



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

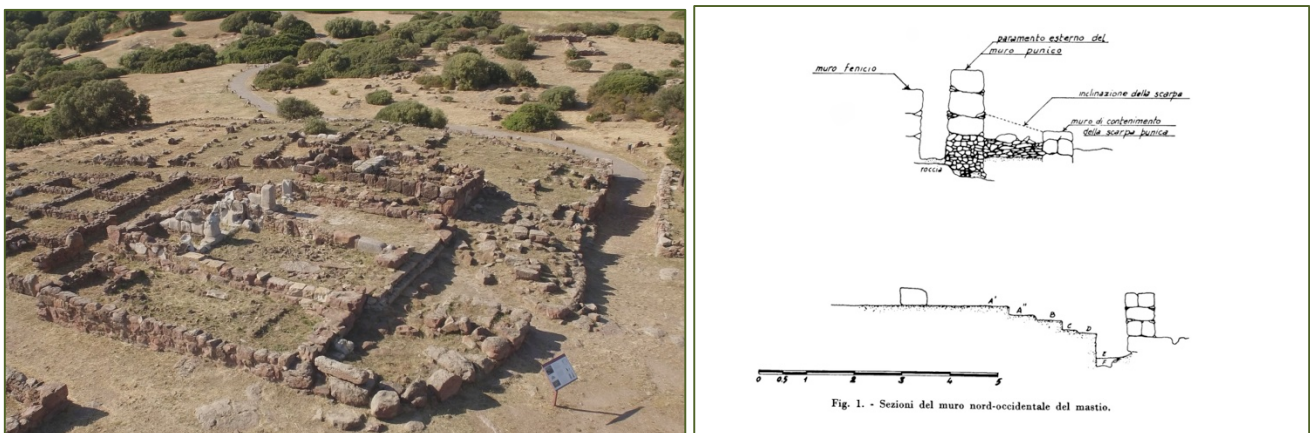
Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



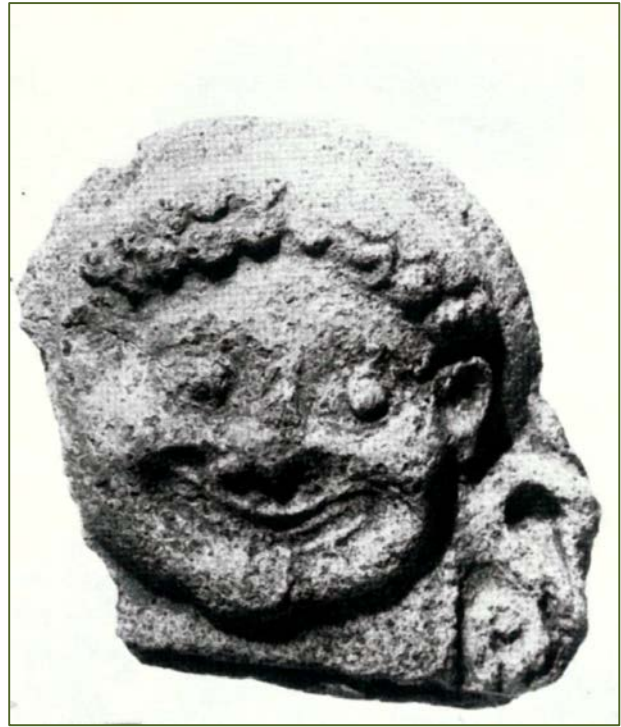
■ Slab with Gorgon from the outside of the “keep”

Among the large amount of archaeological materials found in various layers from the cells and the temple of Astarte, in 1966 Ferruccio Barreca found two fragments of clay arulae each decorated with the Gorgon's mask. They came from a first layer with items that show historical frequentation of the settlement during the Nuragic and Late Roman Republic era, and the significant lack of items from the Imperial age.



Figs. 1, 2 - The "temple of Astarte" (photo Unicity 2015); a stratigraphic of the 1966 dig (MONTE SIRAI –IV, fig. 1)

The *gorgoneion* has an open mouth, a tongue sticking out and a cluster of teeth, with canines highlighted. As noted by Barreca, the image conjures up the ancient outline, due to its hairstyle, divided into two bands and falling vertically to the sides of the face, which recalls the labyrinth layout and that of Egyptian and Phoenician masks and protomes, with the ears placed at the front. The *gorgoneion* is surrounded by a decorated cornice. The chronology suggested by the archaeologist is Roman, in the 2nd century B.C. But a possible earlier dating to the Punic Age is not excluded. Comparisons, at least for archetypes, lead to Sicily and Ancient Greece.



Figs. 3, 4 - The arula with *gorgoneion* (MONTE SIRAI – IV, cover); antefix by Mendolito di Adrano, end of 6th century B.C. (ALBANESE PROCELLI 1990, fig. 19).



■ Credits

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

■ Bibliography

MONTE SIRAI - IV = M. G. AMADASI, F. BARRECA *et alii* (a cura di), *Monte Sirai - IV. Rapporto preliminare della Missione archeologica dell'Università di Roma e della Soprintendenza alle Antichità di Cagliari* (Studi Semitici, 25), Roma 1967.

ALBANESE PROCELLI 1990 = R.M. ALBANESE PROCELLI, *Antefisse a protome femminile dal centro indigeno del Mendolito di Adrano*, in *Sicilia Archeologica* 73, 1990, pp. 7-31.





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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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