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Satricum in the Post-Archaic Period. A Case study of the Interpretation of Archaeological Remains as Indicators of Ethno-Cultural Identity

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

When the Southwest Necropolis of Satricum was published in 1992 I wrote in the preface that a separate publication discussing the cultural background of the fifth-century inhabitants of Satricum was to be expected at a later date. I had no idea then that the project would take another eight years to complete. Most of this time was spent on field research in Satricum, during which various rescue excavations yielded important new information on this period. The elaboration of these excavations has taken a lot of time. With this book I am at last able to present a first synthesis of the new results, in close reference to the summaries of other excavations in Satricum conducted by my colleagues from the University of Groningen.

This study would never have been possible without the authorisation and kind cooperation of the Archaeological Superintendency of Latium. I would like to thank the *Soprintendente*, Dott.ssa Anna Maria Reggiani and her staff, in particular the *ispettrice* of the region, Dott.ssa Analisa Zarattini, for their confidence in me.

I am greatly indebted to Dott. Mauro Rubini who undertook the difficult task of re-analysing the poorly preserved osteological remains from the Southwest Necropolis. He produced some surprising new results, which are published in this study. I am further indebted to Professor Giovanni Colonna for his stimulating interest in all matters concerning Satricum. Among the many Italian colleagues whom I have met throughout my years of research, I would especially like to mention Dott.ssa Maria Teresa Onorati, Director of the Museo Archeologico Comunale di Frosinone, who kindly invited me to study the Frosinone material and has kept me well posted on 'Volscian' matters. Over the years she has become a true friend.

Thanks are also due to the owners of the terrain under which the remains of ancient Satricum are hidden. First of all I would like to thank the Dominici family, former owners of the land containing the acropolis and the Southwest Necropolis. Permission to continue the exploration of these terrains has kindly been given by the new owner, Dott. Angelo Lugli. Furthermore, I am greatly indebted to the Santarelli family, in the person of Dott. Antonio Santarelli, whose efforts enabled us to resume the excavations in the Poggio dei Cavallari. The Santarelli family further provided generous financial support for the two excavation campaigns of 1996-1997.

Thanks are also due to the *Comune di Latina* for kindly giving us permission to lodge our students in the elementary school at Borgo Le Ferriere during the excavations.

The Dutch Institute in Rome has contributed a great deal towards the completion of this study. During the long years of research I was a regular guest at the Via Omero, while the Institute's staff offered all kinds of assistance during our annual excavation campaigns. Here I would like to mention Mrs. Kitty van der Linden, Mrs. Tineke van der Laan and Mrs. Ivana Bolognese and, in particular, the late Director of the Dutch Institute, Dr Th. J. Meijer.

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I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues who were always there when I needed them and with whom I discussed many of the conclusions presented here. They are, in alphabetical order: Esther Baarends, Dr Riemer Knoop, Dr Patricia Lulof, Dr Eric Moormann, Alma Reyling, Dr Dé Steures and Dr Demetrius Waarsenburg. I am especially grateful to Riemer Knoop who went critically through the first draft of most chapters and with whom I had many inspiring discussions during the years of research. Patricia Lulof was my indefatigable replacement during the excavation of the Poggio dei Cavallari. Eric Moormann has been and remains a great support and an enormous help in the translation of many difficult Italian texts.

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Finally, I wish to thank my students, who in fact are the real excavators of Satricum. They often worked under difficult circumstances, side by side with the Italian workers, many of whom also became good friends. It is impossible to name all the students who participated in the excavations, but I would like to symbolise my appreciation for their help by mentioning Jeltsje Stobbe, who has demonstrated a great dedication and personal involvement in the Satricum-project over the years and been an inspiration to many others.

The English text of this book has been patiently revised by Rob Bland. All remaining flaws are mine. The photographs were made by Anneke Dekker, Annabel Massullo and myself. Anneke Dekker printed them with the utmost care. The pottery drawings were made by students during the excavations under guidance of Dé Steures and Demetrius Waarsenburg. They were inked by Alma Reyling.

This book is dedicated to Marja Luteijn, who has given me invaluable moral support and has watched tirelessly over my well-being while I was absorbed in studying the finds and writing the text.

