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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The stelae from the *tophet*

The 'field of urns' , the place where the ashes of children or animals "passed through the fire" were placed, had, in addition to the amphorae, stone stelae with the image of sacellum or tabernacles that referred to several types of temple (figs. 1-2), and which were generally made of trachyte tufa rock.



Figs. 1, 2 - The area of the *tophet* (GUIRGUIS 2013, fig. 7); reproduction of stelae and urns in the site (photo Unicity S.p.A.)

Some stelae were the first items found at the end of the nineteenth century, and which announced the existence of the Monte Sirai settlement and this type of sanctuary. Alongside the stelae with simple, linear iconography and expressions, there are more sophisticated ones, especially in Egyptian style (with a row of Uraeus during coronation or winged solar symbols etc) and more rarely, in Greek style (different from Sulky). There are more iconic than aniconic subjects, as we have noted (figs. 3-5).



Figs. 3, 5 - Stelae from the tophet (BONDÌ 1972, nos. 42; 33; GUIRGUIS 2013, fig. 49)

Overall, the stelae from Monte Sirai - a total of almost a hundred have been found - are closely related to part of the production from Sulky (Sant'Antioco).

■ Credits

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

■ Bibliography

BONDÌ 1972 = S.F. BONDÌ', *Le stele di Monte Sirai*, Roma.

GUIRGUIS 2013 = M. GUIRGUIS, *Monte Sirai 1963-2013 mezzo secolo di indagini archeologiche*, Sassari.





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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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