Stone materials from the Spina Necropolis: the tomb signs

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University of Ferrara has collaborated with the National Archaeological Museum of Ferrara in the creation of a museological and educational itinerary dedicated to the petrographic classification of the tomb signs in the Etruscan necropolis of Spina. In 1922, during the draining process of Lagunas basins “Valli di Comacchio” (Province of Ferrara) that led to the discovery of the Necropolis (Alfieri 1979), were collected a great number of the tomb signs and the petrographic characterization involved only on the deficiencies’ artefacts. For this reason, despite the abundant series of recognized rocks, we cannot exclude the presence of a wider spectrum of rocks. Some of the representing samples were polished in order to facilitate the observation of the esthetical and compositional characters.

The tomb signs are constituted mainly of terrigenous sedimentary rocks and followed by carbonate sedimentary rocks, metamorphic and magmatic ones.

Terrigenous sedimentary rocks are generally classified like litharenites; The rocce carbonatiche are defined as wackestone, with some samples as packstone/grainstone.

There are also Triassic carbonate rocks, usually called “Portoro” in s.s. and brecciated varieties.

The igneous rocks are acid and basic intrusive volcanics, corresponding respectively to porphyry and andesitic and trachy-andesitic lavas. The metamorphic rocks are of low and medium metamorphic grade derived from sedimentary protoliths.

Conclusions

The terrigenous sedimentary lithologies (generally litharenites) belonging to the Apennine zone located in Emilia-Romagna Region, and partially with a Tuscany-Emilia origin (e.g. Pietra Serena and Pietra Paesina). Another type of tomb signs have a calcareous origin. In this case, the petrographic and paleontological study (Luciani et al, 2011) revealed a correspondence with basin sequences like Scaglia Cinerea and Calcare di Chiusole from the Veneto and Trento region, and also the correspondence with a carbonate platform like Lessini shelf (Bosellini, 1989) and Monte Baldo Luciani, 1989). The Triassic lithic types, usually called “Portoro” and originally from Liguria are present in a smaller quantity, but having the same importance especially in determining the trade routes of the Etruscans from Spina. The basic extrusive igneous rocks and porphyry have a possible affiliation to the magmatic - lithic types of the Porfirc Atesino Complex. It also rocks have low to medium metamorphic grade also features of the Trento region (Val Sugana, Val di Non) so we can be assumed instead the possible supplying areas from the high valley of the Adige where emerge as the metamorphic basement as volcanic rocks derived from the Porfirc Atesino Complex; seems less probable the origin from formations of the metamorphic basement of Rilio Terme in degree and types of rocks emerging.

In this paper, by geological and petrographic classification has started an educational and exhibition at the Archaeological Museum of Ferrara with which to encourage new generations to the earth sciences.

REFERENCES
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