UNIONE EUROPEA

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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Roman baths of Forum Traiani

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology

Funerary inscription

The funerary memorial stone was found at the beginning of the last century near Fordongianus. Parallelepiped in shape, it still has the crown formed by a triple moulding underlined by a row of teeth. The symbol of the axe carved in relief on one side is still well preserved (figs. 1-3).

Fig. 1 **-** Memorial stone of *Germana*, dedicated by her husband, dated II-III cent. A. D. (photo by N. Monari, RAS Archives).

Fig. 2 **-** Memorial stone of *Germana*, dedicated by her husband, dated II-III cent. A. D. (photo by N. Monari, RAS Archives).

Fig. 3 **-** Memorial stone of *Germana*, dedicated by her husband, dated II-III cent. A. D. (photo by N. Monari, RAS Archives).

The inscription is mutilated because the stone was chiselled to probably be reused as building material. It has a husband's dedication to his wife, *Germana* who died aged 48:

D(is) M(anibus). / Germana / [.]ericoris (filia) / v[ix(it) a]nnis /

XXXXVIII. F(ecit) m(aritus) / co(n)iugi b(ene) m(erenti)

To the God's Hands. Germana, daughter of [.]ericore who lived 48 years.

The husband had (the stone erected) to the spouse who deserved it.

The name Germana is probably of local Punic origin, like the name of the father, even if mutilated.

The sign of the axe is widely known and spread all over the western Roman world, and is found on tombs from the full imperial period. Its interpretation is not unique and shared by all scholars: the most commonly accepted meaning interprets the axe as a sign intended to ward of evil and protect the tomb; others think that it indicates the type of burial, buried instead of cremated; other still interpret the axe as a mystic symbol.

Based on the style of letters, the inscription is dated between the II and III cent. A.D.

Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa

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