

Abstract:

This thesis deals with the depictions of rituals on Etruscan bronze mirrors. The first part studies and defines the term "ritual". Attention is then given to the Etruscans and their religion with an emphasis on Etruscan doctrine, known as the *etrusca disciplina*. The text is enlivened by references of ancient Roman and Greek authors who expressed their opinion on the subject. The next chapter is dedicated to the Etruscan rituals, thematically divided into divinatory and family.

After the introduction of the Etruscan bronze mirrors, in the second part a catalogue has been created through the representations of divinatory and family rituals on the Etruscan mirrors. The catalogue includes illustrations, places where they are today exposed, places and years of their discovery, dimensions and description of the scene on the mirror. Catalogued data is then analysed using charts, maps and graphs that aim to sort the collected data and to produce a better understanding of the datasets.

Based on the defined Etruscan rituals, references of ancient authors and the analysed catalogue, the aim of this thesis is to discover the kind of rituals depicted in these mirrors and who carry them out.

Following this, the next topic of the thesis is also to try to understand, whether this is possible to argue, if these rituals were performed in the real world or if, through the chronology of the mirrors, it is possible to argue that certain rituals were preferred in some period.

Keywords:

Ritual, Etruscans, the *etrusca disciplina*, depictions of the rituals, Etruscan bronze mirrors