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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The *castellum aquae*

The Roman roads in Tharros form a triangular square in the centre of the city, onto which a building known as the *castellum aquae* looks down (figs. 1-2).



Fig. 1 Location of the *castellum aquae* (from Google Earth. Review C. Tronchetti)



Fig. 2 - The *castellum aquae* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The building is covered on the outside by *opus mixtum*, with alternating rows of bricks and tufa stones, while inside the walls were lined with bricks, covered by a thick layer of hydraulic *opus signinum*. This has been identified as being used to preserve and distribute water to Tharros citizens, both by the type of structure that has no access and that inside has pillars to support the roof, and because of the *opus signinum* that waterproofed the walls, and due to the presence of three circular holes in the upper part of the southern walls, from which the water flowed into a decantation tub. From here, the water flowed from the mouths of the semi-circular public fountain on the front of the building looking out onto the square (figs. 3-4).



Fig. 3 - The front of the *castellum aquae* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 4 - The *castellum aquae* with the decantation tub and the base of the public fountain
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

Based on the building technique used, the *castellum aquae* can be dated between the 2nd and 3rd century.

The building lost its function in the Late ancient era; an opening was made in the western wall and it was used for a different purpose, which is not clear.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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