



Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Ancient majolica from Pisa/Savona

Archaeological investigations conducted in the complex of the Palace of Baldu have revealed numerous ceramic finds relating to daily activities. Of the items relating to tableware, the most popular is the ancient majolica from Pisa and Savona. Fragments of the former from closed shapes, such as jugs, from the 13th-14th centuries have been found (figs. 1-2), inside the main building and in the collapsed materials around it.



Fig. 1 - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: fragments of archaic majolica from Pisa (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 2 - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: fragments of archaic majolica from Pisa (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

Ligurian productions from the second half of the 14th century refer mostly to open items, such as bowls, found in the rooms of the complex around the tower (fig. 3).



Fig. 3 - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: fragments of archaic majolica produced in Savona (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

Archaic majolica is a white glazed ceramic, with the addition of tin (tin coating) that is either monochrome or painted in green and brown, which was produced by the workshops of Central and Northern Italy from the thirteenth-fourteenth centuries.

The production from Pisa dates from between the first decades of the thirteenth century and the second half of the XV: its major spread, after Tuscany, took place in Sardinia (fig. 4).



Fig. 4 - Cagliari, San Domenico: archaic earthenware jars from Pisa
(from Porcella, Secci 2010, pp. 514-516, figs. 4-7).

Ligurian productions only started in the second half of the 14th century and continued until the 16th: the Savona majolica comes directly from the Pisa one, a fact that explains the presence of numerous Tuscan craftsmen in the Ligurian towns (fig. 5).



Fig. 5 - Savona: archaic Majolica bowl from Savona (from Varaldo 2001a, p. 556, Table IVb).

This production was popular in towns and rural areas and was exported to Sardinia (see fig 6), France and perhaps England.



Fig. 6 - Sassari, Largo Pazzola: fragment of the bottom of a bowl in archaic Majolica from Savona (second half of the fifteenth century), (from Campus 2013, p. 149, fig. 7).

Ancient Pisa pitchers could be found on the Sardinian tables of the mid 13th- beginning of 14th centuries, together with open shapes in ancient Tyrrhenian graffiti, while the open shapes are rare and become more frequent only with the diffusion of enamel Ligu-rian products starting from the second half of the 14th century.



■ Credits

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

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