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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

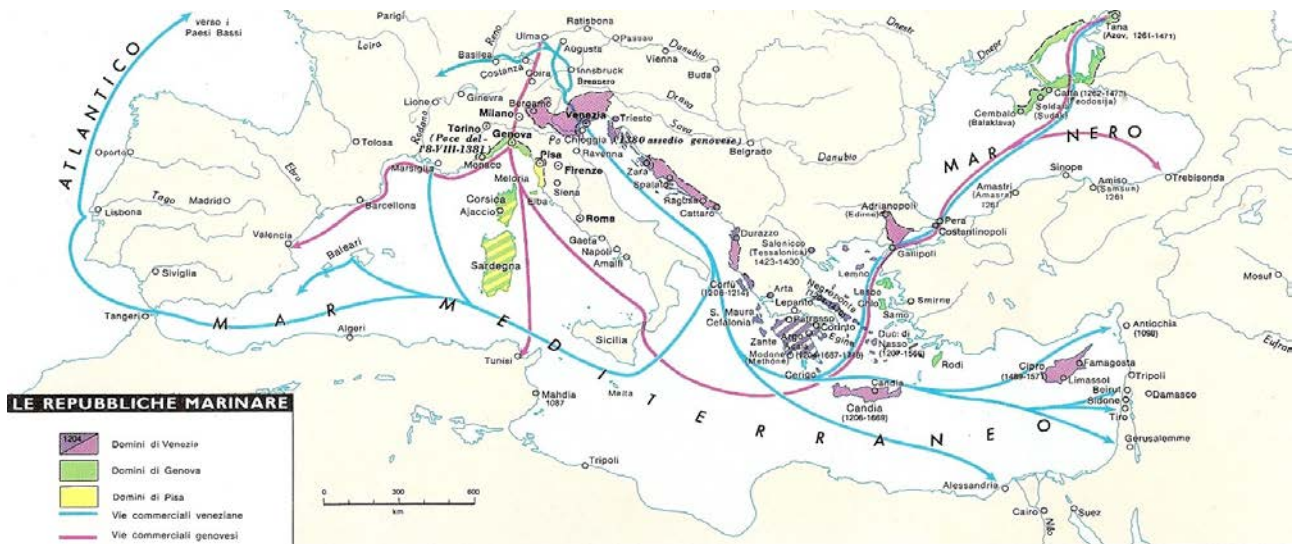
# Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



# The trade routes

The position of Gallura, just off neighbouring Corsica and open to contacts with the Tyrrhenian coast of the Italian peninsula, placed the region within a series of trade routes. Despite the internal location of the territory of Luogosanto, findings in the Palace of Baldu have allowed retracing the commercial traffic between this settlement and the Mediterranean from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century. The same political ties built by the Giudici of Gallura and Logudoro with Pisa and Genoa promoted the arrival of goods from all over the Mediterranean basin and the East (fig. 1)



**Fig. 1** - The trade routes of the Maritime Republics (from <http://www.omeganews.info/?p=2090>).

The difference in the various artefacts from extremely distant territories, however, does not show a direct link between the palace and each production site, in fact, there could have been even just one single channel for the movement of goods purchased in different ports and emporia.

Inside the archaeological area, fragments of old Pisa majolica (13th-14th century) have been found as well as uncoated Pisa pottery, which was exported from Tuscany during the same trips for transport outside the region; the Iberian productions (Valencia and Catalan) and the Savona majolica are attributed to the middle of the 14th century. The Pisa and Genoa trade routes constantly left the Mediterranean basin in order to reach Islamic

lands where they traded their goods for local produce; these goods could also be spread through the Spanish and African coasts. These jars with engraved band decorations were probably produced in the thirteenth century in Morocco and southern Spain (fig. 2)



**Fig. 2** - Fragment of jar with impressed band and turquoise enamel decoration (photo by F. Pinna).

Trade with the eastern Mediterranean is documented by ceramic ware with a turquoise coating produced in Egypt and in other neighbouring areas from the end of the twelfth century, and also by Greek-Turkish artefacts, such as the fragment of *Zeuxippus Ware*.

Glass production spread through the same circuits as pottery; the fragments of enamel-coated glass decorated with Arabic calligraphy in blue, some of which are also engraved (fig. 2) come from the east in the 13th century; there are enamel-coated and gold glass containers with Arabic epigraphic decorations from Syria and Egypt, from the 13th and 15th century. Tuscan twelfth-fifteenth century artefacts and Venice glass belonging to the "Aldrevandin" group, related to the centuries between the thirteenth and fourteenth, arrived from the peninsula.





**Fig. 3** - Fragment of an Islamic oil lamp with glazed inscription and incised decorations (photo by F. Pinna).

The presence of rare and sought after goods in the Palace of Baldu has led to the hypothesis that the buyers belonged to an upper class or that there were exchanges of gifts between political figures who visited the complex.

## ■ Credits

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

## ■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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