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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Roman baths of Forum Traiani

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The “Romanization” of Sardinia

The “Romanization” concept, widespread in the past, refers to a old idea of Rome as a dominator, imposing power and culture on defeated populations and occupied territories. Studies carried out in more recent years, in the different areas of the Roman empire, have led to that position being radically modified. Roma established its power through the main public officials sent from Rome, while local administration was managed in accordance with existing traditions. However, the territory was organised and controlled (fig. 1).

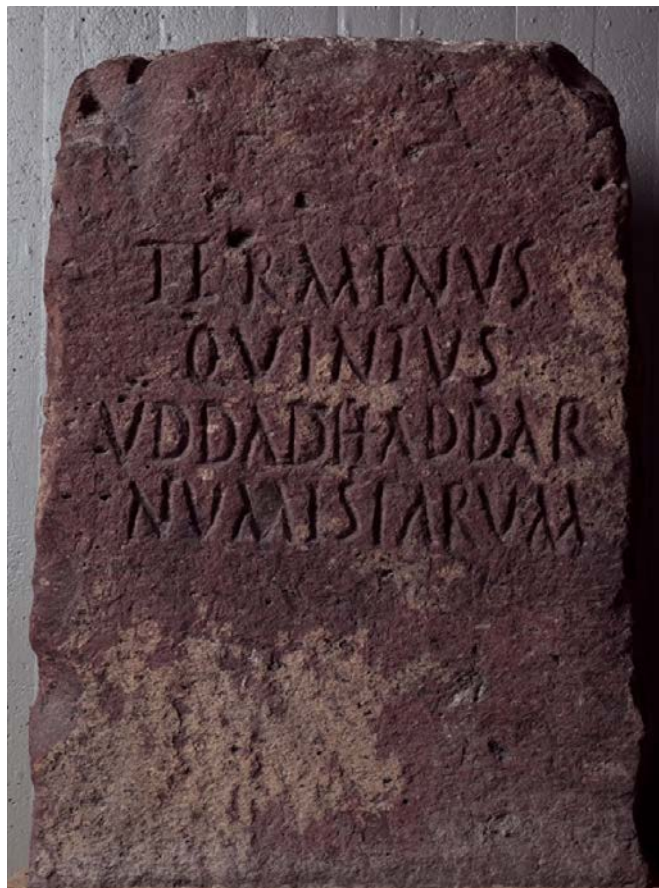


Fig. 1 - Boundary marker of the territory of one of the local Sardinian populations: the Uddadhaddar (gullies) of the Numisie, found in the territory of Cuglieri. This is evidence of the Romans' territorial organisation (photo Archaeological Superintendence Cagliari).

The inscription of Fordongianus with the dedication to the emperor Tiberius by local communities is a clear example. Rome was not interested in who commanded that community. They just wanted tributes paid and that there were no raids and devastation.

The Roman culture penetrated through the local ruling class which tended to adapt to central power standards to keep its privileged position. The material Roman culture and Latin language spread through the territory and, over time, led to the creation of a cultural environment where Roman and local aspects merged.

The spread of typically Roman elements in Sardinia, like mosaic floors (fig. 2) funerary inscriptions (fig. 3), is an indication of culture penetrating the deeper parts of the island; associated to the territorial transformation to create structures at the service of town life, like aqueducts (fig. 4).



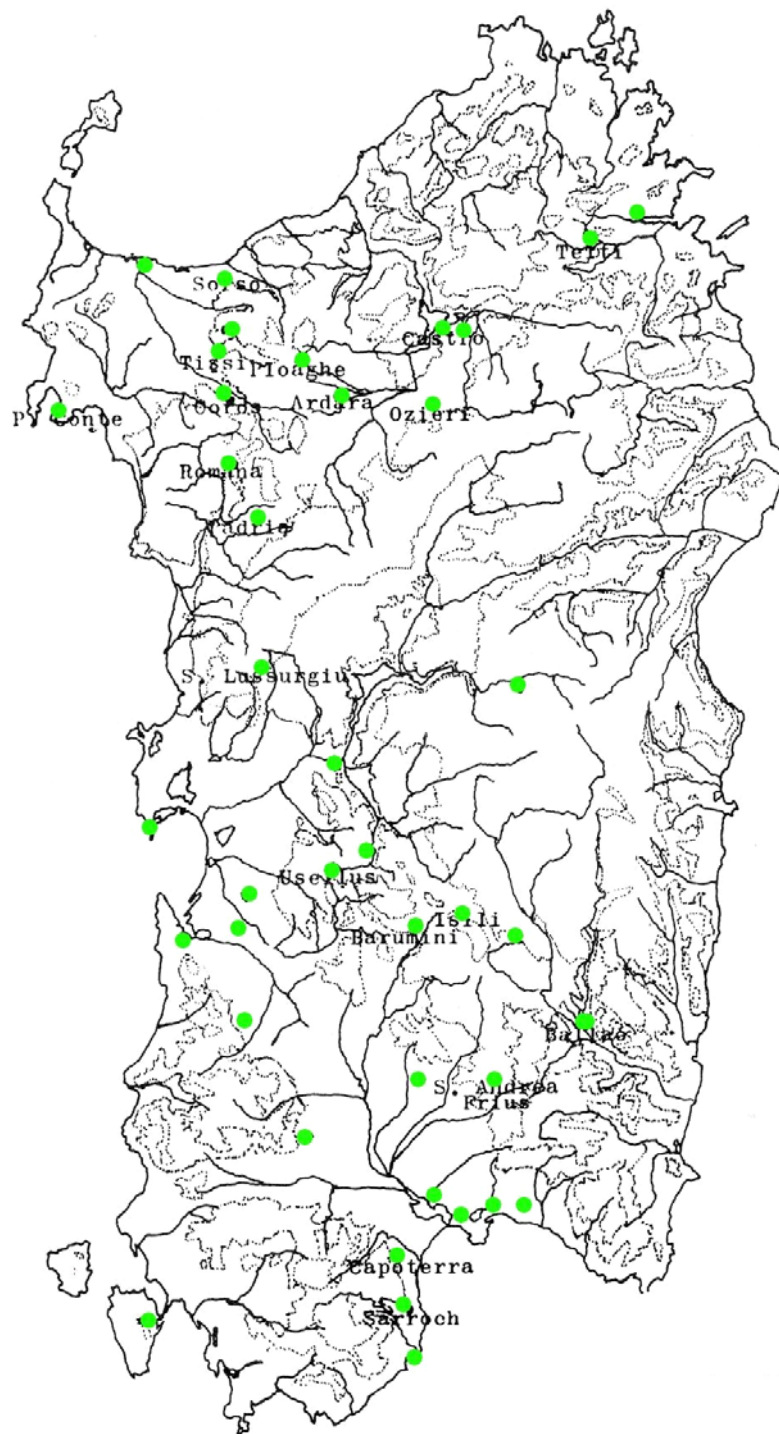


Fig. 2 - Signs of Romanisation: mosaics (from Rowland 1981, fig. 3; reprocessed by C. Tronchetti).

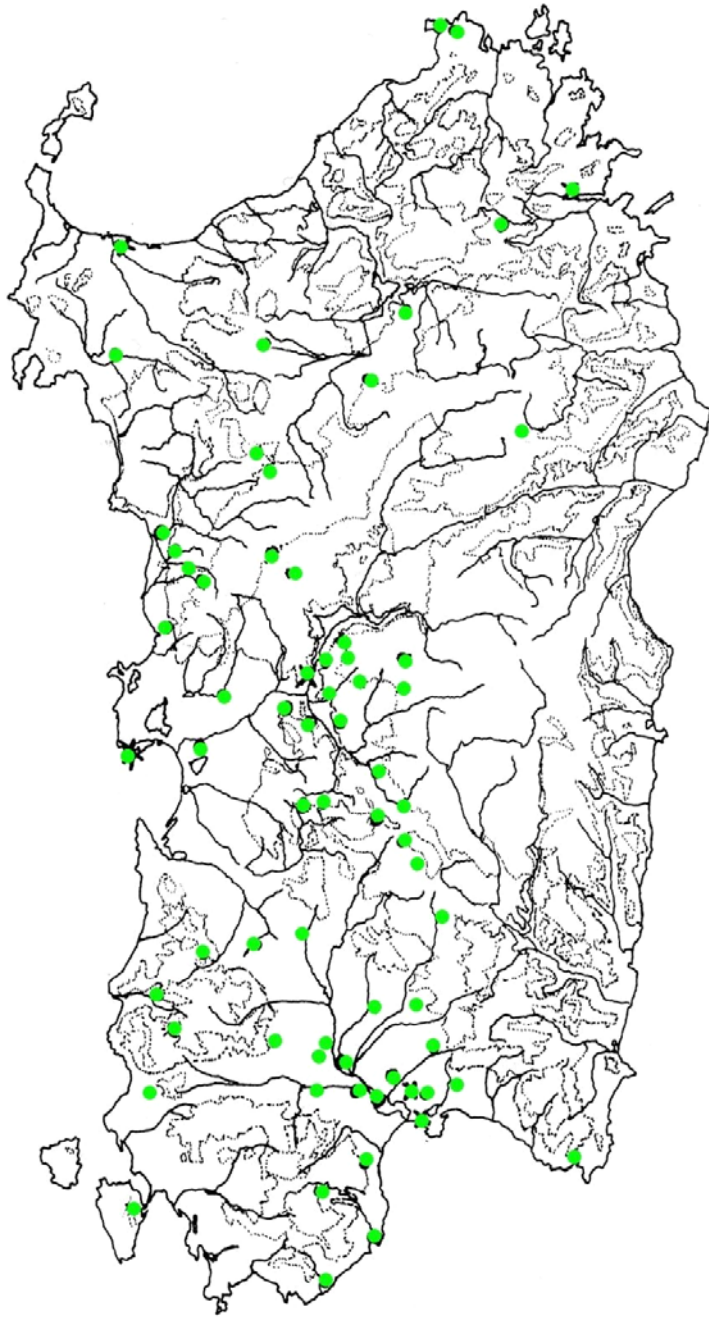


Fig. 3 - Signs of Romanisation: funerary inscriptions
(from Rowland 1981, fig. 1; reprocessed by C. Tronchetti).



Fig. 4 - Remains of the Roman aqueduct in the territory of Assemini (photo Archaeological Superintendence Cagliari).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a