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The Ager Veientanus, North  
and East of Rome

BY  
ANNE KAHANE, LESLIE MURRAY THREIPLAND  
AND JOHN WARD-PERKINS

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# THE AGER VEIENTANUS, NORTH AND EAST OF VEII

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Acknowledgement.—*The report that follows represents the field observations of a large number of people spread over a period of more than a dozen years. During the fifties many of the sites recorded were being, or had recently been, ploughed for the first time in centuries. Since then many have relapsed to grass; others have been enclosed or destroyed by building development and by cultivation, and others again will disappear in the near future.*

*These facts will explain certain inconsistencies in the record, in particular of sites that are no longer available for re-examination. It will also, we hope, be held to excuse us from acknowledging by name all the help that we have received over this long period. A list of all those friends, visitors and others who have accompanied us on the field expeditions which have furnished the primary material for this report, or who have assisted us subsequently in the study and analysis of that material, would cover pages. Among the field workers a special word of thanks, however, is due to Mrs. Betty Eastwood, Michael Craven, Guy Duncan, Eric Gray, Barri Jones, Sheldon Judson and David Trump. In the 'Camerone', for the organization and study of the finds, we owe a special debt to Dr. M. A. Cotton and to innumerable voluntary assistants, among them Mrs. Crichton (Patricia Dorrell), Mrs. S. Irwin (Sara Sturge), Miss Jane*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### (a) General

IN a previous volume of these *Papers*<sup>1</sup> we have described the topography and antiquities of the city of Veii. The present article is the first of two or more which will cover the Ager Veientanus, the territories of which Veii was the capital and the natural centre. At their greatest extent these territories extended as far north as Nepi and Sutri, and south-eastwards across the Tiber for an unknown distance beyond the ancient river-crossing at Fidenae, opposite the modern Prima Porta. South-westwards they may for a time have reached the salt-marshes at the mouth of the river. These were, however, for the most part artificial boundaries, acquired by conquest. As a geographical entity the Ager Veientanus was less extensive and covered an area which, along much of its perimeter, was well defined by nature. One cannot be sure that the term 'Ager Veientanus' was not on occasion applied to territories which lay outside those limits, but which had fallen into Roman hands as a result of the conquest of Veii. But it is in the more limited, geographical sense that it applies most naturally, and it is so used throughout the present series of articles.

Towards the north the natural limits of the territory leave little room for doubt, and throughout the greater part of Veii's history they must have corresponded very clearly with her political boundaries. The eastern arm of the Monti Sabatini, the chain of volcanic hills and craters that stretches eastwards from the great crater-lake of Bracciano, nowhere rises to any great height; but although the highest points, Monte Musino (376 m.), above Sacrofano, and Monte Sant'Angelo (377 m.), between the Lago di Martignano and the crater of Baccano, are only 250 m. above

<sup>1</sup> *PBSR*, xxix, 1961.