum* south of Ancona	626
M. Revello Lami	From fragments to histories: re-assessing intensive survey methodologies in the Pontine region	630
N. Christie	Some new work on villas, towns and landscapes: Isera (Trentino), Liguria, and Priolo (Sicily)	635
M. Gualtieri	The countryside of Metapontum in the Roman period	640
A. M. Small	A major study of imperial estates in Italy	645
M. E. Hoskins Walbank	A scattering of colonies (and inscriptions)	653
W. V. Harris	Help in understanding the Roman imperial economy	660
R. Gordon	Monotheism, Henotheism, Megatheism: debating pre-Constantinian religious change	665
W. Leadbetter	An eccentric book on Elagabalus (or Varius)	677
A. H. Merrills	Furthering the discussion on ancient mapmaking	681
K. Nikolai	Comparative work on imperial cultures	685
P. Gros	L'architecture romaine comme "pratique culturelle intégrée"	688
A. Landskron	Schlachtenbilder als Phänomen kaiserzeitlichen Repräsentationsbedürfnisses	693
E. M. Stern	The corpus of mouldings and signatures on glass vessels, volume 3	702
J. R. Clarke	Greek and Roman sex in the British Museum	707

Table of contents of fascicule 2 (continued)

K. M. D. Dunbabin	Athletes represented in Roman mosaic and painting	710
M. Beckmann	The Severans and their coinage	717
E. M. Stern	The Princeton University Art Museum collection of ancient glass	720
M. Buora	Due nuovi volumi tedeschi sulle fibule	726
L. Herring-Harrington	Recent research on engraved gemstones from late antiquity (and beyond)	731
S. Rippon	Considering "urban waterscapes" in Britain	739
P. Wilson	Understanding the English rural landscape based on Roman material recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme	741
L. M. Anderson	Newstead in the 21st century	746
R. Reece	Destruction, coins and churches in Rouen	752
M. Beckmann	The largest documented hoard of *aurei* ever found	755
R. Reece	An early Roman civilian cemetery at Nijmegen and the meaning of grave-goods	758
A. Roth Congès	Un travail passionnant sur les mausolées "faux jumeaux" et insolites d'En Chaplix (Avenches)	762
R. Gordon	Queering their pitch: the curse tablets from Mainz, with some thoughts on practising 'magic'	774
R. Ling	Publishing a century-old excavation of houses with wall-paintings at Augst	785
S. Mayer	An important update of the guidebook to Augusta Raurica	787
G. Wesch-Klein	New work on the fort at Breisach on the Upper Rhine	792
J. T. Peña	Regional pottery production in Roman Spain	800
D. L. Stone	Sites in the countryside of Thugga (Dougga): material lives of the *coloni*?	806
Ph. Leveau	Archéologie d'un aqueduc africaine	810
D. J. Mattingly	Provincial and other identities in Roman Africa	819
C. Vismara	Nuova luce su scambi e contatti tra *Africa* ed Egitto	822
D. Fishwick	The imperial cult on Cyprus	828
C. A. Feldman	Lessons from the lifetime of a Corinthian fountain	833
C. P. Jones	A triumphant conclusion to *MAMA*	837
M. Lawall	Amphoras and amphora production at Ephesus	841
J. Stoop	About honorific statues (more than cities)	847
R. Ling	Houses and mosaics at Zeugma excavated by French and Turkish archaeologists	855
Y. Adler	Jewish ritual baths in Judaea-Palaestina	858
J. Magness	Sorting out the long chronology and character of an outpost on the Jaffa–Jerusalem road	862
M. L. Fischer	Pagan art in Palestine (and beyond)	867
S. J. Barker	Sculptures from the Sanctuary of Pan at Caesarea Philippi (Panias)	870
L. V. Rutgers	Ancient Jewish art and archaeology: What do we know and where do we go from here?	875
A. Bowman	Life on the military routes of the Eastern Desert	880
R. Tomber	The *Periplus of the Erythraean Sea* and the world of the Indian Ocean	883
Y. Perrin	Les insignes de la souveraineté à Rome: accessoires du pouvoir, pouvoir des accessoires	887
C. Pavolini	Opinioni diverse su Ostia tardoantica	890
J. Howard-Johnston	A *magnum opus* from a great communicator	899
V. Hutchinson Pennanen	Caesar, Christ, and sexual morality	903
M. Maskarinec	Memories and memory practices in late-antique Rome	909
T. D. Barnes	A new collection of essays on the Theodosian Code	914
D. Fernandez	Villas and Christian cult in the Iberian peninsula	923

Table of contents of fascicule 2 (continued)

G. Ripoll	Objetos de adorno personal en el Norte de África (inicios s. V - mediados s. VI)	926
B. D. Shaw	An innovative work on the *plebs* in late-antique North Africa	929
B. D. Shaw	Being Christian in North Africa	934
J. Spier	Iconography for the use of early Christians in N Africa	937
R. Whelan	Framing the Early Middle Ages in North Africa	939
S. T. Stevens	The physical and the metaphysical: two archaeologies of N Africa for historians of late antiquity	943
G. Varinlioğlu	Early Byzantine domestic architecture in the environs of Seleucia ad Calycadnum (Cilicia)	949
M. A. Handley	Hard evidence for late-antique Salona	955
O. Bobou	A conference on the end of towns (“lost cities”)	960
R. Collins	Nobody puts the *Frexes* in the corner	965
C. Foss	From Byzantium to Islam in Palestine: the limits of archaeology	967
C. C. Mattusch	Winckelmann and others in pursuit of classical scholarship	971
C. C. Mattusch	“A passionate collector” and “the right person at the right time”	975
BOOKS RECEIVED		980
BOOKS REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE		991

Early developments in monumental architecture

Gabriele Cifani

MICHAEL L. THOMAS and GRETCHEN E. MEYERS (edd.), afterword by I. E. M. Edlund-Berry, *MONUMENTALITY IN ETRUSCAN AND EARLY ROMAN ARCHITECTURE: IDEOLOGY AND INNOVATION* (University of Texas Press, Austin 2012). Pp. xi + 184, figs. 58, tables. ISBN 978-0-292-73888-1. $60.

This interesting collection of papers was planned for the 2009 annual meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America to honor the Etruscologist I. Edlund-Berry. In the central Tyrrhenian area, monumentality is the *fil rouge* linking experiences of architecture from the Orientalizing phase to the Middle Republic.

G. E. Meyers introduces the concept by recalling the etymology of the word from the Latin noun *monumentum*, deriving from the verb *moneo* ('to bring to the notice of, remind, warn') and citing examples of works defined as *monumenta* in Latin literature (e.g., Liv., Pref. 6-10; Cic., *ad Att.* 4.16.8), which often emphasize the display of expenditure in building and their rôle in the transmission of public memory. According to her (2), among the first examples of monumental building in Etruria we can cite the huge orientalizing tumulus of *Caere* and then the *palazzi*, the huge Late Orientalizing and Archaic courtyard-buildings found first at Poggio Civitate (Murlo) and later at Acquarossa and Satricum. It could have been useful to consider also the debate on the possible presence of monumental burials in central Tyrrhenian Italy already in the Middle and Late Bronze Ages — see, for instance, a megalithic chamber tomb at *Civitella Cesi*[1] — and to consider the rôle played during the Early Orientalizing period by Near Eastern models or even architects and stone-carvers in order to explain the rapid spread of monumental *tumuli* in Etruria and Latium.[2]

Etruscan studies (and especially Italian scholars) rarely make use of ethnography, but, in an interesting paper on the early architecture of Latium ("Straw to stone, huts to houses"), E. Colantoni makes careful use of ethnographic data (mainly from African tribal societies) to provide statistics and parallels for investigating the nature of early housing in ancient Latium (e.g., regarding the number of people possibly accommodated inside a hut, and possible correlations between clusters of huts). Still, one should emphasize (and not merely as a matter of terminology) that the frequent use of the term "huts" for the Early Iron Age structures is no longer appropriate. Research over the last three decades on settlements and architecture shows that dwellings of Early Latium were characterized by the use of an impressive number of trees, clay plaster, thick thatched roofs, and a complex system of rock-cut external drains for removing rainfall. Plainly these were permanent buildings within the fortified, often urbanized settlements which comprised the main centers of Middle Tyrrhenian Italy in the Early Iron Age. Thus I believe one should more properly adopt the terms "wooden houses" or "wooden structures" instead of the rather primitivist "huts".

A. Tuck ("The performance of death: monumentality, burial practice, and community identity in central Italy's urbanizing period") offers a discussion of monumental burial practices at Tarquinia, Caere and Chiusi. N. A. Winter discusses the evidence of mouldings in the architecture of Archaic buildings at Rome, Tarquinii, Caprifico, Veii and Vetulonia at the end of the 7th and throughout the 6th c. Her careful analysis reveals the widespread distribution of monumental architecture as a common language among urban Etruscan and Latin communities. P. G. Warden ("Monumental embodiment: somatic symbolism and the Tuscan temple") focuses on Etruscan archaic temple architecture and its possible relationship with the representation of the human form.

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1 F. di Gennaro, "Le sepolture megalitiche dell' età del Bronzo in Italia centrale tra falsi allarmi e nuove attestazioni," in S. Tusa, C. Buccellato and L. Biondo (edd.), *Orme dei Giganti* (Palermo 2009) 83-93, with bibliography.

2 A. Naso, "Osservazioni sull'origine dei tumuli monumentali nell'Italia centrale," *Opusc. Rom.* 20 (1996) 69-85, with bibliography.

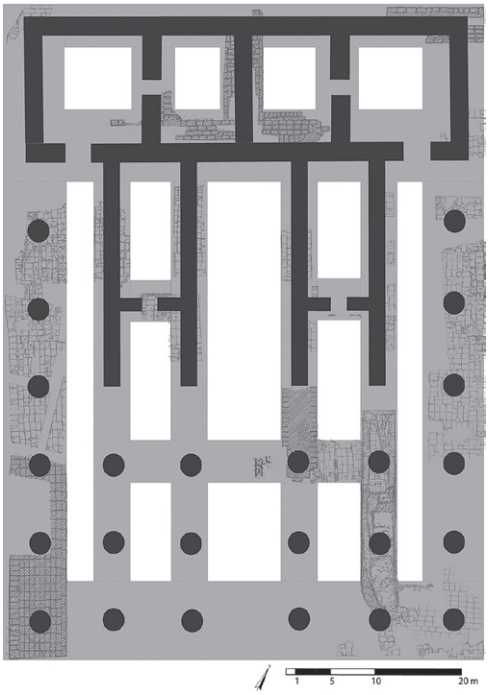
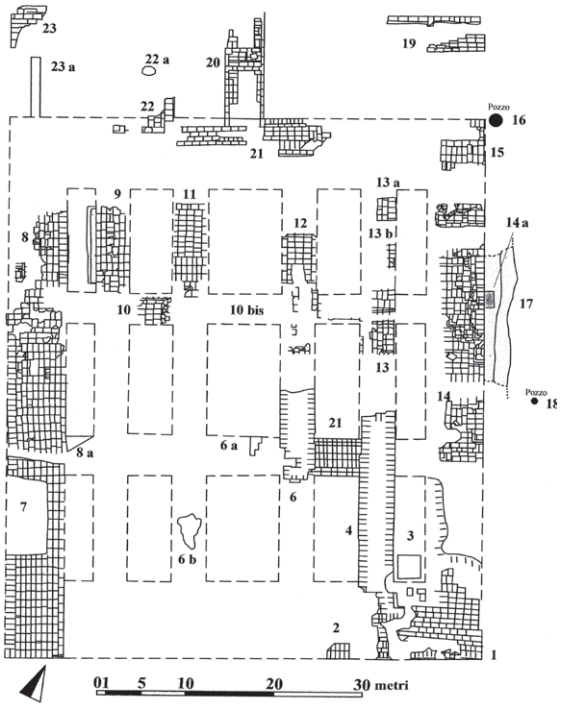
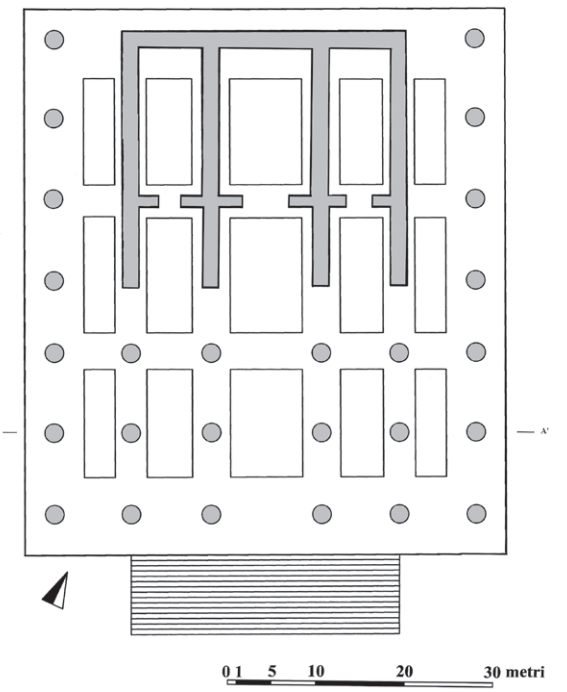


Fig. 1. The plan of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus according to J. Hopkins.

J. N. Hopkins focuses on the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus built in the last phase of the monarchy at Rome. He offers an interesting, up-to-date summary of the debate on the reconstruction of the temple, opting for the model known from the literary sources and correctly reconstructed already by E. Gjerstad,[3] as confirmed by the excavation carried out at the end of the 1990s.[4] He correctly proposes to imagine a trussed wooden roof to cover the temple's huge intercolumnial distances, and he confirms the influence of Ionic architecture on its plan. However, he also proposes a plan of the temple with four rooms behind the three *cellae* (fig. 6.5, p. 117 = fig. 1 here; repeated in fig. 6.8 and in fig. 7.4 of the following paper). In my opinion, this hypothesis is unrealistic because it is based on very uncertain remains of two or three fragments of walls behind the podium (for a more detailed plan of the temple see fig. 2 here) which can be more easily interpreted as links between the temple's podium and the retaining walls of the NW slope of the Capitoline toward the Campus Martius (illustrated by figs. 3 and 4 here). In addition, such a "four room hypothesis" not only denies the validity of the precise description offered by Dionysius of Halicarnassus (4.61.3-4), but is also contradicted by the model adopted for the





Figs. 2-3. Plan of the remains of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus and hypothetical reconstruction according to the reviewer (G. Cifani, *Architettura romana arcaica* [Rome 2008]).

3 E. Gjerstad, *Early Rome* III (Lund 1960) 178-85.

4 G. Cifani, *Architettura romana arcaica* (Rome 2008) 80-109, with bibliography.

many *capitolia* known from Italy and N Africa, the plans of which always reveal the absence of any spaces or rooms behind the *cellae*.[5]

P. J. E. Davies hypothesizes the presence of stone entablatures in Rome's temples already during the course of the 3rd c. B.C., as possibly indicated by the narrow intercolumniations of the earliest phases of the Temple of Victory on the Palatine, the Temple of Portunus, and Temple of A in the Area sacra di Largo Argentina. According to her (146), the material used for stone entablatures could have been the grey lithoid tufa known as *peperino* (ancient *lapis albanus* and *lapis gabinus*). This stimulating hypothesis is not compatible with the general assumption that the use of wooden trabeation, above all for private and domestic buildings, would have remained widespread at Rome until the advent of concrete. In addition, it could suggest a further stage in the Hellenization of Roman architecture a full century before the urban and architectural revolution that followed upon the conquest of mainland Greece in the mid-2nd c. B.C. Yet such an hypothesis also remains problematic for a number of reasons. Not only does it lack any direct evidence, but it requires further research on how such buildings are to be reconstructed, as well as on their exact chronologies, which in many cases remain controversial and are too often based on the literary traditions.[6] The very idea of the use of *peperino* for stone entablatures is problematic: in the mid-Republican phase this kind of stone was used mainly for squared blocks, sarcophagi and altars, but it is not attested as architraves to cover huge intercolumnial distances.[7] The friability and technical qualities of this

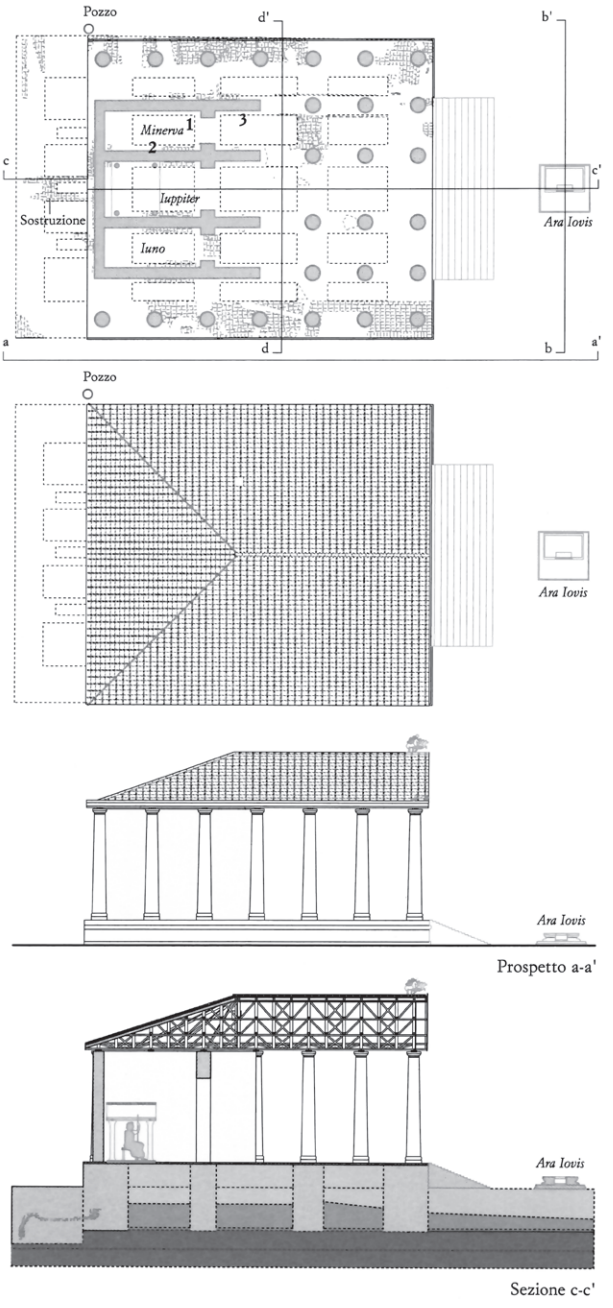


Fig. 4. Hypothetical reconstruction of the elevation of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus and of the trussed roof (from A. Carandini, *Atlante di Roma antica* [Milan 2012] tav. 8).

5 J. Crawley Quinn and A. Wilson, "Capitolia," *JRS* 103 (2013) 117-73.

6 E.g., for a discussion of the chronology of the temple of Portunus: G. Del Buono, "Il tempio di Portuno: una nuova periodizzazione per le fasi medio-repubblicane," *BullCom* 110 (2009) 9-30, with bibliography.

7 For a list, see E. Blake, *Ancient Roman construction in Italy from the prehistoric period to Augustus* (Washington, D.C. 1947) 34-39; G. Lugli, *La tecnica edilizia romana* (Rome 1957) 302-9.

kind of stone, which was formed from volcanic ash, made it an excellent material for walls, foundations, arches and mouldings, but less suitable for architraves, especially when compared to travertines and marbles, the widespread use of which really marks the first appearance of stone entablatures in Roman architecture. A much later and quite exceptional example could be the monumental Doric *porticus* of the Late Republican phase of the sanctuary of Diana at Nemi, where, to cover intercolumnial distances of *c.*2 m (interaxial distances of *c.*2.7 m), an impressive *peperino* architrave 1.8 m high was laid on *opus mixtum* columns with diameters of 0.85 m.[8] For these reasons, the hypothetical narrow intercolumniations, as reconstructed for the mid-Republican temples mentioned above, should continue to be viewed as a late adoption of Classical Greek temple modules, while the entablature could have remained in wood, as it was in the Archaic buildings.[9]

An afterword by Edlund-Berry emphasizes the importance of studying monumentality of buildings in their original urban location and in the context of their setting in the landscape.

Overall, the collection offers new ideas, especially on the political struggles fought by the élite and on their self-representation through the medium of public and private architecture over a period of four centuries. Above all, the book challenges the traditional and ethnocentric notion of separate developments in architecture between Romans and Etruscans during the Archaic period.

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8 G. Ghini, "La ripresa delle indagini al santuario di Diana a Nemi," in *Arch. Laz.* 11 (1993) 284-85, figs. 3 and 7; G. Ghini and F. Diosono, "Il santuario di Diana a Nemi: recenti acquisizioni dai nuovi scavi," in E. Marroni (ed.), *Sacra nominis Latini. I santuari del Lazio arcaico e repubblicano* (Naples 2012) 121-39.

9 See also E. La Rocca, "La pietrificazione della memoria: templi a Roma in età medio-repubblicana," in Marroni ibid. 37-88, with bibliography.

The final report on the Veii survey by the BSR

Angela Murock Hussein

ROBERTA CASCINO, HELGA DI GIUSEPPE and HELEN L. PATTERSON (edd.), with contributions by A. Bousquet, R. Cascino, W. Clarke, M. Craven, F. Del Vecchio, F. Di Gennaro, H. Di Giuseppe, M. T. Di Sarcina, F. Felici, S. Fontana, A. Kirk, H. L. Patterson, C. Phillips, M. Rendeli, M. Sansoni, A. Schiappelli, C. J. Smith, D. Williams, R. Witcher and S. Zampini, *'VEII. THE HISTORICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF THE ANCIENT CITY'. A RESTUDY OF JOHN WARD-PERKINS' SURVEY* (Archaeological Monograph of the British School at Rome 19, London 2012; distributed by Oxbow Books). Pp. xiii + 431, figs. 141, colour pls. 2, Tables. ISBN 978-0-904152-63-0. £85.

The British School at Rome has now delivered the final report on its field survey around the Etruscan city of Veii, a long-awaited follow-up to the initial report of 1961.[1] The work at Veii was one section of the South Etruria Survey, begun 60 years ago by the British School at Rome under the direction of J. B. Ward-Perkins[2] and continuing until his retirement in 1974, although the School's work in the region has gone on to be incorporated into the expansive Tiber Valley Project.[3]

1 J. B. Ward-Perkins, "Veii: the historical topography of the ancient city," *PBSR* 29 (1961) 1-119.

2 J. B. Ward-Perkins, "Notes on southern Etruria and the Ager Veientanus," *PBSR* 23 (1955) 44-72; "Etruscan towns, Roman roads, Medieval villages: the historical geography of southern Etruria," *Geog. J.* 128 (1962) 389-405; *Landscape and history in central Italy* (Oxford 1964); P. Hemphill, "An archaeological survey of southern Etruria," *Expedition* 1970, 31-39; T. Potter, *The changing landscape of southern Etruria* (London 1979); *Storia del paesaggio dell'Etruria meridionale* (Rome 1985); F. Cambi and N. Terrenato, *Introduzione all'archeologia dei paessaggi* (Rome 1994).

3 M. Millett and H. Patterson, "The Tiber Valley Project," *PBSR* 53 (1998) 1-20; H. Patterson *et al.*,