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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Roman baths of Forum Traiani

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Church of San Lussorio

In the southern suburbs of *Forum Traiani*, not far from the amphitheatre, there is a necropolis which, built in the II century A.D, was used until medieval times.

Its main interest is the presence of the *martyrium* of Luxurius, martyred under Diocletian at the start of the IV century A.D.; this cult was definitely present in Sardinia in the VI century A.D. (fig. 1). A church dedicated to him was later built on the place of his martyrdom.



Fig. 1 - Southern front of the small church of San Lussorio, built in the XII century and rebuilt the following century, after a collapse (photo P. Dessi, R.A.S. Archives).

Digs have brought an inscription (fig. 2) to light, now walled in the church wall, recalling the Saint's martyrdom, called "blessed martyr", placed by the Bishop Elia; based on its characters this inscription is dated VI century A.D.



Fig. 2 - Inscription dated VI century in memory of the martyrdom of *Luxurius* (photo P. Dessì, R.A.S. Archives).

On the top of a modest survey in the necropolis area, a small pagan underground area with apse was probably reused for deposition of the martyr in the Diocletian period. From this period, you can detect a considerable increase in underground burials, in the immediate vicinity of the saint's tomb (a phenomenon supporting the thesis that this is the martyr's tomb), with funerary inscriptions (fig. 3), such as the one, datable to the VI century A.D., in memory of *Miccina*, whose name was connected to the Punic linguistic substratum of Sardinia..

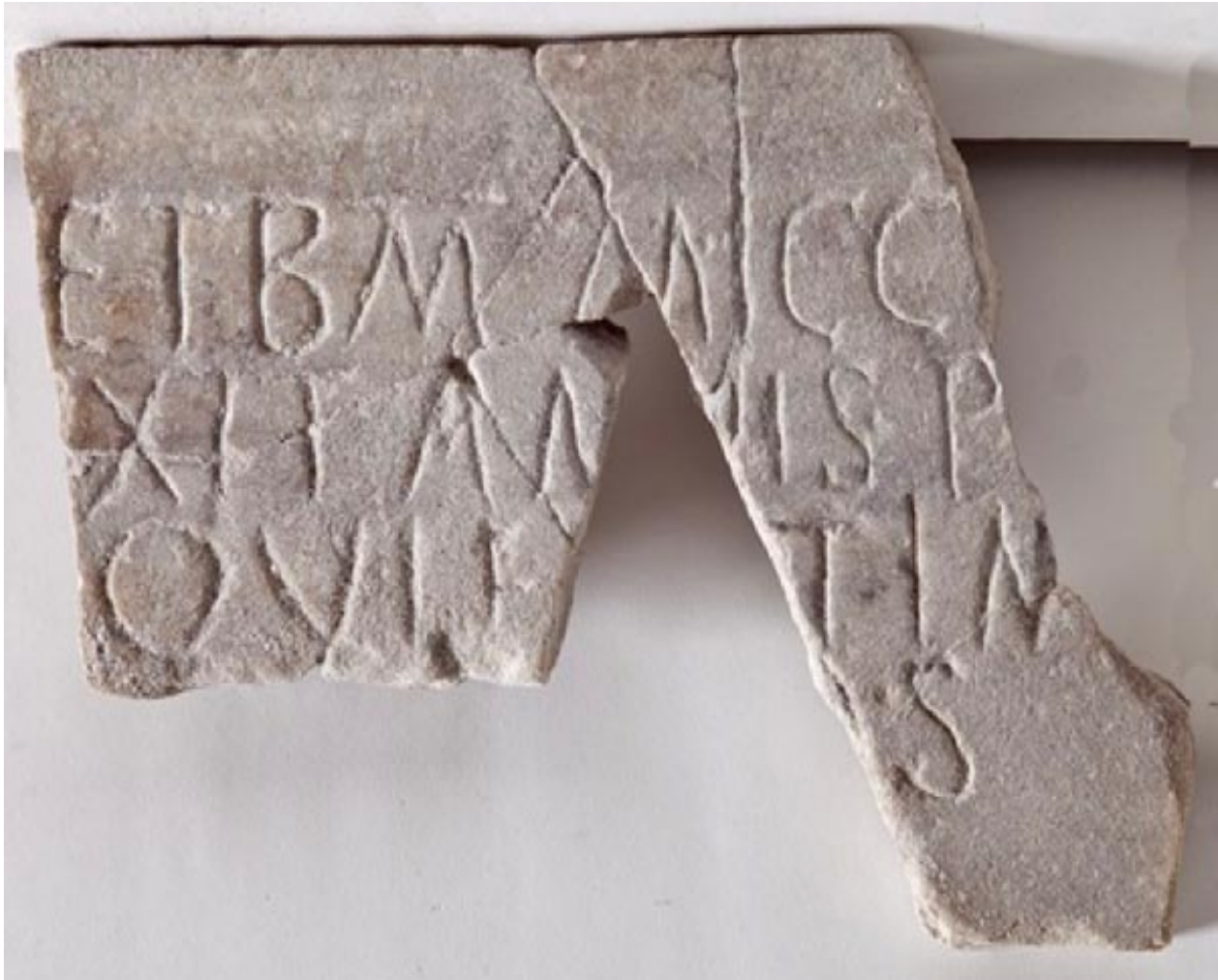


Fig. 3 - Funerary inscription of *Miccina* datable to the V century, found in the crypt of San Lussorio (photo N. Monari, R.A.S. Archives).

In the IV century A.D., the room was given a mosaic floor which was then probably covered, in the first half of the VI century, with a new mosaic floor (fig. 4), at the time of renovation works for the construction of another building against the first one, also with mosaics.



Fig. 4 - Mosaic floor of the crypt in San Lussorio (from Zucca 1986).

During the VII century the buildings degraded and were replaced by a small church, which also fell into ruin. The current building was built by the Vittorini Monks from Marseille at the start of the XII century and was then rebuilt after it collapsed.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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