

While ancient sources have provided us with much information on property ownership, heredity and property disputes in the Greco-Roman world, comparable data is not available for the Etruscan sphere. To that end, epigraphic information offers a useful resource with which we can reconstruct the extent of property ownership in Etruria. Inscriptions indicating ownership constitute one of the fundamental classes of Etruscan epigraphy. Personal possessions can be inscribed with inscriptions that profess their owner, such as the oinochoe that proclaims, *mi qutum karkanas* “I am the pitcher of Karkana” (*TLE* 63). While this class of inscriptions has long been recognized, this paper will for the first time present all together the different parties capable of ownership in Etruria, including not just individuals but also cities and even clans.

This study begins with a survey of inscriptions identifying personal property, taking into account the types of materials that are marked with a possessive moniker. Of particular interest is the circumstance that women also own objects and may have been able to read the inscriptions marking their possessions. The Etruscan clan, a large network of elites and dependents, also could own objects. An example from this category is a group of 125 bronze helmets discovered in Vetulonia, many of which are marked with the inscription *Haspnas*, marking the property of the Haspa clan. It has also been hypothesized recently that the majority of land in Etruria was owned by clans and not individuals (Capogrossi Colognesi 1994; Terrenato 2007). Evidence for this claim is tested against two Hellenistic property contracts: the *Tabula Cortonensis* and a boundary stone from Perugia.

One of the fundamental attributes of a state power was the ownership of property—this property is a surety and a central resource that can be redistributed or built upon as needed. Inscriptions provide evidence that Etruscan city-states did own property, with examples of state inscribed property including armor, ceramics, terracotta tiles and unfinished metals. State property in the form of land may have also existed, and evidence for publicly owned land is evaluated. In sum, gleaning evidence from the range of available evidence allows us to learn more about the control of resources in Etruria by individuals, the clan and the state. Understanding more about each agent’s ability and need to acquire goods can, in turn, inform us more about the social and economic functions of the city and the clan.

Capogrossi Colognesi, L. 1994. *Proprietà e signoria in Roma antica I*. Rome.

Terrenato, N. 2007. “The clans and the peasants: reflections on social structure and change in Hellenistic central Italy,” In *Articulating Local Cultures. Power and Identity Under the Expanding Roman Republic*. P. van Dommelen and N. Terrenato, eds. Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 13-22.