

The 2017 Season at the Necropoli del Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR), Italy

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Nel 2017 è avvenuta la prima campagna di scavi archeologici presso la Necropoli del Vallone di S. Lorenzo a Montecchio (TR), in un'area inesplorata situata a nord-ovest dello storico nucleo necropolare attualmente fruibile. Dalle indagini è emersa una struttura muraria realizzata con pietre fluviali locali, senza l'utilizzo di leganti, in una fase successiva all'abbandono della necropoli, poiché la struttura muraria presenta reimpiegati alcuni frammenti delle lastre di chiusura delle tombe a camera. Poco distante è stata individuata una sepoltura a camera scavata direttamente nel terreno naturale, preceduta da un breve dromos realizzato a cielo aperto e dotata di due camere coassiali, di tipologia consueta nell'ambito necropolare. La tomba ha orientamento N-S ed aveva la prima camera corredata di due letti funebri disposti sui lati e realizzati a risparmio nel comparto geologico locale. I resti dei alcuni individui giacevano sopra di queste insieme al corredo caratterizzato da effetti personali. La seconda camera più piccola, presentava una banchina stretta e continua lungo i lati della stanza, dove sono stati rinvenuti i corredi ceramici ritualizzati. Questi sono risultati ben conservati sebbene la tomba subì fenomeni di allagamento e il parziale crollo della volta; i materiali collocano la sepoltura in un arco cronologico compreso tra la metà del VI e l'inizio del V sec. a.C.

In 2017 excavation took place within the Etrusco-Umbrian necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, within the municipality of Montecchio (Province of Terni), which is southeast of Orvieto and adjacent to the Tiber River (fig. 1). The project during this initial season was a collaboration between the municipality of Montecchio and the Università degli Studi di Perugia under the supervision of the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio dell'Umbria, carried out with the permission of the Ministero della Cultura. The primary goal of the project is to more fully explore and record the area of the necropolis, in order to preserve and enhance the cultural heritage of Montecchio.¹ In 2017, a tomb along with another architectural feature was discovered and excavated within the *località* Raiano, in a field that has not been previously explored through scientific excavation.

¹ The authors are very grateful to all of the sponsoring entities, as well as the students and many other individuals who have worked for or otherwise supported the project, with particular thanks to mayor Federico Gori, former mayor Davide Lisei, Dr. Luca Pulcinelli and Giovanni Altamore of the Superintendency, and to Chiara Vincenzi for the osteological analysis of the skeletal remains (under the supervision of Prof. Maria Giovanna Belcastro and Prof. Antonio Curci of the Università di Bologna (VINCENZI 2020)). The authors also express their gratitude to the municipality, the Associazione GAL Ternano, and the Associazione ACQUA for financial and logistical support of the artifact conservation and restoration, carried out by Giacomo Perna. The project also has received support from Kent State University. All images are by the authors, published with the permission of the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio dell'Umbria.



Fig. 1. Regional map with the excavation area in relation to surrounding cities.

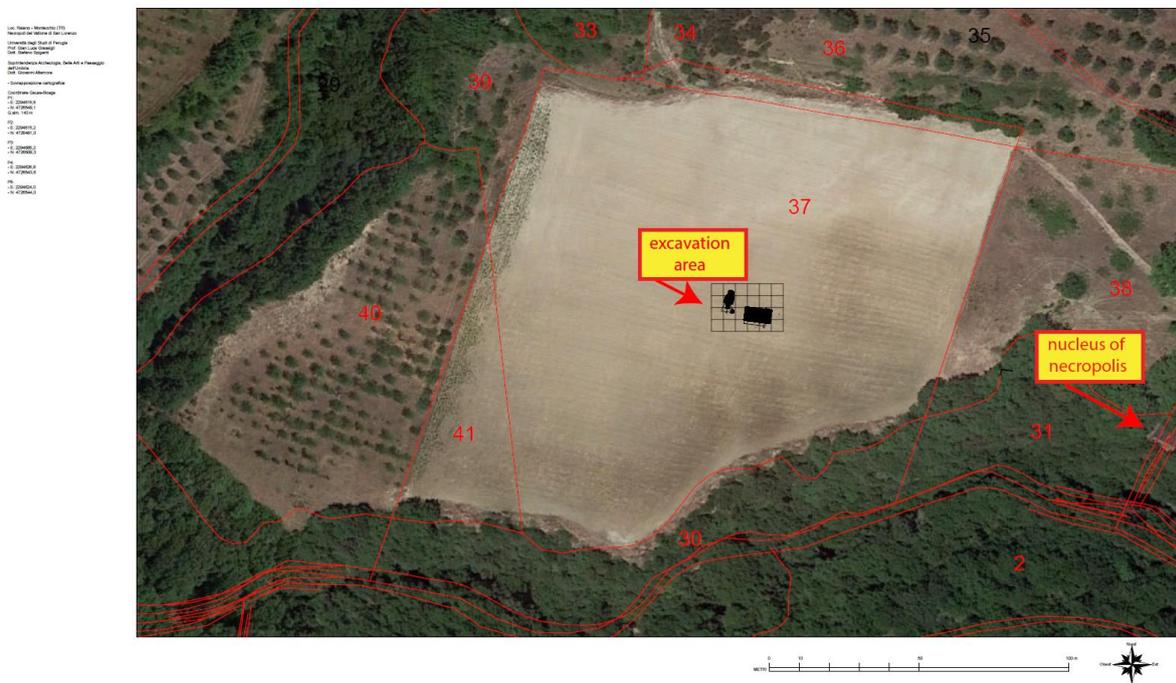


Fig. 2. Cadastral map showing the location of the 2017 excavation, with the plan of Tomb R1 and an adjacent stone feature; to the Southeast, the western portion of the main nucleus of tombs of the necropolis is indicated (località Raiano, Montecchio (TR)).

The region in which the necropolis is found features hilly terrain cut by deep ravines that descend from the Monte Amerini to the East; the necropolis is located along the Vallone di San Lorenzo, a deep valley in which lies a seasonal torrent of the Tiber River. In general, the necropolis features many rock-cut chamber tombs carved directly into the yellow hued, compact sedimentary layer of organogenic calcarenite known locally as *matile*, and found along the slopes of the valley. Domenico Golini originally discovered the necropolis in 1855, who hypothesized it was quite extensive². While many of the tombs unfortunately have been looted by ancient and/or modern clandestine excavation (an ongoing threat), the Archaeological Superintendency in response organized more systematic investigations beginning in 1959³, mainly in the period between 1973 until 2005⁴. Around fifty tombs have been discovered in total. Besides the problem of looting, most tombs were damaged by flooding and some by agricultural activity; the roof and entrances of the tombs are often damaged, and the funerary goods and skeletal remains when present are most often displaced by prior flooding. The area of the necropolis is now an archaeological park of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, and modern metal roofs protect its nucleus, which has the greatest concentration of previously excavated tombs.

In general, the tombs at the necropolis have one or sometimes two coaxial quadrangular chambers carved into the soft sedimentary layer with benches and shelves carved into the sides and rear for the bodies and grave goods; interior ceilings are flat, arched or ogival in form, or are carved to resemble the wooden framework of domestic architecture. The primary chamber generally features parallel benches for the bodies of the deceased with a flat or slightly concave surface, and often pillows carved into the end of the bench opposite the entrance, upon which the heads were placed. The tombs were reused over multiple generations, judging by the skeletal and artifactual evidence, and contained men, women and children (hypothetically from the same family). Funerary goods, mostly ceramic tableware and containers, were placed on niches or shelves in the primary chamber and/or a smaller rear chamber, and residual nail holes on the back wall indicate the use of wooden shelves, or that items were hung on the walls⁵. A short *dromos* carved into the rock provided an uncovered passageway to the tomb's entrance. The tombs were closed by leaning a large travertine slab against the door jambs, and rough stones or blocks were then piled up in front of the door to block access to it. A few *fossetta* (small pit) tombs were discovered near the entrance of these tombs for the burial of children, sometimes accompanied by miniature versions of the same type of ceramic vessels found with adult burials⁶.

The pottery and other artifacts found at the necropolis range in date mostly between the late seventh to the fourth centuries B.C. Bucchero (predominantly bucchero attributable to Volsinian workshops, dated to between the sixth and fifth centuries B.C.) and coarser impasto were the most common pottery types in the tomb assemblages, with a limited amount of painted Greek and Etruscan pottery; a few tombs yielded late seventh to early sixth century B.C. impasto produced in the *Ager Faliscus*⁷. In general, the forms are connected to the funerary banquet, including a variety of cups, bowls, plates and pouring vessels, as well as numerous locally produced impasto *ollae* (flat bottomed jars) of different shapes and sizes which served as food containers, and are indicative of the agricultural productivity of this area. Iron and bronze artifacts which have been discovered reflect types found in Etruscan, central Italic and Adriatic contexts, and include bronze vessels and vessel fragments⁸. Artifacts which are generally considered to be indicative of masculine burials include iron spear points along with items associated with the preparation and cooking of meat like iron spits and the blades of knives. Iron *fibulae* are very common, either with a simple arch or a serpentine, triple arched type reminiscent of double arched Picene examples⁹. Personal items generally associated with female burials include iron *fibulae*, silver spiral hair clasps and ceramic spindle whorls¹⁰. Overall the tombs and artifacts reflect a prosperous community, well-connected to diverse trade networks, with relatively uniform burial customs.

With no epigraphic or other written evidence, it is unclear how the population buried at the necropolis

² GOLINI 1858: 113-116.

³ BIZZARRI 1959: 46-47.

⁴ FERUGLIO 1977; GAROFOLI 1980; 1983; 1985; FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001; BRUSCHETTI 2012.

⁵ FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 201-202; BRUSCHETTI 2012: 98.

⁶ FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 208-213, 226-227 (figs. 23-26).

⁷ GAROFOLI 1980: 568; 1983, 459; FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 199-204.

⁸ FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 202, 206, 215, 222, 224 (figs. 11, 19).

⁹ GAROFOLI 1983: 458; FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 200, 203, 205-207.

¹⁰ BIZZARRI 1959: 46-47; FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 206, 213; BRUSCHETTI 2012: 100-102.

self-identified. The necropolis is close to the left bank (Umbrian side) of the Tiber River, which served as an avenue for trade in resources such as grain, stone, timber, metal and manufactured goods. While the Tiber was defined as the geopolitical boundary between Umbria and Etruria (Regions VI and VII) in the Augustan administrative division of Italy as described by Pliny the Elder, in the pre-Roman period the central Tiber Valley is hypothesized to be a less rigidly defined “zone of interaction”, with an ethnically diverse population, and that accords with the mixed origins of artifacts found in the tombs¹¹. The use of chamber tombs is generally interpreted to be a product of Etruscan influence; other chamber tombs have been found at sites which are also relatively close to the left bank of the Tiber and feature the necessary geomorphology to enable the carving of such tombs out of the native rock¹². Given its proximity, the number of ceramic and metal artifacts of Volsinian origin, and the use of chamber tombs, it has been posited that the necropolis possibly served the residents of a defensive outpost of Etruscan *Velzna/Volsinii*, most likely located on the adjacent plateau of Copio¹³. Luca Desibio has recently used survey evidence and topographical data to argue that the site at Copio functioned less in a defensive capacity and more as an emporium, close to the Tiber, but also with ready access to overland routes to the Umbrian sites of *Tuder* (modern Todi) and *Amer* (modern Amelia), both of which experienced economic growth in the fourth century¹⁴. In addition, the quantity of food containers from the tombs, as well as cups and vessels for wine suggest an agriculturally prosperous community.

The excavation site for the 2017 season lies in a field on the northwestern area of the necropolis within the *località* Raiano, about 200 meters from the nucleus of the necropolis (fig. 2). The field, about 2.5 hectares in area, functioned in the early twentieth century as a vineyard, but has since been cleared of the grapevines and now lies fallow, rendering surface features more visible. The field slopes down towards the forested ravine (Fosso di San Lorenzo) to the South, with another ravine (Fosso di Raiano) bounding it along the western side. In 2017, an area with a greater concentration of stones was observed in the soil of the central eastern sector of the field, of a type which are often associated with burials at the necropolis, used to block access to the entrance of the tombs. The presence of these stones, suggestive of an underlying tomb or tombs, led to the initial investigation of this area of the field, in which Tomb R1 and another stone feature were discovered.

Trench A: Stone Feature

The initial feature **1** which was discovered in 2017 underlay a soil layer about one meter below the surface, within what was designated as Trench A (figs. 3-5). Stone feature **1** was defined as an accumulation of unworked medium and larger sized stones of fluvial origin, approximately half a meter in width and depth, running in a line perpendicular to the slope of the terrain in an East-West direction. Around 7.50 m in length was cleared, but the full extent was not reached at the end of the season, and it extended into the eastern section, with the western terminus unclear as it was poorly preserved. It remains uncertain whether this feature was structural or perhaps a rough boundary wall. No mortar was used, and there was no indication of a foundation trench, but rather it rested directly on a compacted clay layer with stony inclusions (**22**), which was not excavated. One piece of worked travertine was observed as a component of this feature, and an irregular accumulation of stones within a soil matrix (**15**) was adjacent directly South, interpreted to be formed from downhill collapse of the feature. From the soil layers just under the ground surface and overlying the feature several sherds from red impasto *ollae* were recovered, with one black-gloss ware pottery sherd from the uppermost layer (likely post-occupational, third to first century B.C. in date). The construction date of stone feature **1** remains uncertain, but it appears to have been composed of elements commonly found within the entrance area of the chamber tombs (in this case, a possible piece of a closing slab in the midst of stone fill typically found within the *dromos*); it seems most likely that it was created at some time after the necropolis went out of use and the tombs were being opened and raided for their more precious artifacts (perhaps during the third century B.C. or later).

¹¹ BRADLEY 2000: 27.

¹² FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 213-215.

¹³ STOPPONI 2008: 21.

¹⁴ DESIBIO 2020: 27-33.

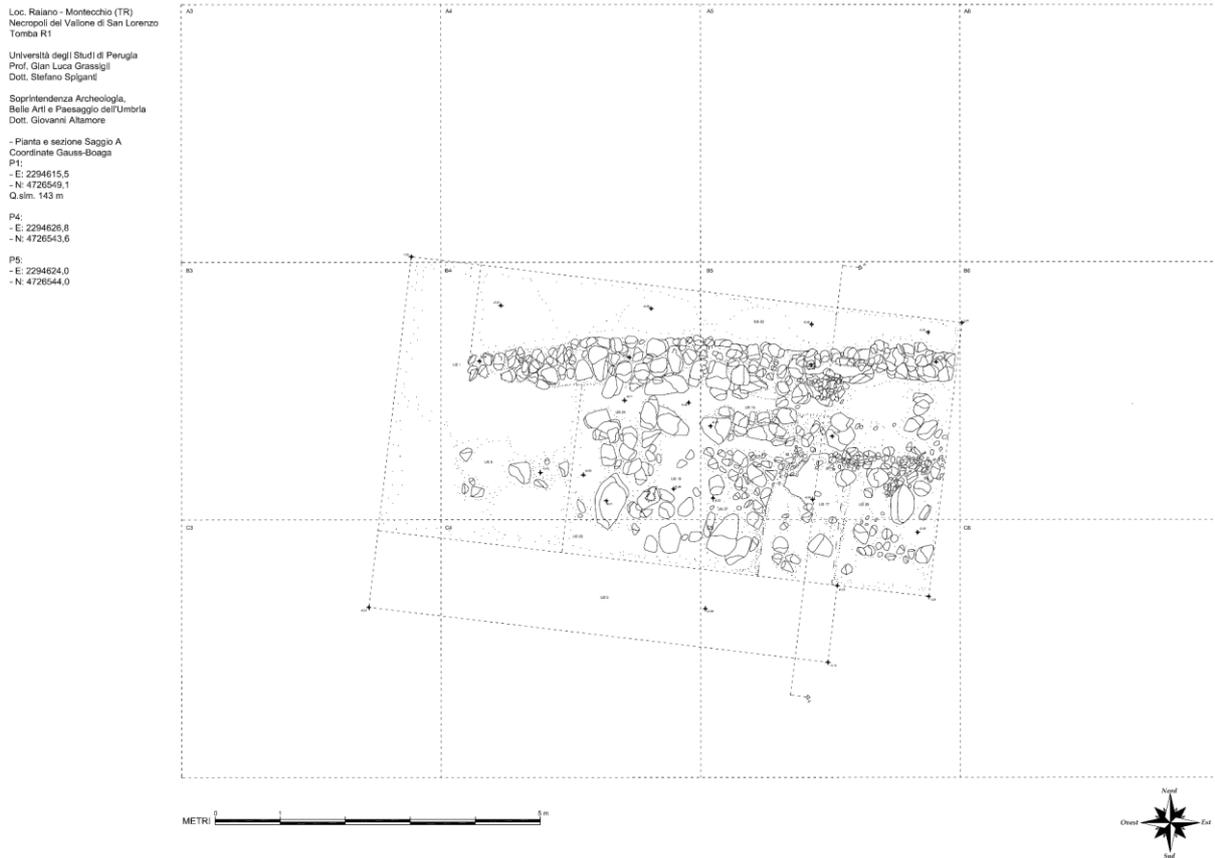


Fig. 3. Drawing with stone feature 1 and associated collapse layer 15 from Trench A of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

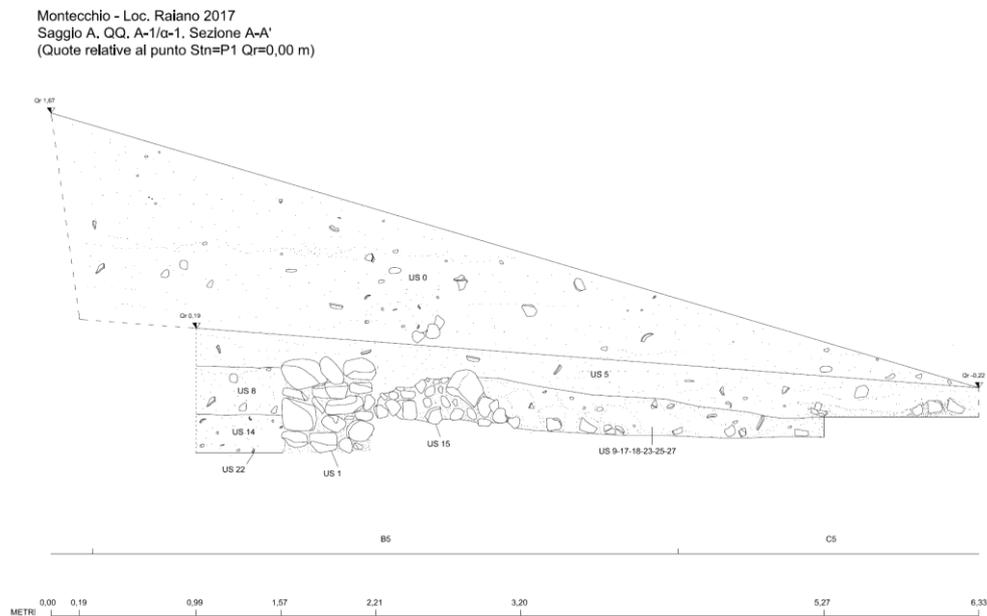


Fig. 4. Section drawing with stone feature 1 and associated collapse layer 15 from Trench A of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 5. Final photo taken from the East of stone feature 1 with some remnants of associated collapse layer 15, Trench A of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

Trench B: Tomb R1

About five meters to the northwest of the stone feature, Tomb R1 was discovered (figs. 6-8). Like other tombs in the necropolis, this chamber tomb was cut directly into the native soft stone layer, with an approximate North-South orientation (slightly skewed towards the Northeast). A *dromos* about two meters in length sloped down towards the entrance of the tomb. The entrance itself was about 0.75 m. in width, in which a layer of medium sized unworked stones was found, typical of those used at other tombs of the necropolis within the *dromos* to block access to the entrance. The travertine closing slab was no longer *in situ* but was found in fragments within and outside of the tomb, probably damaged when tomb robbers broke into the tomb and also damaged the entrance and side benches. Because of the damage to the tomb, it is not certain if the exterior of the entrance was carved to resemble architectural elements, as found with better-preserved tombs in the nucleus of the necropolis. The tomb itself measured about 4.00 m. long x 2.40 m. wide, composed of two coaxial chambers, the larger, more southern chamber used for the inhumation burials, the smaller, more northern chamber for the funerary goods.

Inside the primary (southern) chamber, river stones within the lowest layer above the floor level were interpreted as fill from the *dromos* which presumably flowed into the cham-

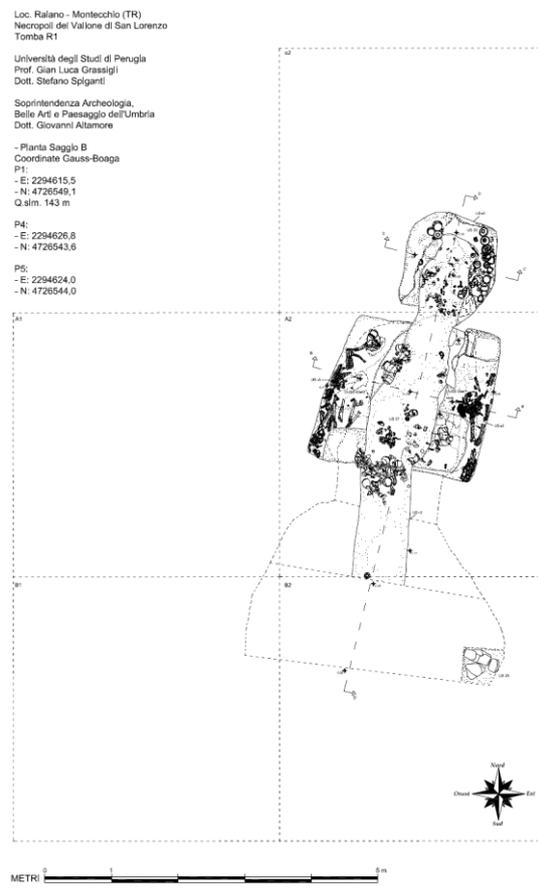


Fig. 6. Drawing of Trench B with the plan of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 7. Photo looking from the South into Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

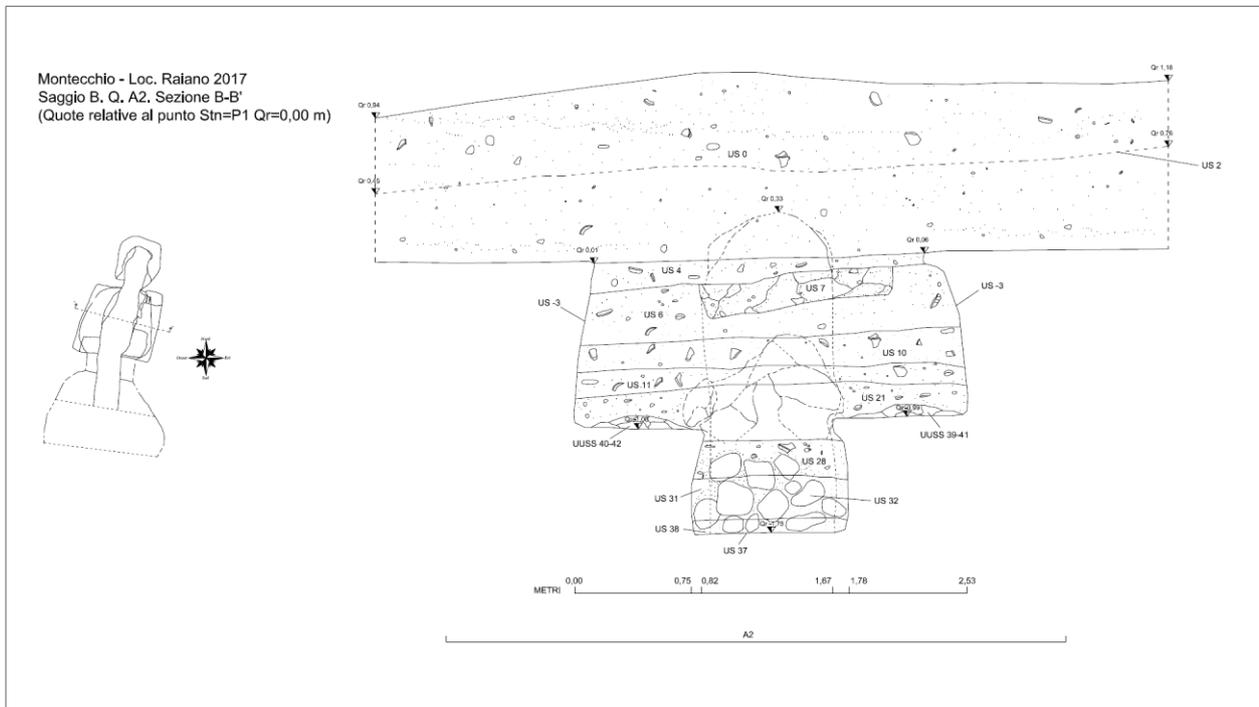


Fig. 8. Section drawing of the primary chamber of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 9. Overhead photo of the western (left) bench of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 10. Photo of the eastern (right) bench of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 11. Overhead photo of the eastern (right) bench of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

ber after the closing slab was broken. The lowest silty soil layer which covered the floor was deposited by flooding from colluvial action prior to the roof collapse. The roof of the southernmost primary chamber was missing (most likely destroyed by modern agricultural machinery and further damaged by periodic flooding), and the original form is unclear. The side walls were preserved to a height about one meter above the benches; large chunks from the collapsed roof were discovered near the entrance and within the primary chamber and the area between the rooms. Soil layers within the primary chamber contained chunks of the roof (more concentrated in the middle), which alternated with layers with fewer inclusions, leading to the conclusion that the collapse was not a singular event, but rather the roof was damaged and then experienced further deterioration over time. Eventually the room was filled with soil and debris from above.

The primary chamber was rectangular in plan, measuring about 2.45 m. wide and 2.25 m. long. The benches extending along either side of the chamber were about 0.60 m high and 0.75 m. wide and were damaged by deep, 0.40 m. wide cuts along the inner edge adjacent to the entrance, likely by a tomb robber who also damaged the entrance in order to gain access to the grave goods (figs. 9-11). The benches, although damaged, appear to have had a flat surface with traces of a horizontal linear molding along the side, perhaps

carved in imitation of a wooden frame of a *κλίνη* (evident more so on the eastern (right) bench than the western (left) bench). The skeletal remains were damaged and displaced (more so on the western (left) bench), but it was clear that the heads were originally positioned on the northern end, where the remnants of a pillow were carved into the benches. Some artifacts, particularly personal ornaments, were present with the skeletal remains on either bench, as well as the floor below (discussed below).

The entrance to the smaller, secondary chamber to the North of the primary chamber was damaged, but originally about 0.55 m. wide, and led to the nearly square chamber about 1.50 m. long and 1.40 m. wide (figs. 12-13). Similar in height to the side benches in the primary chamber used for the bodies, but more narrow, a continuous shelf was carved into the back and sides of the chamber, about 0.40 m. wide and 0.60 m. high, upon which many whole vessels were discovered (discussed below). The roof of this chamber rose about 2.05 m. above the floor level, and had some damage, but appeared to be originally ogival in form. Sandy soil with clay-like inclusions filled the rear chamber above the floor level, attributed to periodic flooding.



Fig. 12. Photo of the second chamber of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 13. Overhead photo of the artifacts in situ within the second chamber of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

Grave goods and osteological analysis, Tomb R1:

Osteological analysis of the skeletal remains discovered within Tomb R1 presented a challenge in that many of the bones which were recovered were severely weathered and crushed, with mineral deposits and other physical damage, as a result of exposure and the flooding and filling of the tomb with soil and debris after the roof collapse; also evident were tooth marks from small animals and other signs of tampering. Besides being displaced from their original position, it was clear that many of the bones of each skeleton were no longer present within the tomb; the grave goods had also been damaged and displaced, and some which possibly were originally positioned on the benches were found on the floor below, and the more precious items were likely robbed in antiquity. Like other tombs in the necropolis, this is a multiple burial which we hypothesize was reopened periodically for the placement of new bodies, likely from the same family; it was determined through osteological analysis that a minimum of seven individuals were laid to rest here.

Primary chamber: Western (left) bench

A minimum of four individuals lay on the western (left) bench within the primary chamber (fig. 14). Of these, one was a teenager 18 to 22 years of age, one a young adult 20 to 24 years of age, one an adult 30 to 35 years of age, and one an adult 35 to 45 years of age¹⁵. It was possible to deduce that two of them were male, but not enough evidence was available to identify the sex of all four. A cut mark on a scapula appears to have been anthropogenic in origin and it could indicate that the bones were disarticulated by someone to make room for the placement of a new corpse, when the older skeleton was pushed aside¹⁶.

¹⁵ VINCENZI 2020: 76, 88.

¹⁶ VINCENZI 2020: 85, fig. 39.

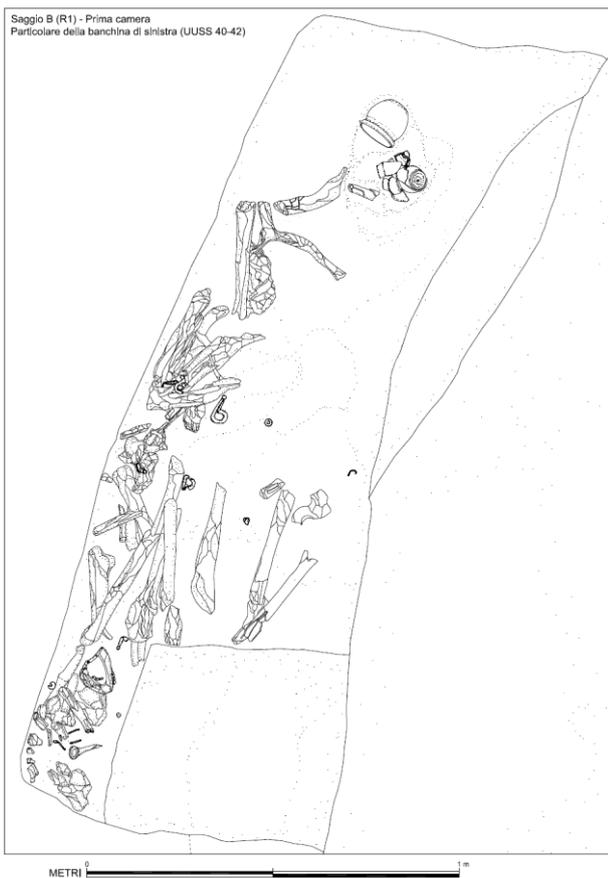


Fig. 14. Drawing of the western (left) bench within the primary chamber of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 15. Iron fibula from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 16. Bronze clasp from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

Artifacts on the left bench included a bronze lump, possibly an *aes rude* (notably one was found on both benches). Similar examples have been discovered at other tombs in the necropolis; while no direct evidence exists, perhaps it was a payment for the journey to the underworld, analogous to Charon's *obol* from the Greek world¹⁷. Personal ornaments included a portion of a *fibula* with a triple arch, and portions of four *fibulae* with a simple arch (fig. 15), as well as two bronze clasps with spherical end points (fig. 16). As mentioned above, triple arched serpentine iron *fibulae* are characteristic finds within tombs at the necropolis¹⁸.

Many (mostly fragmentary) locally produced impasto *ollae* of different shapes, sizes and colors, which functioned as food containers were discovered within the tomb, and are indicative of the agricultural productivity of the area; they are complemented by black and grey bucchero vessels attributable to Volsinian workshops, particularly pouring and drinking vessels associated with the funerary banquet. The dateable forms were predominantly mid to late sixth century B.C. in date, extending into the beginning of the fifth century B.C.

¹⁷ Beccatti states that *aes rude* were present in all the tombs discovered by Golini (BECCATTI 1938: 52); another was more recently discovered in Tomb 32 (BRUSCHETTI 2012: 99). *Aes rude* are also found in other tombs of the Archaic period, such as at the Acciaierie necropolis of Terni (associated with the ancient Umbrian site of *Interamna Nahars*) (LEONELLI 2003: 38). For a discussion of Charon's *obol*, see STEVENS 1991.

¹⁸ For the iron *fibulae* see FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 200, 203, 205; compare iron *fibula* Type III A 62 from the Umbrian necropolis at Colfiorito (BONOMI PONZI 1997: 114=115, plate 23, n. III A 62).



Fig. 17. *Impasto olletta* from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

Within the primary chamber a small ovoid red impasto *olletta* (fig. 17) as well as a fragmentary grey bucchero *kyathos* (*atingitoio*) were discovered on the northern end of the left bench.¹⁹ If in their original position, these vessels would have been close to the head(s) of the deceased.

Primary chamber: Eastern (right) bench

Bones from at least three individuals were found on the eastern (right) bench (fig. 18). One was determined to be a teenager 12 to 18 years old, one a young adult between 24 and 30 years of age, and one an adult 35 to 40 years of age²⁰. Unfortunately, none of the remains provided information about the sex of these individuals.

Amongst the bones on the right bench was a bronze ribbon loop finger ring engraved with a representation of a bird in flight, facing left, within an oval register framed by palmettes, which is the first artifact of this type attested at the necropolis (figs. 19-21). The significance of the central motif is not certain, but birds are common to Etruscan art, both in reference to augury and hunting (including examples in a funerary context such as tomb paintings of the Monterozzi necropolis at Tarquinia (e.g., Tomb of Hunting and Fishing, Tomb of the Augurs, Tomb of the Triclinium)), and as attributes of deities such as the Etruscan *Turan*. Palmettes are also common motifs which reveal Eastern influence. As on the left bench, a lump of bronze was found, interpreted to be another *aes rude*. Other artifacts were found which are common to other tombs at the necropolis including two silver hair spirals, two fragments of triple arched *fibulae* (fig. 22), two simple arch *fibulae*, as well as two truncated conical ceramic spindle whorls.²¹ These artifacts suggest that a female was represented amongst the skeletal remains, even though it was not possible to confirm this through the osteological analysis.

¹⁹ *kyathos* (*atingitoio*): TAMBURINI 2004: 197, pl. 4, Type 3b; RASMUSSEN 1979: 92, pl. 25, jug Type 2, nos. 113-114; GRANAYMERICH 2017: pl. 117, Form 5153a1, second half of the sixth century B.C.

²⁰ VINCENZI 2020: 76, 88.

²¹ BIZZARRI 1959: 46-47; FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 206, 213; BRUSCHETTI 2012: 100-102.



Fig. 18. Drawing of the eastern (right) bench within the primary chamber of Tomb R1 of the necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 19. Bronze finger ring from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 20. Closeup of bronze finger ring from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 22. Iron fibula from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 21. Closeup of bird motif on a bronze ring from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

Primary chamber: floor between both benches

In between the two benches on the floor within the primary chamber was a piece of bronze chain, a small, truncated conical lead artifact perforated with a hole in the center (perhaps a weight or pendant for a necklace) (fig. 23), as well as three pieces of iron spits, and the partial blade from an iron knife. These items were likely originally positioned on the benches. As mentioned above, the spits and knives have traditionally been considered indicative of masculine burials, associated with the preparation and cooking of meat as an element of the funeral ritual²².

The vessels on the floor between the two benches of the primary chamber included seven whole or fragmentary red or brown impasto *ollae*, including one with a glossy black surface, linear relief decoration around the base of the neck as well as vertical ribbing. These were accompanied by a miniature hemispherical black bucchero cup, as well fragments of a black bucchero *kyathos* (*atingitoio*), black bucchero *oinochoe* and a grey bucchero plate²³.



Fig. 23. Lead artifact from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

Secondary chamber:

On the floor just inside the entrance to the secondary chamber were found fragments of a bronze grater, an artifact connected to banqueting contexts, where cheese and spices were possibly grated into a cup of wine, symbolic of the aristocratic status of the deceased²⁴. On the floor by the eastern (right) area of the shelf were two ceramic truncated conical spindle whorls, and another fragment of an iron spit.

On the western (left) area of the shelf were discovered two reddish brown impasto *ollae*, a partially preserved grey bucchero *kyathos* (*atingitoio*), and a black bucchero *kantharos* on a low trumpet foot (fig. 24). The *kantharos* was decorated with a horizontal, notched band running around the base²⁵.

The eastern (right) portion of the shelf within the secondary chamber was the most well-appointed area of the tomb in terms of pottery, with many whole or nearly whole vessels (figs. 25-29). These included five red, brown or reddish brown impasto *ollae*, six hemispherical black bucchero cups on a trumpet foot, and the base of three other cups²⁶. The cups were inverted, likely as an element of funerary ritual. A black bucchero *oinochoe* of reduced dimensions, with a short neck and wide body tapering to a ring foot was found, as well as

²² The assemblages of several previously excavated tombs at the necropolis also contained iron spits, knives and/or other weapons such as spearheads (FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 198, 202, 207; BRUSCHETTI 2012: 100-102, fig. 24); spits are common in central Italic tombs of this period, compare BONOMI PONZI 1997: 114, pl. 23; *Gens antiquissima Italiae* 1991: 163-164, n. 2.28; 410-411, n. 21; 414.

²³ miniature cup: TAMBURINI 2004: 216, pl. 13, Type 8d; RASMUSSEN 1979: 126, Pl. 42, nos. 271-274, Type 3e; GRAN-AYMERICH 2017: pl. 41, Form 2684a1, second half of the sixth century B.C. to the fifth century B.C.

²⁴ RIDGWAY 1997, who discusses the evidence for the origin and symbolism of this practice, and notes particularly discoveries from tombs in Campania, Latium, Southern Etruria and Tuscany of seventh century B.C. date. Bronze graters are also found in ancient Picene tombs (NASO 2000: 208, 296). Also see FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 202 (with citations) and 222, fig. 11 who mention the discovery of a bronze grater with other dishes associated with the consumption of wine from Tomb 6 and emphasize the connection in particular to Etruscan Orvieto (*Velzna/Volsinii*).

²⁵ *kantharos*: TAMBURINI 2004: 200-201, Pl. 6, Type 3e; RASMUSSEN 1979: 104-105, Pl. 32, n. 171, Type 3e; GRAN-AYMERICH 2017: Pl. 82, Forms 3741b1 and 3741b2, widespread type of the last quarter of the seventh to second quarter of the sixth century B.C.

²⁶ hemispherical cups: TAMBURINI 2004: 210-211, pl. 11, Type 1c; GRAN-AYMERICH 2017: pl. 44, Form 2773b1, widespread type of last quarter of sixth century B.C. to the beginning of fifth century B.C.



Fig. 24. *Bucchero kantharos* from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 25. *Bucchero footed hemispherical cup* from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 26. *Bucchero oinochoe* from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 27. *Impasto olletta* from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 28. Bucchero kantharos from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).



Fig. 29. Bucchero kyathos/atingitoio from Tomb R1, necropolis of the Vallone di San Lorenzo, Montecchio (TR).

a black bucchero *kantharos* with a low ring foot and high, offset handles²⁷. Both a grey and a black bucchero ovoid *kyathos* (*atingitoio*) with a truncated conical neck, and vertical loop handle were also discovered, similar in form to the less well preserved example found on the left bench of the primary chamber²⁸. In addition, on the floor below was the foot of an Attic *kylix*, which is not the first to be discovered in the necropolis²⁹.

In conclusion, while the purpose of stone feature 1 is not completely understood, it possibly served as a perimeter wall formed with material from the despoiled tombs. It is clear that Tomb R1 resembles other chamber tombs with two coaxial chambers found to the Southeast in the main nucleus, and like those it was carved directly into the soft stone layer. The discovery of this tomb not only indicates that the necropolis extended into this field, but also suggests that Tomb R1 is one of many yet to be found here. The tomb features typical parallel benches in the primary chamber for the inhumation burials, with the narrow shelf in the secondary chamber reserved for grave goods (particularly ceramics). The osteological and artifactual analysis demonstrates the use of this tomb as a multiple burial, with no less than seven individuals laid to rest here sometime between the mid sixth and early fifth centuries B.C., ranging in age from teenagers to middle-aged adults, and hypothesized to be from the same family. While the more impressive artifacts were very likely removed from the tomb by ancient grave robbers, with the exception of the bronze finger ring with the bird motif, the remaining artifacts are typical of those found in other tombs of the necropolis, and illustrate the same range of cultural influences. Further survey and excavation are underway to reveal the full extent of the necropolis in this field.

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²⁷ *oinochos*: TAMBURINI 2004: 192-193, pl. 2, Type 2b; GRAN-AYMERICH 2017: pl. 147, Forms 5714a2 and 5714b1, second to third quarter of the sixth century B.C.; *kantharos*: TAMBURINI 2004: 200-201, pl. 6, Type 4a; RASMUSSEN 1979: 107-108, pl. 33, n. 175, Type 3e; GRAN-AYMERICH 2017: pl. 82, Form 3783b1, widespread type, second to last quarter of sixth century B.C.

²⁸ TAMBURINI 2004: 197, pl. 4, Type 3b; RASMUSSEN 1979: 92, pl. 25, jug Type 2, nos. 113-114; GRAN-AYMERICH 2017: pl. 117, Form 5153a1, second half of the sixth century B.C.

²⁹ An Attic black-figure *kylix* was found in Tomb 13 and fragments of another in Tomb 33 (FERUGLIO, GAROFOLI 2001: 206, 224, fig. 18; BRUSCHETTI 2012: 101, fig. 27).

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