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 Nercopolis. 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.

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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.