

Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ "Raqqa type" ceramics

Rare and precious ceramic fragments have been unearthed from inside the Palace of Baldu and its ruins, among them the "Raqqa type" ones (fig. 1) of middle eastern production.



Fig. 1 - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: "Raqqa type" ceramic fragments (photo by F. Pinna).



Fig. 2 - Luogosanto, Palace of Baldu: "Raqqa type" ceramic fragments, inner surface (photo by F. Pinna).

These fragments contain silicon and the decoration painted under the glaze, datable to the end of the 12th first half of the 13th century, catalogued as “Raqqa”: they come under type 3, according to the division of silicon past ceramics produced in Egypt, Syria and Mesopotamia in the 11th and 13th centuries A.D.

“Raqqa” ceramics take their name from the Syrian town where they were found for the first time by archaeologists and has a porous body, with the colour varying from white to pink. In the pieces found in the Palazzo di Baldu, the glaze is turquoise, but as it is transparent it shows the decoration painted underneath, with floral patterns and words. Both open shapes such as bowls and closed shapes such as urns (see figs. 3-4) have been found: fragments found in Luogosanto may belong to the latter.

These artefacts indicate the intensification of relations between Sardinia and the Eastern, Byzantine and Islamic areas between the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, through the privileged trade routes of Pisa and Genoa.



Fig. 3 - Raqqa-type Syrian ceramic jar from the Ayyubid dynasty (fifteenth century), (from <https://www.pinterest.com/minxlette/sca-pottery-and-dishes/>).



Fig. 4 - Raqqa-type Syrian ceramic jar from the Abbasid dynasty (thirteenth century AD), (from <https://www.pinterest.com/aishaabdel9/islamic-art-ceramic-ewers-and-vases/>).

■ Credits

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

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