

MEAI NUCESQUE

A newsletter for Classics at the University of Dallas

Discovery of intact Etruscan tomb sheds light on life after Roman conquest

Quoted from National Geographic

A 2,200-year-old tomb has been discovered completely intact in central Italy, revealing the remains and ornate possessions of some 30 Etruscans, members of the ancient civilization that ruled the region before the rise of Rome. The find was unearthed earlier this month by a team of amateur archaeologists working in the woods of Tuscany, 70 miles (115 kilometers) south of Florence. The 6.5-foot long (2-meter long) carved stone chamber contains dozens of urns full of human ashes, a typical burial method of the Etruscans, said Andrea Marcocci, an archaeology student of the University of Siena who discovered the site and directed the excavation.

"All in all, there were 30 urns—3 of them made of stone, 2 bronze, and 25 terra-cotta," Marcocci said. "The remains probably belong to

history and Italian antiquities at the University of Siena. "The urns and objects found in Civitella Paganico will give us a cross-section of the last remains of rural Etruscan society well after the Roman conquest of the area," Zifferero said.

The ashes and the artifacts are now in storage waiting to be cleaned and restored.

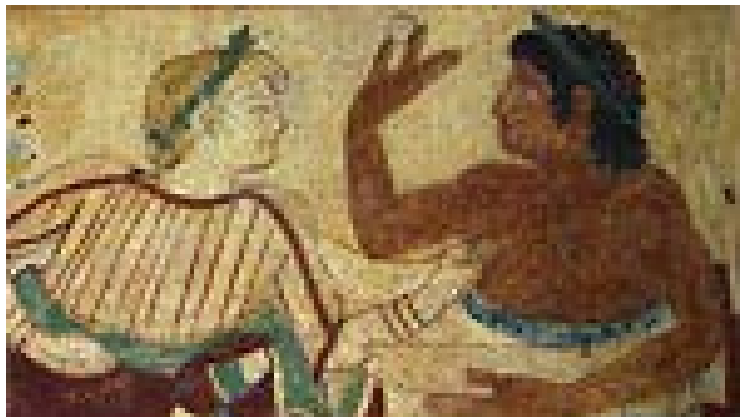
"Researchers will analyze the small fragments of bones mixed with the ashes to find out the age, sex, and possible diseases of these 30 people," Marcocci, the Siena archaeology student, said.

The objects will likely be displayed in a small museum to be built in Civitella Paganico.

Local Lore Proves True

Among the vessels, the archaeologists found bronze coins, rings, small terra-cotta plates, bronze mirrors, and a black stone amulet.

"It's noteworthy because it's still intact," Gabriella Barbieri, an official with the Archaeological Superintendence of Tuscany, said of the find.



*Painting of an Etruscan couple from the Tomb of the Leopards in Tarquinia, Italy.
Photo courtesy of National Geographic*

In Civitella Paganico, residents have known for a long time that something interesting was hidden in the woods.

"When I was a child, my father told me there were strange holes in the ground around the woods," Marcocci said. "So then years ago I went to inspect the area looking for artifacts and actually found the evidence of underground structures. I left them alone

"In the last 2,200 years nobody broke in the chamber to steal the artifacts, a quite rare occurrence," she said.

Roman Invasion

The Etruscans ruled central Italy from at least 700 B.C. until they were assimilated by the Roman Republic in the second and first centuries B.C.

"We know Etruscans inhabited this area," Barbieri said. "There are probably lots of buried tombs and ruins spread around the countryside, but we cannot dig everywhere."

The newfound tomb, found in the town of Civitella Paganico, dates back to the second or third century B.C., when nearby Etruscan settlements were being conquered by the Romans.

"Etruscan culture and practices, such as burial ceremonies, were still alive only around the countryside, far from urban centers, where families and small groups made a life cultivating land and rearing livestock," said Andrea Zifferero, professor of Etruscan

because at the time they were well hidden from robbers."

Logging efforts began around the site last winter, and Marcocci became worried that tomb raiders would find and break into the ruins. He founded the Odysseus Association, a group of young amateur archaeologists, and contacted Barbieri, the archaeological official, to obtain a permit to dig. The team discovered the urns on the ninth day of digging, Marcocci said.

"It was an overwhelming experience, as we saw we were the first to unearth the place in more than 2,000 years," he added.

Barbieri said authorities will work to protect the area from looters now that word of the discovery is out.

"We know that other intact tombs may be buried around the woods," she said.

Meanwhile the Odysseus Association is planning to apply for a new permit to continue excavating.

"We need to get in before the raiders," Marcocci said.

31 August 2007

New Statue of Hadrian Unearthed in Turkey

Excerpted from
National Geographic

For the Roman emperor Hadrian, life size just wasn't big enough, according to archaeologists who recently unearthed a colossal statue of the second-century A.D. ruler in Turkey.

Scientists came across the giant



scarce use of the drill in the hair," Waelkens said in an email.

During his rule from A.D. 117 to 138, Hadrian enjoyed great popularity in Sagalassos for bringing trade to the city and transforming it into a provincial hub of politics and

marble likeness while excavating a complex of ornate Roman baths in the ancient city of Sagalassos, 68 miles north of the resort town of Antalya. The team excavated a giant head, foot, and leg each about 2.5 feet long, leading the experts to estimate the size of the complete statue at some 16 feet. The marble is among the most exquisite carvings of the leader ever found and depicts Hadrian early in his reign, said lead archaeologist Marc Waelkens of Belgium's Catholic University of Leuven.

"The statue represents the younger Hadrian as shown by the plain eyes (without indication of pupils or irises) [and] the

culture, Waelkens added. As his team continues to dig, Waelkens expects to find more monuments to Hadrian's legacy, he noted.

"It can be expected that the remaining parts of the statue, and possibly that of other ones (e.g. his wife, Sabina), will be discovered during next year's season, below more than six meters [two feet] of debris, mainly consisting of Roman concrete," he said.

8 August 2007

Greek Tutor Nuggets of Knowledge

From David Ring

I used to always confuse the complementary and expegetical uses of the infinitive, so I looked them up to try and kill the problem once and for all and I found that there are many more uses of the infinitive than I could have dreamed up. Thus, I highly recommend that anyone, especially intermediate slaves of Greek, look them up. (Did you know about the historical, imperative, absolute, exclamatory, *k.t.l.* uses?) Well, here are the expegetical and complementary uses for your pleasure.

Expegetical – the infinitive follows a noun or adjective to limit its meaning, as in "θαῦμα ἰδέσθαι," where we learn in what specific way the thing is marvelous. Think of the English "he was nothing special to look at". (This is not unlike the good 'ol *mirabile dictu* construction in Latin).

Complementary – the infinitive is used with verbs whose very meaning needs supplementary action. Take the Greek "μανθάνουσιν ἄρχεῖν τε καὶ ἄρχεσθαι" or "they learn to rule and be ruled". It's simple. You learn? You learn *to do what?*

Latin Grammar Corner

From Elizabeth Malone

Remember PUFF-V verbs - verbs that govern the ablative? Use this mnemonic to remember **Potior**, *I take* (sometimes governs the genitive); **Utor**, *I use*; **Fruor**, *I enjoy*; **Fungor**, *I perform*; and **Vescor**, *I eat*. These five verbs and their compounds take the ablative case.

From Allen and Greenough: "This is properly an Ablative of Means (instrumental) and the verbs are really in the middle voice. Thus *utor* with the ablative signifies *I employ myself* (or *avail myself*) *by means of*, etc.

But these earlier meanings disappeared from the language, leaving the construction as we find it."

