

Archaeology and Anthropology

THE ORIGIN OF ETRUSCANS: SOME NOTES

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As we know since ancient time's historians wondered where Etruscans came from. The answers can be summarized in: Etruscans came from Lydia (Asia Minor), by Herodotus (Vcent.B.C.), Autoctonous origin, by Dionysius of Halicarnassus, I cent.B.C., the Etruscans came from the previous prehistoric populations in Central Italy Etruscans from Northern Italy (by a quote of Tito Livio), developed in '800 and '900, by Freret and Niebuhr, for Raethians, descended from Etruscans, The discussion of the origin of Etruscans lasted until today, but there no scientific proof to confirm the validity of single theories, neither recent DNA studies gave a solution. We confirm what M.Pallottino wrote: the question was incorrectly placed, looking for a definitive solution, without considering several aspects. We can sustain that the proper historian population of Etruscans (from VIII cent.B.C.) came certainly from Etruria, directly from Villanovian and Protovillanovian (XII-IXcent.) for a production of Etruscan pottery is the clear consequence of the black pottery of Villanovians and Final Bronze. Nevertheless we know a conflictive period in XIII cent.B.C., witnesses to a profound social and demographic change throughout Mediterranean, with vast migrations of populations, probably connected with a general crisis (that should make us reflect on the similarities with XXI century); the unresolved fall of Myceneans, the invasion of Sea People in Egypt, the same through the Central Anatolia with the collapse of Hittites, and the great eruption of Thera. The same aspects which brought indeed in Italy great changes, a passage during the end of MBA, from well-developed culture to a global impoverishment, in North from Terramare to next FBA cultures with a cremation tradition, the same in Central Italy with the end of the Appenninic culture towards a FBA which will lead in direction to another society, and later to the formation of the city.

Keywords: – Etruscans, Origins, Villanovians, (FBA) Final Bronze Age.

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Biography

Stefano Rossi completed his degree (Prehistoric Archaeology) in 1993 and Special School of Archaeology (Prehistory and Proto-history) in 2000 at University of Florence, and several Masters. He is member of IIPP (Italian Institute of Prehistory), Accademia Etrusca di Cortona and ICOM. He founded and works for a private society (Aion Cultura) from 1995 in Cortona (Arezzo), for which he is the coordinator of archaeological projects. He is active mainly at Museo dell'Accademia Etrusca e della Città di Cortona – MAEC, in which is responsible of the managing for archaeological sector. He is involved daily with educational in museums and communication with a large audience. His research area is Bronze Age, Etruscans, Excavations, Educational, Museums, Exhibitions, Relations between contemporaneity and ancient world. He dug about 50 excavations, most of them as coordinator or director. He has published more than 20 scientific papers and popular books. He gave several lectures for different Universities.

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