



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The birth of Tharros

The Gulf of Oristano (figs 1-2), which is sheltered from the strong, predominant Mistral winds, was a convenient stopping points for ships that touched the western coast of Sardinia from the Iberian peninsula, following natural winds and currents. The ease of approach, the richness of the water and the presence of organised communities from which they could obtain the mineral resources of Monti Ferru were the main reasons that this area was frequented by Eastern navigators from the Late Bronze Age.



Fig. 1 - The Gulf of Oristano with the two headlands that are its borders
(from Google Earth. Reprocessed C. Tronchetti)



Fig. 2 - The end point of Capo San Marco (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

Between the 9th and 8th century B.C. Such frequentations became more common, as shown by how far Levantine products or local products penetrated inland, even if not immediately, that were imitations of the imported ones (figs- 3-4).





Fig. 3 - Bronze statue from the holy well of Santa Cristina di Paulilatino (9-8th century BC). Local product that imitates similar near-Eastern items (from BERNARDINI 2010)



Fig. 4 - Bronze Cypriot torch found in San Vero Milis (end of 8th-beginning of 7th century BC) (Archaeological Superintendency Archive)

This frequentation was often a case of co-existence between Phoenicians and natives in the Nuragic settlements of Capo San Marco, settlements that, as time went on, merged into urban town where most of the population was of Phoenician origin.

We do not know the exact location of this settlement, but the presence of archaic incineration tombs to the north and south of the Punic and Roman town, and the finding of some materials from the 8th and 7th centuries B.C. In gaps underneath later structures indicate that the older settlement was generally in the same area.

The creation of the tophet on Su Muru Mannu in the final decades of the 7th century B.C. shows that the the centre of the urban area was there.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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