

CLAS100

LECTURE 7

September 28, 2015

The Etruscans: Reputation and Reality

- Ancient Etruria, occupied Italy
- Several tribes occupied Italy before the Romans consolidated them
- Religion took a lot from Greek culture

Development of Etruscan Civilization:

- Highpoint in the 7th / 6th centuries BC
- traded with Greeks and Phoenicians
- Controlled Rome until 508 BC
- After 500 BC BC rollback in Etruscan power
 - Romans destroyed an important city Veii 396 BC
 - Rome absorbed Etruscan cities by second century

Etruscan through a Greco-Roman Lens:

- Tyrrhenoi(Greek)/Etrusci(Roman) - Rasna(by themselves)
- Source Problems:
 - When the Greeks referred to the Tyrrhenoi, noone was sure if they talked about the Etruscans or people who lived in that area

Theopompos on Etruscan Customs:

- They lived a very lavish lifestyle
- They shared their women and wives
- Low standard of morality, especially among women

Wealthy Etruscan Society:

- The decadent world portrayed by Theopompos?
- or a society that enjoyed the good things in life

The Etruscan Legacy:

- Political symbols, such as fasces(twine with a single headed axe)
- Religion and Alphabet passed down to the Romans