



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Bone slab with Bes from the sacellum in the temple of Astarte

There are several precious, significant items made from bone, coming from the dig at the temple of Astarte: among them are an engraved outline image of the god Bes and a palm, probably from Tharros, or from the East.



Fig. 1 - The "temple of Astarte" (photo Unicity S.p.A.)

The face of Bes, an Egyptian god, is a mask made in the circular Gorgon pattern, with the classic pulling of a face with the tongue out. Two horizontal incisions under the eyes underline the appearance of a mask and refer to the 'sniggering' type of grooves.



Figs. 2, 3 - Bes and palm in bone from the temple of Astarte (BARTOLONI 2004, fig. 22).

The bent arms held together at the fists, form a triangle with the top of the slab. The hands support the flaps of a dress (according to various interpretations), or two snakes, if they do not refer to the known icon of Osiris with two sceptres.

The palm, with the central petal longer and fourteen petals (seven to the right, seven to the left) slightly smaller, placed on a small lotus flower capital, and is a typical decoration of near East items.



Fig. 4 - Bone sphinx (photo MVO).

The bone sheets - found together with several other bone fragments - must have decorated the surfaces of items for worship and may date back to an ancient period around the 4th century BC.



■ Credits

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

■ Bibliography

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