

Foodways in Roman Republican Italy

Foodways in Roman Republican Italy explores the production, preparation, and consumption of food and drink in Republican Italy to illuminate the nature of cultural change during this period. Traditionally, studies of the cultural effects of Roman contact and conquest have focused on observing changes in the public realm: that is, changing urban organization and landscape, and monumental construction. Foodways studies reach into the domestic realm: how do the daily behaviors of individuals express their personal identity, and how does this relate to changes and expressions of identity in broader society? Laura M. Banducci tracks through time the foodways of three sites in Etruria from about the third century BCE to the first century CE: Populonia, Musarna, and Cetamura del Chianti. All were established Etruscan sites that came under Roman political control over the course of the third and second centuries BCE. The book examines the morphology and use wear of ceramics used for cooking, preparing, and serving food to deduce cooking methods and the types of foods being prepared and consumed. Change in domestic behaviors was gradual and regionally varied, depending on local social and environmental conditions, shaping rather than responding to an explicitly “Roman” presence.

Laura M. Banducci is Associate Professor of Greek and Roman Studies at Carleton University.

“*Foodways in Roman Republican Italy* presents a distinctive methodology for a more holistic analysis of ceramic data, drawing on attributes not routinely recorded or discussed in scholarship on Roman ceramics or foodways. The book justifies the need for a new approach to Roman foodways based primarily on ceramic evidence, and gives room to explore the implications of the findings in detail. This is a genuinely innovative analysis of original materials and data, sensibly conceived and producing thought-provoking results.” - Martin Pitts, University of Exeter

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