



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Statue of Astarte

The statue of worship of the Goddess Astarte (Ashtart) (fig. 1), goddess of Phoenician civilization of astral values, linked to the sphere of love and healing, was found in 1964 inside one of the cells in the temple of the same name, made from the renovation of the keep.

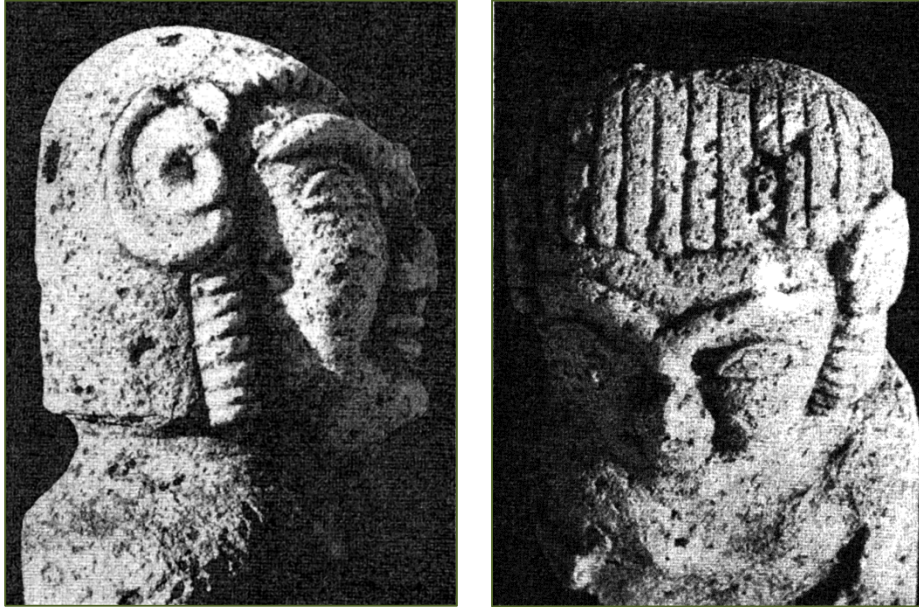
The cells were dated to the neo-Punic phase of the temple (fig. 2) but the item dates back at least to the 7th century BC.



**Figs. 1, 2** - Statue of Astarte from Monte Sirai (MOSCATI 1988b, p. 286); hypothesis of the return of the sacellum with the statue of Astarte (GUIRGUIS 2013, fig. 16)

The statue has been reworked following ancient damage and breaks and perhaps represents a goddess on a throne.

The body, is a rough version, probably without an arm; the head is more sophisticated (figs. 3-4), and recalls near-eastern models in fashion in the 8th - 7th centuries BC, made as statues, bronze statues and ivory statues (fig. 5). The stone came from nearby Paringianu,



*Figs. 3, 4 - Details of the statue of Astarte (BISI 1987, Tav. I)*



*Fig. 5 - Syria. Tell Halaf. The "Great Goddess" (MATTHIAE 1997, p. 195).*

which brings about the hypothesis of local production at the times of the early Phoenician presence on Monte Sirai.

The item is currently kept at the National Archaeological Museum of Cagliari. A copy can be found at the "Villa Sulcis" Archaeological Museum in Carbonia.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Giuseppina Manca di Mores and Prof. Marcello Madau

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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