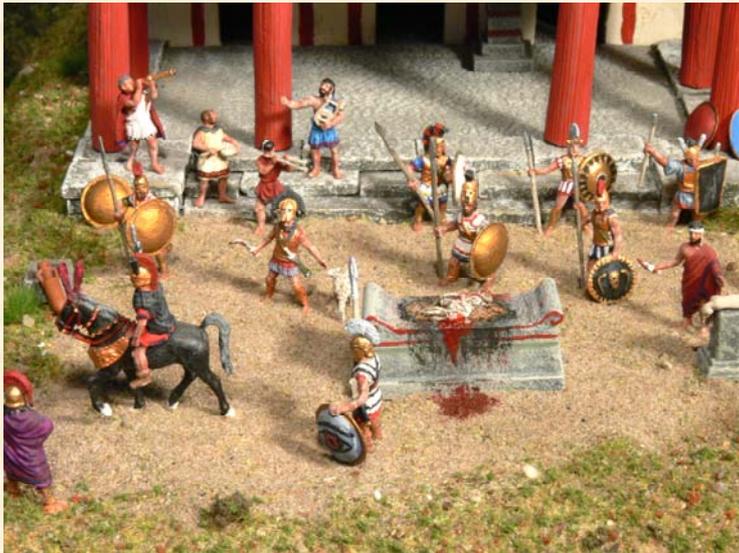




THE GOOD OMEN
STEPHAN BERRY

The diorama shows a sanctuary at a hilltop in Etruria. Lars Porsenna, the king of the city of Clusium, has just finished the necessary religious rites before starting a war. Messengers are sent to the army, to tell them that the omens were excellent and that the campaign against Rome is going to begin.



According to legend, Porsenna was called for help by his colleague Tarquinius Superbus, who had been dethroned by the nasty Romans. The whole background of this story is obscure; even the traditional Varronian date of 510 BC for the beginning of the Roman Republic is almost certainly wrong (the whole Varronian chronology for this era is wrong with an offset of four years, so 506 BC is more likely).



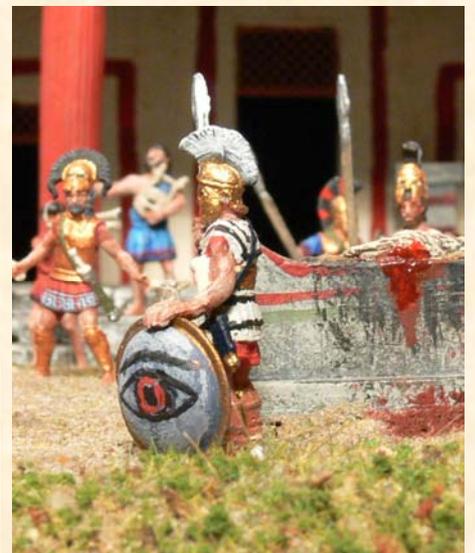
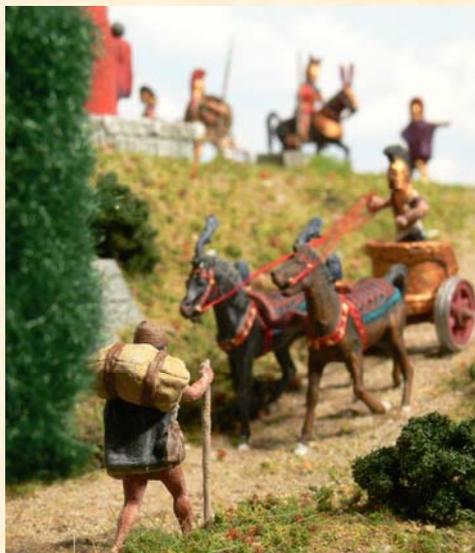
Ancient societies were full of religious rites such as sacrifices, and religion permeated all aspects of life, including warfare, but this aspect is quite rarely depicted in the world of 1/72 figures. So it was a charming idea to do this diorama, using both the priest of the vintage Atlantic set and the Spartan with the goat, a very original figure made by Zvezda.





The figures are by Atlantic, Caesar, Hät, Phersu and Zvezda. The temple is scratch-built, using some ceramic casts from Kai Fuhrmann Figuren, as well as other stuff. Some details of the temple are a compromise: In particular, the painted statues at the roof show details like the weapons that would have been impossible to do in terracotta at this size, but I wanted to use some of the nice, old Atlantic Greeks for these statues.







The last three pictures show the scene with background photos that were actually made in Tuscany, which roughly corresponds to ancient Etruria:



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