



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Castle of Monreale

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The territory of Sardara during the Punic Age

Sardinia was involved in the phenomenon of colonisation of the western Mediterranean by the Phoenicians between the 9th and the middle of the 6th century B.C. From the second half of the 6th century to 238 B.C. It came under the dominion of the Punicians. In the Municipality of Sardara there are several settlements attributable to the Punic phase which were developed in the Nuraghic areas, as is evidenced by the findings in the localities of Nuraghe Arrubiu, Canali Linu, Nuraghe Axiurridu, Nuraghe Perra, Nuraghe Arrigau and Santa Caterina¹. In particular, one of the towers of the nuraghe Ortu Commidu returned artefacts testifying to its reuse during the Punic age: these are fragments of amphorae and ceramic pieces with rough "finger-mark" grooves, attributable to a particular type of oven for baking bread, still in use in North Africa, called *tabouna*².



Fig. 1 - The truncated cone structure interpreted by A. Taramelli as the remains of a smelting furnace (from Taramelli 1918, coll. 111-112, fig. 112).

¹ USAI 2003, p. 42; 44.

² It is a circular furnace, made in terracotta, externally decorated with finger prints, to form a truncated cone, or a kind of cylinder, of no more than one metre in height. The bread was applied to the inner walls, heated by the embers and was baked in a short time. See DI GENNARO, DEPALMAS 2011.

At the time of discovery, in 1913, the archaeologist Antonio Taramelli interpreted it as a plant for fusing metal (fig. 1-2)³, while, between 1975 and 1978, the digs carried out by Miriam S. Balmuth allowed a comparison with the North African "tabuns" carrying finger prints (fig. 3)⁴.

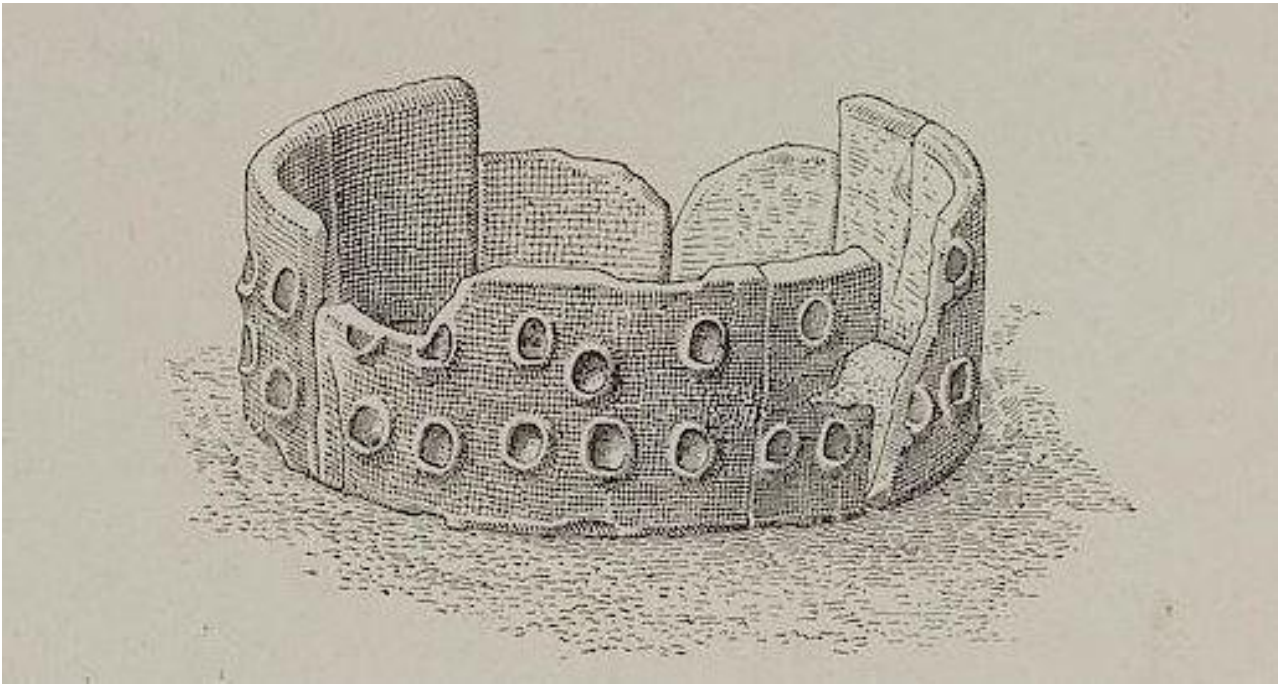


Fig. 2 - Graphic reconstruction of the alleged melting furnace identified by A. Taramelli (from Taramelli 1918, coll. 115-116, fig. 114).

³ TARAMELLI 1918, coll. 124-125.

⁴ BALMUTH *et alii* 1983.



Fig. 3 - An example of tabouna oven (from http://www.nabeul.net/?nomPage=rec_details&ma_recette=43).

■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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