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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Palace of Baldu

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Ubaldo II Visconti

Ubaldo II Visconti is the historical figure which tradition mainly connects with the Palace of Baldu and from which it takes its name: he had his official residence in the Giudicato palace of Civita (the current Olbia), while the castles of Baldu (fig. 1), Balaiana and Monteacuto, were his summer residences.



Fig. 1 - Luogosanto, the Palace of Baldu (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

He was the son of Lamberto Visconti di Eldizio and Elena de Lacon, the reigning Giudicessa of Gallura: her father was the first one from the noble family of the Viscontis of Pisa to govern in Sardinia, her mother was the daughter of the Giudice Barisone I de Lacon (1173-1203), the first woman to govern a Sardinian kingdom by birthright.

In 1219 Ubaldo II married Adelasia, the daughter of Giudice Mariano II of Torres, in the Basilica of the Holy Trinity of Saccargia (fig. 2) thus joining together the giudicato of Gallura with that of Torres.

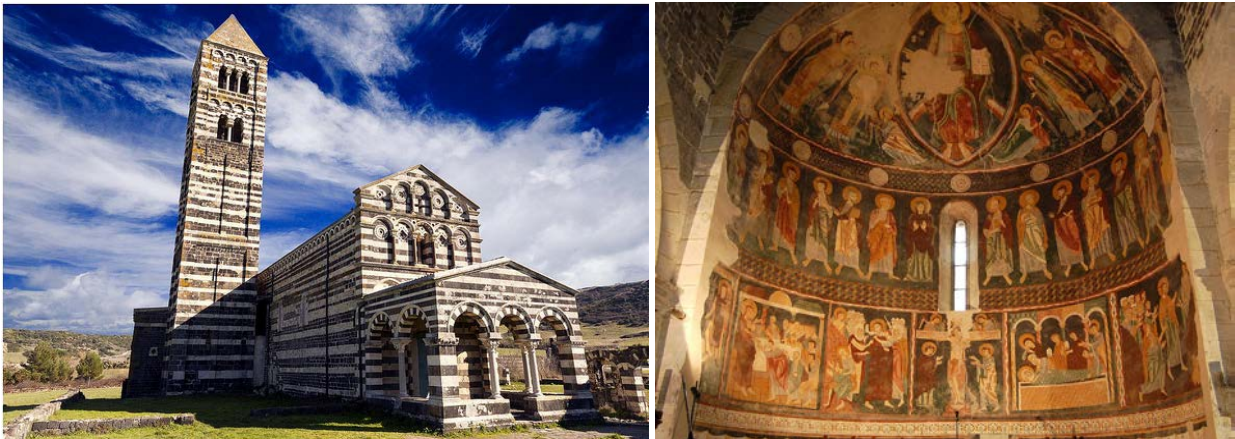


Fig. 2 - The Holy Trinity of Saccargia: the exterior and the internal wall frescoes in the apse (from http://www.mayacostaparadiso.it/wordpress/?page_id=32; <http://www.trekearth.com/gallery/Europe/Italy/Sardegna/Sassari/Ploaghe/photo1008544.htm>).

He came to the throne in 1226 circa, on the death of his father; he took on the role of *rector callaretanus* between 1232 and 1233, taking advantage of the political gap created by the disappearance of . Mariano II of Torres died the same year, succeeded by his young son Barisone III - under the regency of Orzocco de Serra - who was assassinated in 1236. The title passed informally onto Adelasia, Ubaldo's wife, who acquired a second throne in this way.

In 1237, Pope Gregory IX sent a new papal legate to Sardinia, with the task of asking for formal deeds of vassalage from the giudici, in order to bring the island back under his jurisdiction. On 3rd march in the palace of Ardara (fig. 3), Adelasia took the oath of allegiance to the Holy See for the Giudicato of Torres and for her other assets in Sardinia, Corsica, Pisa and Massa, formalising the investiture on 8th April 1237. Her husband only signed the act for the Giudicato of Torres, but not for Gallura, confirming the authority of the bishop of Pisa.

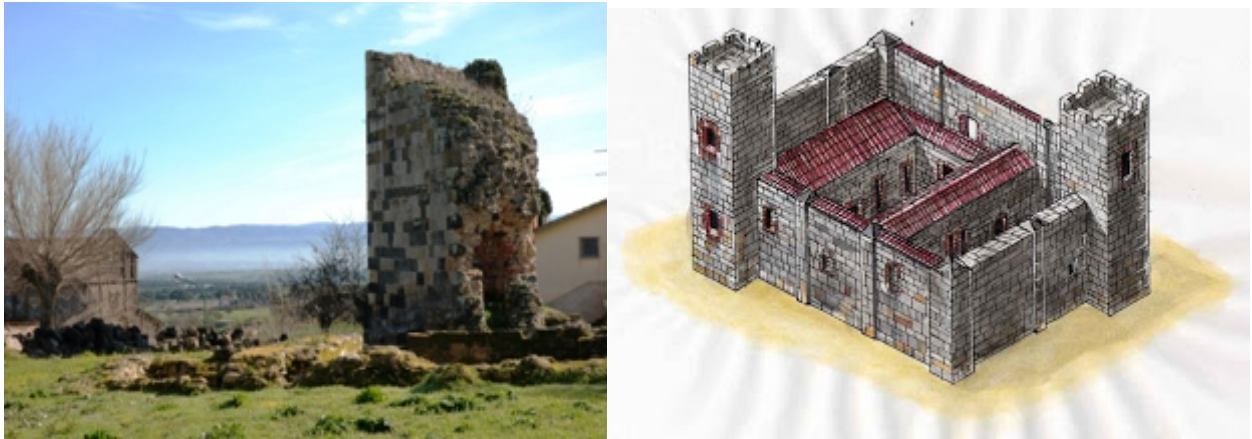


Fig. 3 - Fragments of walls of the Giudicato castle of Ardara (behind the palace chapel) and the hypothetical reconstruction (from <http://www.comune.ardara.ss.it/?modulo=contenuti&id=80>; <http://castelliere.blogspot.it/2013/07/il-castello-di-sabato-6-luglio.html>).

On 27th January 1238 in the monastery of San Pietro i Silki (fig. 4), Ubaldo Visconti wrote his testament in which he expressed his will to leave his domain of Gallura and the rights over the Giudicato di Arborea to his cousin Giovanni Visconti. He died the same year and, according to tradition, he was buried in the crypt of the Basilica of Our Lady of Luogosanto, where his mother had already been laid to rest.



Fig. 4 - Sassari, the church of San Pietro di Silki: interior (from https://www.flickr.com/photos/piante_e_fiori_della_sardegna/11293227425).

■ Credits

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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