



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Mount Sirai

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Ancient presences in the territory of Carbonia

It is not a simple matter to sum up in a few short lines the ancient history of such a large, complex territory that progressively placed fields and mines at the centre of its existence and also involved the coastlines and shipping relations.

The first verified episodes are Neolithic, with caves and *domus de janas* (the latter also present in the current town, such as the Cannas di Sotto necropolis (fig. 4).

The oldest materials come from the shelter under the rock of Su Carroppu; they are Cardium pottery and stoneware in obsidian from the 6th millennium BC. (fig. 1-2). Documentation from the Tanì grotto is very important.



Figs. 1, 2 - Obsidian and cardium ceramics from Su Carroppu (MARRAS 1998, figs. 4-5)

Other grottoes are documented in Coderra, between Carbonia and San Giovanni Suergiu. The widespread diffusion of *domus de janas* is proof of the intense occupation of the area. The hut site in Barbusi, the *domus de janas* necropolis in Monte Crobu (fig. 3) and the CAI grotto are significant.



Figs. 3, 4 - Basket vase from the tomb I at Monte Crobu, in 'Ozieri' style (MARRAS 1998, fig. 6); domus de janus from the Cannas di Sotto necropolis (CARBONIA 2008, p. 8).

There are traces of Neolithic life in Sirai, which was then subsequently characterised by the known Phoenician-Punic settlement. The proof of the Copper Age and specifically the culture of Monte Claro, that confirms its strong tendency to allocation on high ground, is also interesting.

During the Nuragic age, control of the land and management of its resources developed progressively. The territorial basin, densely occupied, contains its most interesting episode, with important Nuragic and Phoenician phenomena of integration also present in the Monte Sirai settlement.

Closely connected with the centre of Sulky, this site is a key point of the area (fig. 5), with a centuries-old history that ended with the Roman conquest of Sardinia, whole maintaining interesting and dense episodes of cultural continuation even into the Late Republican age.

Interpretation of the Roman era, after the end of the Punic age, is strongly affected by control of the city of Sulci and the economic terminals (the mine and grain) linked to it. The affairs of Carbonia rotate around this deep change, increasingly intense and rooted in the Imperial Age.





Fig. 5 - City and territory of Carbonia seen from the plains of Monte Sirai (photo Unicity S.p.A.).



■ Credits

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

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