

Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Aldrevandin glasses

During the 2001 and 2002 excavation campaigns, nine of the seventeen rooms arranged around the Palace of Baldu were investigated.

Various glassy fragments were found in the three south-facing rooms (η , θ , ι) of the main building which belong to the group known as "Aldrevandin".

The fragment - four of which made up a portion of an item when put back together - have enamel designs with various patterns, like two parallel red lines separated by a wavy white line, and plant motifs (fig. 1); while one background has no decoration, although referring to the same class by shape and size (fig. 2).



Fig. 1 - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: fragments found in rooms η , θ , ι (from Pinna, Musio 2012, pp. 322-323, figs. 14, 16-17).



Fig. 2 - Luogosanto, Palace Baldu: fragment of the bottom with no decoration (from Pinna, Musio 2012, p. 324, fig. 18).

This group of artefacts is named after the glass-maker who signed a glass, "*Magister Aldrevandin me fecit*" which is currently kept in the British Museum in London (fig. 3). This sample is decorated with coats of arms and floral elements made with enamelled decorations, the other glasses which are part of the group, however, have religious subjects, heraldic symbols and animals, sometimes accompanied by Latin inscriptions, with the name of the author.



Fig. 3 - London, British Museum: the so called "Aldrevandin" beaker (from <http://www.alessandraartale.it/2015/03/venezia-e-lislam-guerre-e-arte.html>; HESS, HUSBAND 1997, p. 7, fig. 10; <http://flickrriver.com/photos/ragnvaeig/3701439504/>).

The mixing of European figures and Islamic decorative enamel techniques has made identification of the area of origin difficult: it has been suggested that the glasses “of Aldrevandin” were from 14th and 15th century Venice. This hypothesis comes from the presence of historical Venetian sources referring to fourteenth century glass, specifically painted glasses, and from the close existing link between Venetian craftsmen and those of the Eastern Mediterranean; also the places where they were found, which rarely involve Islamic sites, would seem to confirm this theory.

Because of their sophistication, these artefacts can be considered luxury products, which, in Sardinia, have only been documented in the Palace of Baldu and the castle of Monreale (fig. 4).



Fig. 4 - Sardara, Castle of Monreale: graphic representation of the vitreous fragment with the coat of arms of Aragon (from Santini 2012, p. 308, Tav. 5).



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Claudia Cocco and Dr. Francesca Collu

■ Bibliographic abbreviations

EAM <i>on line</i>	<i>Enciclopedia dell'Arte Medievale</i> . http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/vetro_(Enciclopedia_dell'_Arte_Medievale)/
HESS, HUSBAND 1997	C. HESS, T. HUSBAND, <i>European Glass in The J. Paul Getty Museum</i> , Los Angeles 1997.
<i>Il vetro in Italia</i>	A. COSCARELLA (a cura di), <i>Il vetro in Italia: testimonianze, produzioni, commerci in età bassomedievale. Il vetro in Calabria: vecchie scoperte, nuove acquisizioni, XV Giornate di studio sul vetro AIHV</i> (Arcavacata di Rende, 9-11 giugno 2011), Arcavacata di Rende 2012.
PINNA, MUSIO 2012	F. PINNA, D. MUSIO, <i>Il vetro nella Sardegna medievale: nuovi dati dall'indagine archeologica del Palazzo di Baldu (Luogosanto, OT)</i> , in <i>Il vetro in Italia</i> , pp. 315-329.
SANTINI 2012	E. SANTINI, <i>Vetri da una mensa signorile rinascimentale nella Sardegna aragonese</i> , in <i>Il vetro in Italia</i> , pp. 301-314.
WHITEHOUSE 2010	D. B. WHITEHOUSE, <i>s.v. Vetro</i> , in EAM <i>on line</i> , 2010.
ZECCHIN 1969	L. ZECCHIN, <i>Un decoratore di vetri a Murano alla fine del Duecento</i> , in JGS, 11, 1969, pp. 39-42.

■ Periodicals and magazines

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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