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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The Catalan-Aragon rule in Sardinia

The village of Sent Steva, connected with the Palace of Balbo, according to hypotheses was certainly active when Sardinia was already under the rule of Catalonia and Aragon: the centre is mentioned in a survey of rents paid by all the villages owned by the Crown of Aragon in the Island (fig. 1) on the date of being filled out, so that the taxation capacity of all the possessions could be understood.



Fig. 1 - The expansion of the Crown of Aragon (from <http://ifc.dpz.es/webs/ubiето/fichas-ubiето/58.html>).

The island was made a fief to the king of Aragon, James II, by Boniface VIII in 1297, in a pretend "*Regnum Sardiniae et Corsicae*" (fig. 2), but the arrival of the Iberian soldiers in Sardinia only came in 1323, the year in which the Infante Alfonso and his troops landed in the Gulf of Palma del Sulcis.

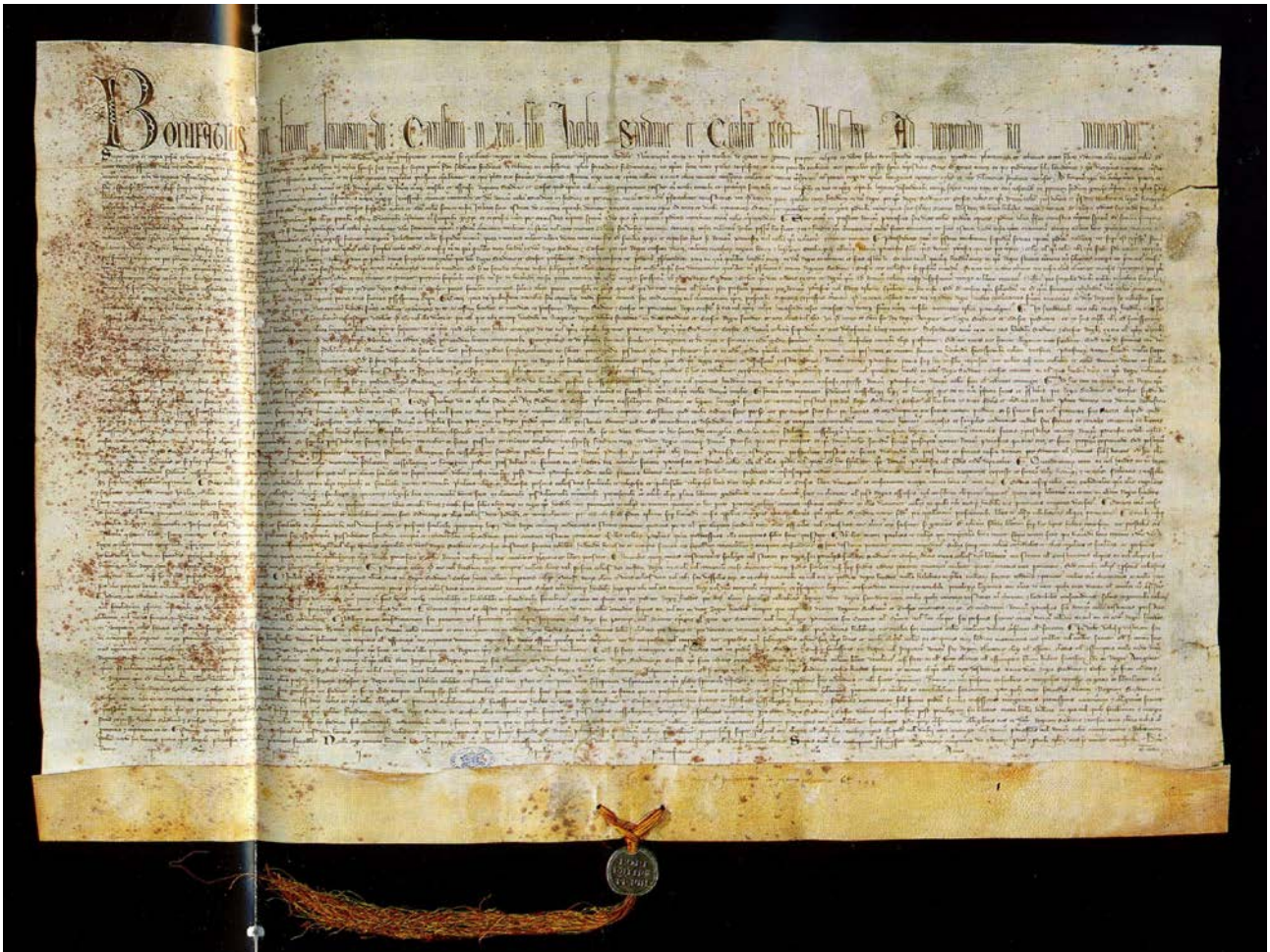


Fig. 2 - The enfeoffment seal dated 4th April, 1297: Pope Boniface VIII enfeoffs the Kingdom of Sardinia and Corsica to James II of Aragon (ASV, A. a., arm. I-XVIII, 446).

The conquest took place gradually: the following year Villa di Chiesa - the current Iglesias - and the territory of Gallura were conquered after defeat of the Pisa families in the countryside between Oliena and Galtelli; in 1326, after several battles, they also managed to obtain Cagliari.

With the Aragonese government, Sardinia changed its administrative structure; this involved the introduction of an actual feudal system, whereby noble Catalans were rewarded with lands and which made it a part of a confederation of states which included the Reign of Aragon and the County of Barcelona, the kingdoms of Mallorca, Valencia, Naples, Sicily, the County of Provence, the duchies of Athens and Neopatras (fig. 3).

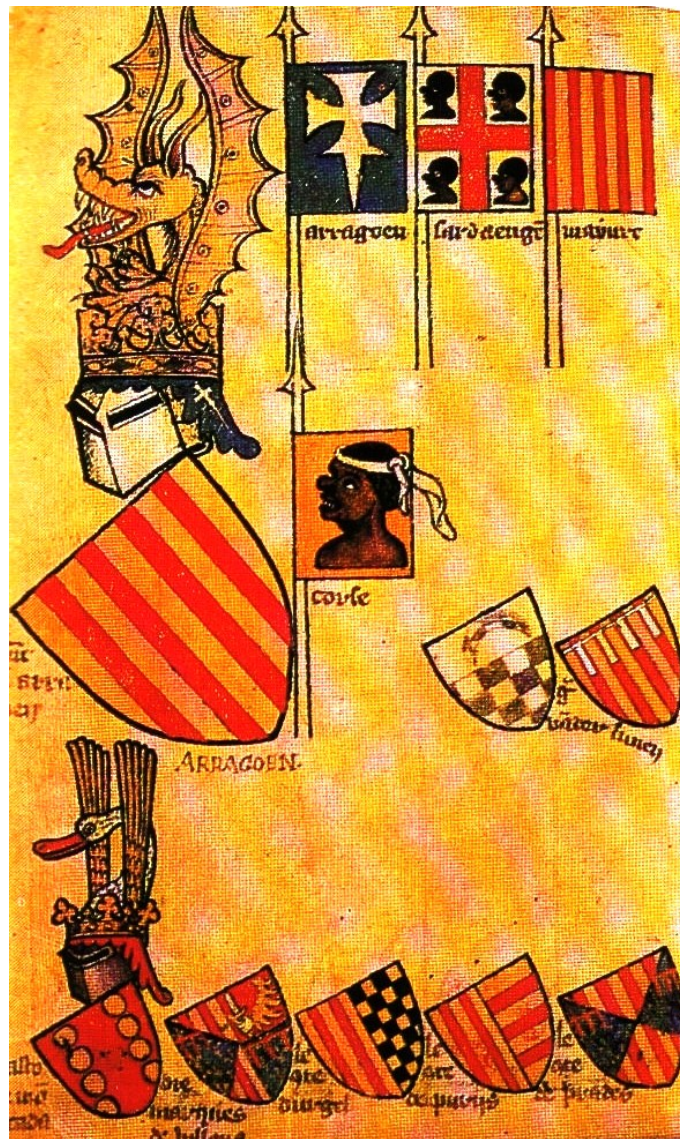


Fig. 3 - Armorial of Gelre: coats of arms of the states which formed the Crown of Aragon (during the second half of the fourteenth century), (from https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corona_d'Aragona#/media/File:Stemmi_degli_stati_della_Corona_d%27Aragona.jpg).

The larger island towns were made royal cities subject to central authority, obtaining the same privileges as Barcelona. For more than a century, Spanish rule was contrasted by the aristocratic families of Genoa and Pisa that had already settled before the conquest and up to 1410 by the last surviving giudicato, i.e. Arborea.

In 1469, King Ferdinand II of Aragon (1479-1516) married Isabella of Castile and from the union of these two kingdoms a great European state was born ten years later: the Crown of Spain. The establishment of this power brought about a series of institutional reforms in all the lands which it ruled over and therefore in Sardinia as well.

■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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