

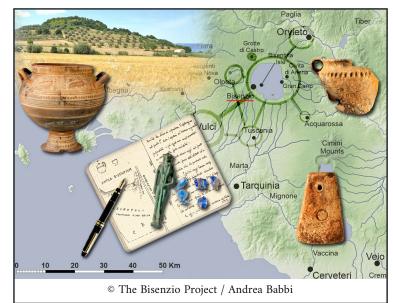
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BISENZIO BETWEEN THE BRONZE AND THE ARCHAIC AGE

A Laboratory for a Reappraisal of Traditional Interpretive Paradigms





Between 1200 and 925 BC (Final Bronze Age) a settlement occupied the top of the Bisenzio hill on the south-western coast of Lake Bolsena. From 925 to 725 BC (Early Iron Age), the extent of the residential area almost reached that of the most important proto-urban centres in southern Etruria. Despite the continuity of the necropolises and the occurrence of clusters of chamber tombs, between the 7th and 6th centuries B.C. (the Orientalizing and Archaic Ages) Bisenzio would have undergone a gradual decline, that culminated at the beginning of the 5th century B.C.

Though the scientific investigations date back to the 19th century, an exhaustive interpretive

framework has always been lacking and several issues do call for further research: palaeo-landscape; early frequentation and evolution of the settlement area; underwater archaeological contexts; peri-urban burial areas and cultic-scape.

The lecture provides an overview of the knowledge available at the start of "The Bisenzio Project" and illustrates the interpretative paradigms with which such knowledge has been historically contextualised. Finally, new insights are provided and the possibility that the above-mentioned paradigms require assessment is evaluated.

