Remaining Roman in death at an eastern colony
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Roman-period chamber tombs recently discovered at Corinth by the Greek Archaeological Service repeat elements of tombs and graves excavated by the American School of Classical Studies in 1961-62 at the time of construction of a modern aqueduct.1 The graves and tombs, which lie in the face of the terrace north of the city, form the southern margin of extensive cemeteries on the S edge of the coastal plain. In the 1960s, excavation was confined to the projected line of the aqueduct more or less along the 45 m contour line, but more recent excavations for the construction of the national road and the high-speed railway have extended the excavated area many meters to the north.2 In this paper I single out two of the several types of chamber tombs, both of which are known in multiple examples at Corinth, and consider their probable connections with central Italy and the light they shed on commemorative rituals.

Background: Roman Corinth

Corinth, which lies just south of the Isthmus and controlled access to both the Corinthian and Saronic Gulfs, had been a renowned trading city in Greek antiquity. After its destruction by Mummius in 146 B.C. and the sale of its inhabitants into slavery, the site lay abandoned (although occasionally visited) until a Roman colony, Laus Julia Corinthiensis, was founded there in about 44 B.C. This became one of the chief cities of the province of Achaia. Contrary to popular perception, it was not a veteran colony: prosopographical study of the colony’s magistrates has led A. J. S. Spawforth to conclude that, between 44 B.C. and A.D. 69 (the duoviral coinage ends with Galba), freedmen of well-known Romans of the Late Republican and Augustan periods and their descendants were prominent in the colony, as were Roman negotioatores, and that Greek “notables” largely avoided having anything to do with it until the late Julio-Claudian period.3 He concluded that “the colony’s...