



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Phoenician Bronzes

Each group of items, on Monte Sirai, is the articulate sign and holder of other clues, of complex, essential historical processes for the history of Sardinia, in addition to the area of Sirai and Sulcis. This is the case of the series of Phoenician bronze statues, including items found in the area of the 'temple of Astarte' and the pre-existing nuraghe and an extraordinary item found during later investigations.



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

The bronze statue of the person preparing libation and the lyre player are probably of local Phoenician production, from an artistic environment that expresses the existence of relations with the Nuragic world, as the jug used by the figure shows.



**Figs. 2, 3** - Phoenician bronzes from Monte Sirai (MOSCATI 1988, p. 427).

The figure appears to be a roughly made (as often with Phoenician bronzeware) but is accurate and iconographically relevant. The people portrayed have been compared with a complex representation for specific scenic parts, perhaps associated with the bronze statue of a four-legged animals (a dog) also found, that shows more signs of Nuragic production: it was hypothesised that the bronze statues could have belonged to the same container. The association of music and libation (lyre players) inside holy ceremonies are also known in near-eastern iconographies. Chronology may date back to the second half of the 8th century B.C.

The third bronze statue was found 'out of context' on the slopes of the high plain, perhaps thrown away after digs. It is reminiscent of eastern and Cypriot examples linked to the older relationship phases between the eastern Mediterranean world and the Nuragic world. The dress is made using channels (the lower ones are frills) as in the types of the 'smiting god' (the divinity that smites using various types of weapons). They date to at least the 9th century BC.



**Fig. 4** - Bronze figure from Monte Sirai kind of '*smiting god*' (BERNARDINI, BOTTO 2011, fig. 8).

## ■ 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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