

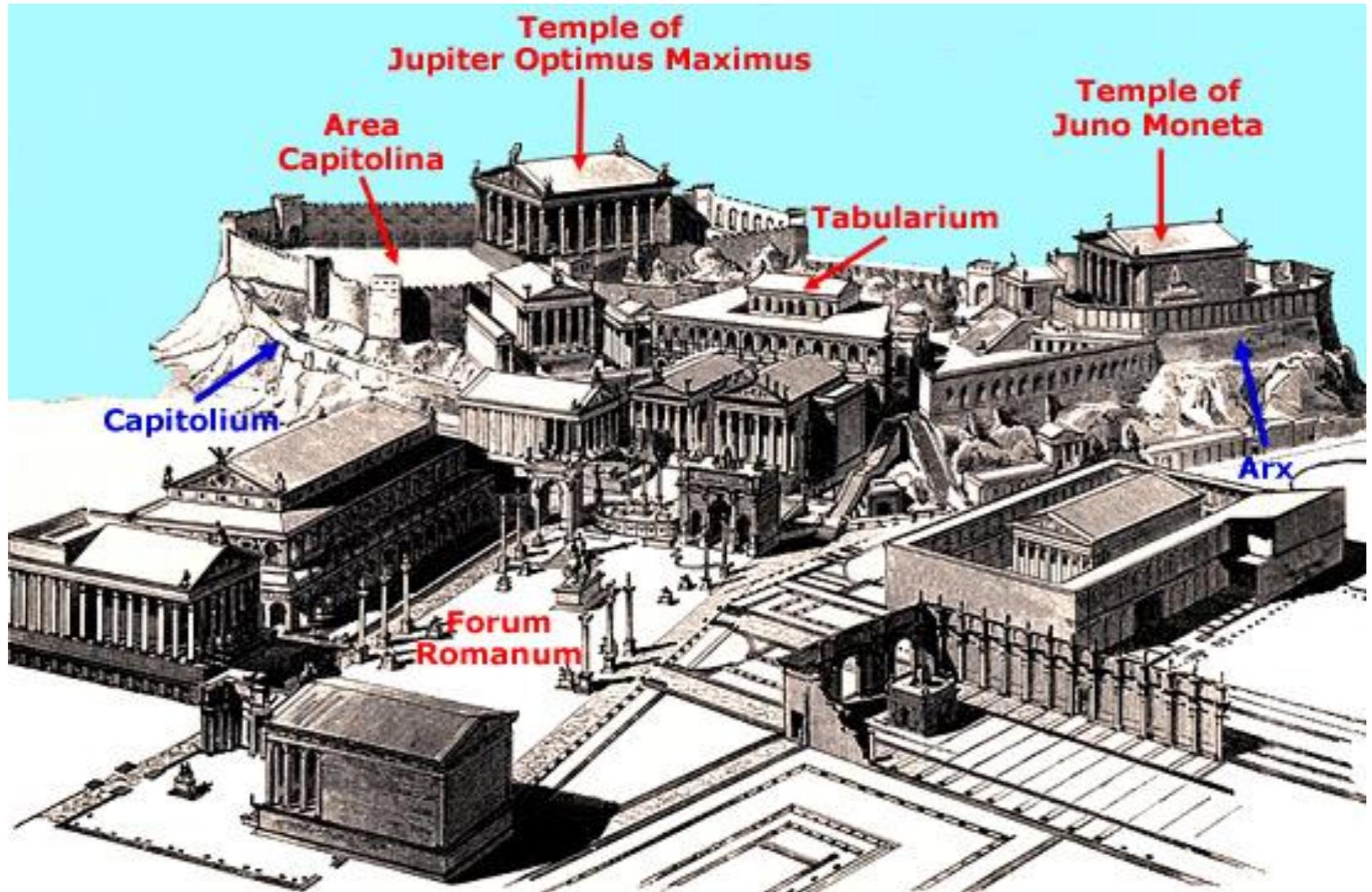
MS 575

Codex Armenicus Rescriptus. Palimpsest,  
Monastery of St. Catherine, Mt. Sinai, 6th c. and 1st half of 10th c.

- **Palimpsest**
- A parchment, etc. that has been written more than once, the previous texts having been imperfectly erased and remaining still partially visible.
- **Urban palimpsest**
  - A time-laden space with multiple layers



# Capitoline Hill: *sacredness of place*



# Capitoline Hill and surrounding area



## Edward Gibbon, *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 1776-1788

- “It was at Rome, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 1764, as I sat musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the bare-footed fryars were singing Vespers in the temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the decline and fall of the City first started to my mind.”



- ***La Dolce Vita***
- Federico Fellini (1960)
  
- What is the palimpsestal image in the opening scene?
  
- What story is being told about Rome and what tensions does it contain?

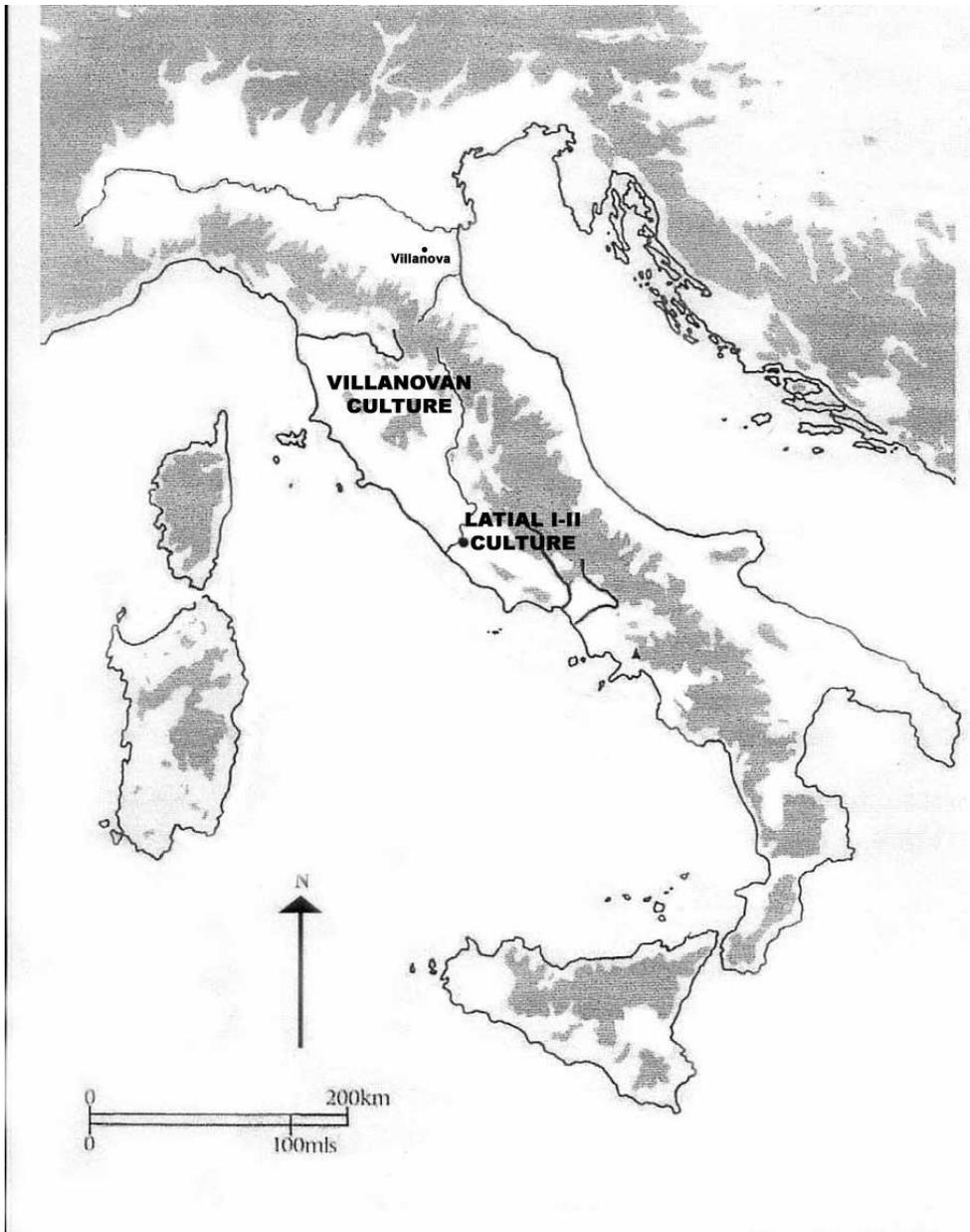


# Rome and its tensions (for Livy, *Ab urbe condita*, and beyond)

- **Palimpsest**
- **(Re)foundings**
- Problems with greatness: **ambition** and **wealth (vice)**
- **Mores maiorum** and **exemplum virtutis**: ways of the ancestors and examples of virtue (**virtus**, pietas, gravitas / pudicitia)
- **Public vs. private** (gender issues)
- **Conservative society**: innovation through **accretion** / religious syncretism
- **Growth** through **incorporation** of others (tensions of a **multicultural, cosmopolitan** society: rape of the Sabines).
- Horace: *Graecia capta ferum victorem cepit et artes intulit agresti Latio*



## Iron age cultures in central Italy, c. 1000-800 BC



-development of “material culture”

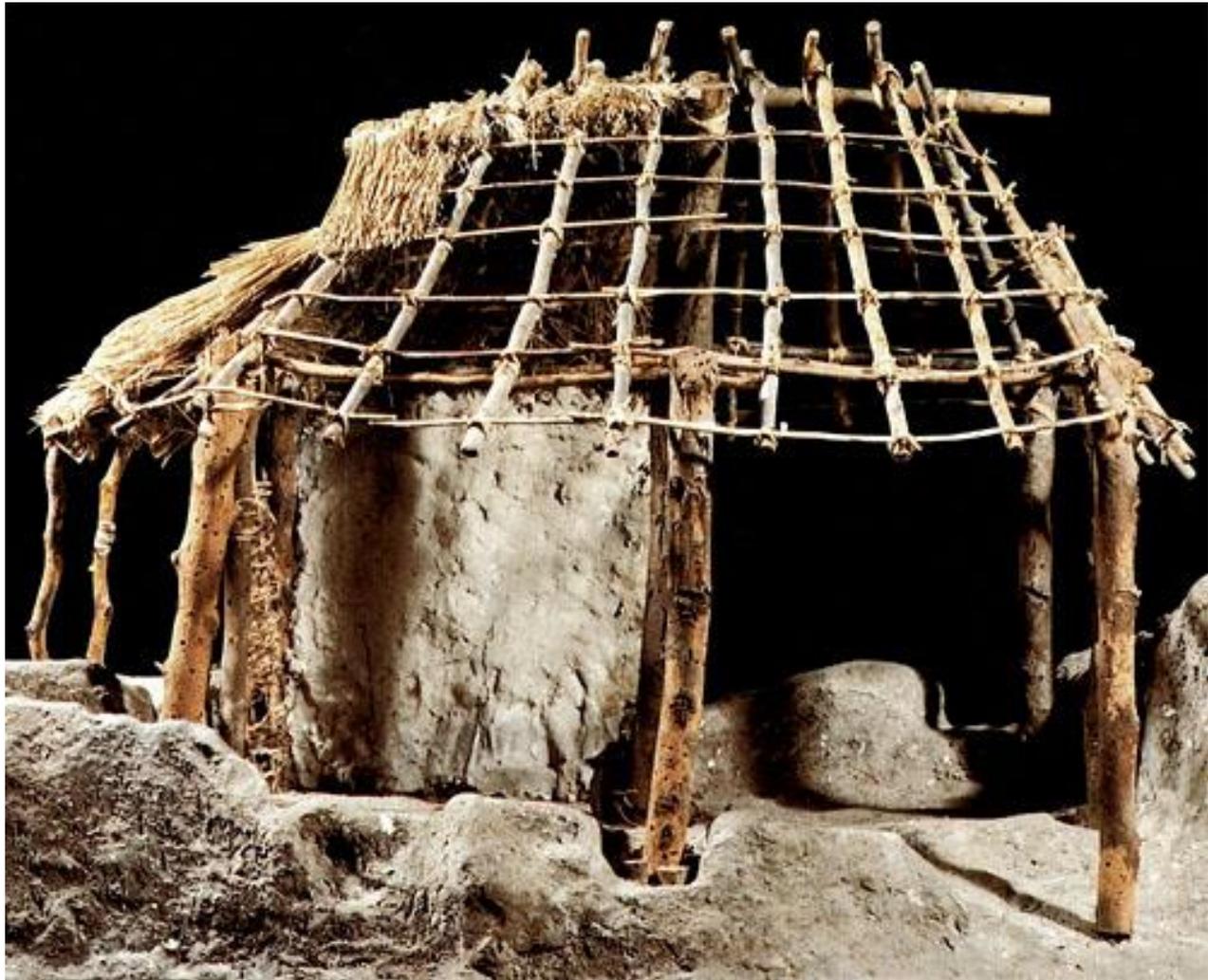
--graves = “closed find deposits”

Latial hut urn from Rome



# Etruscan hut urn from Vulci





# Palatine Hill, hut post holes, mid-8<sup>th</sup> century BCE



# Etruscan, Greek and Phoenician territories in 8<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> centuries (orientalizing period in Etruscan art)



Golden fibula, Cerveteri, Regolini-Galassi Tomb, 650-40 BCE







- **Etruscans (Rasenna), Etruria (Tuscany):**
- **750-500 BC period of expansion**
- --**city states** built on hill tops (Cerveteri, Tarquinia, Veii)
- --elite, **aristocratic** culture (kings)
- --**economy**: wealth based on **mining** (iron and copper), **agriculture** and **trade**
- Etruscan **women** (relative freedom)
- **616-509 BC** Etruscan kings at Rome
- **474 BC** naval defeat by Greeks at Cumae
- **396 BC** Veii falls to Rome



Caisra = Cerveteri  
Tarchna = Tarquinia

--Romans borrow many Etruscan features:

- **Fasces and lictors, curule chair**
- **Toga**
- **City planning** and road-building techniques [pomerium; cardo n-s / decumanus –e-w]
- **Architecture** (arch, temples, houses)



- “Mysterious” origins
- Etruscan language: **non-Indo-European**
- borrowed alphabet from Greeks in 8<sup>th</sup> century
- mainly short and formulaic inscriptions survive
- DNA analysis: some traces to Asia Minor (Turkey)



Linen Book  
of Zagreb

# Etruscan religion

- --Ritualistic, aristocratic, priestly (*lucumones*): “**disciplina etrusca**”
- --local gods adapted to Greek Pantheon
  - **Tinia**=Zeus/Jupiter—thunderbolt; **Uni** =Hera/Juno
  - Heaven mapped onto earth / deterministic religion
  - **Divination / augury** (interpreting the will of the gods): Interpretation of **lightening**, reading **flight of birds**; **haruspicy** (reading entrails of animals, especially sheep’s liver), **portents**
  - Importance of the **cult of ancestors**, afterlife and **necropoleis** (cities of the dead)  
Etruscan **lars** (lord), whence Roman **lares** (ancestral guardian deities)

Tinia,  
5<sup>th</sup> century

- three types of thunderbolts:
  - warning
  - fear
  - destruction





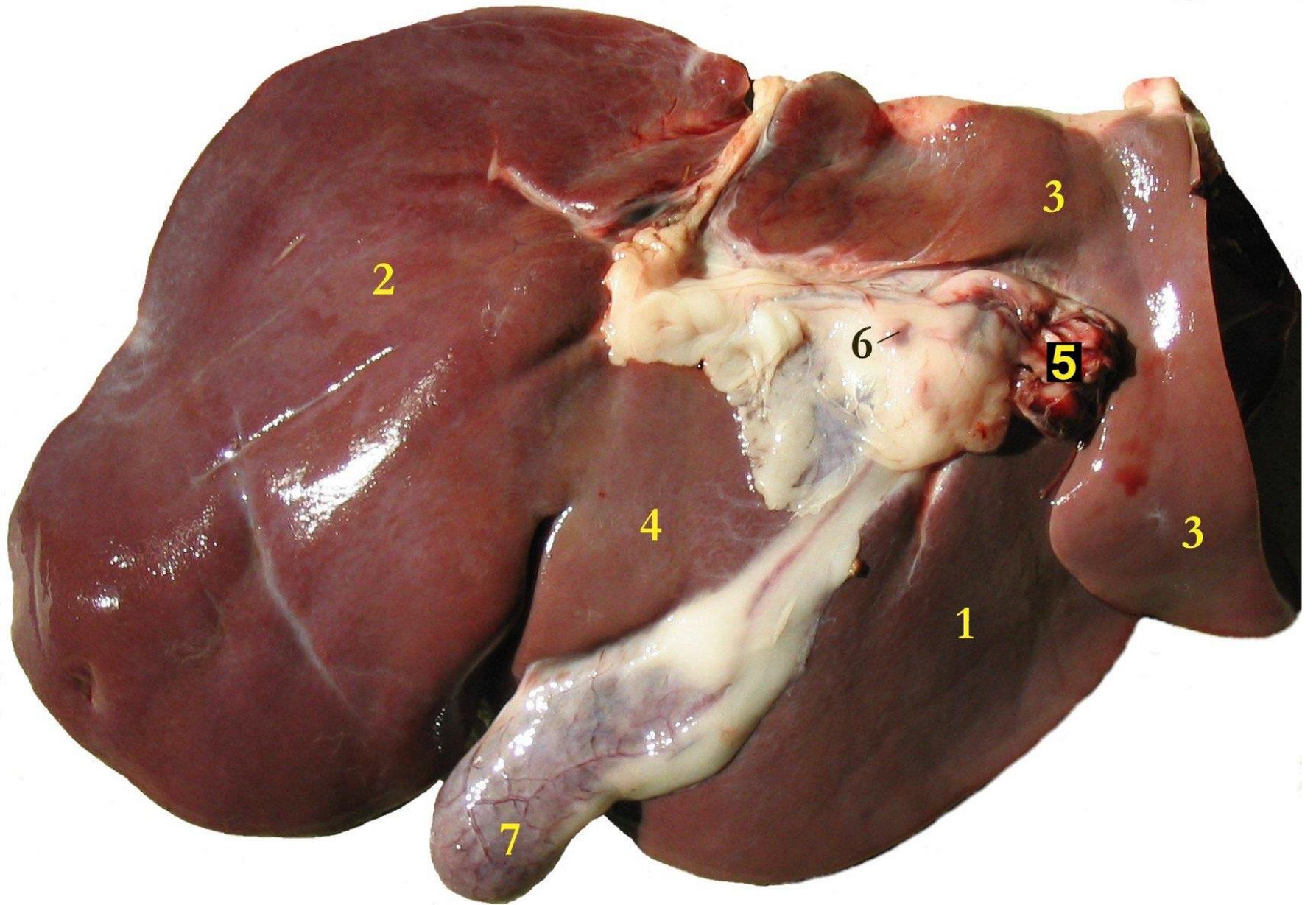
Augur Vel Saties in  
toga picta,

c. 350 BCE, Vulci



Liver of Piacenza (bronze), 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE





Aule Lecu, 2nd century BCE, Volterra





# Etruscan Cities of the Dead

Cerveteri, Banditaccia necropolis, 7<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BCE

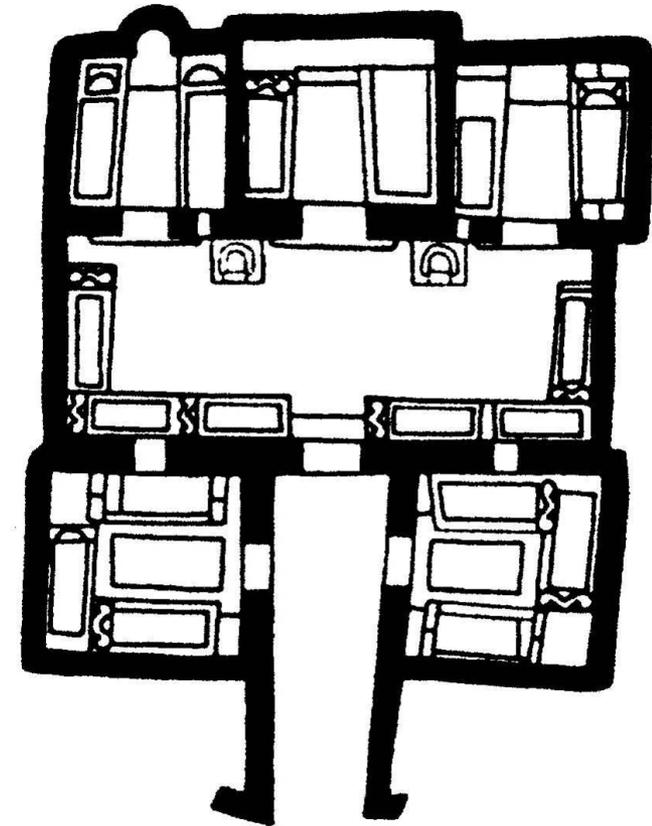


Cerveteri, Banditaccia necropolis, 7<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BCE



## Etruscan houses of the dead

*Tomb of shields and chairs, Cerverteri, c. 520 BCE*



*Tomb of the Reliefs, Cerveteri, 4<sup>th</sup> century BCE*



Tomb of Leopards, Tarquinia, c. 480 BCE



# Greek symposium: Tomb of the Diver, Paestum, 480 BCE



# Tomb of the Augurs, Tarquinia, 520 BC



Funereal games: augur with lituus



# Torture of a prisoner: origins of gladiatorial games



Tomb of hunting and fishing, Tarquinia, c. 520-500 BCE





# Tomb of the Diver (Greek), Paestum 480 BC



“Married couple” sarcophagus, Cerveteri, 520 circa,  
terracotta





Etruscan couple: 2nd century BCE, Volterra





LARS PULEIA, EARLY SECOND CENTURY, Tarquinia