



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Church and monastery of San Nicola di Trullas

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The well

The well was essential in the monastery, not just for the water supply but for preparing the monks' meals, taking care of hygiene, cultivating vegetables and making objects such as pottery (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - The remains of the cloisters and the monastery well seen from above (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The archaeological digs in the courtyard of the San Nicola monastery revealed the existence of a well (figs. 2-3) inside the rock that is several metres deep. The edges of the well were marked by some stone slabs, and inside the archaeologists found many objects, dating to the later phases of monastery life. When it was destroyed by fire, the well was turned into a waste dump, as it was no longer useful. During archaeological digs, no elements were recovered that referred to a protection balustrade (archivault or ring), however, it is possible that the well had one, not just to avoid accidental falls, but because it offered a functional resting point while drawing water with a pail, that would be carried out with or without a pulley. Therefore, in the reconstruction 3d of the site, a hypothesis was chosen that may have been the external appearance of the ring, although not reinforced by archaeological proof (fig. 2).



Fig. 2 - Image left: the railings of the wells in the cloisters courtyard (photo from the Municipality of Semestene); right, a reconstruction theory (Unicity S.p.A.).

The materials from the layers filling the well cannot be interpreted as remains from meals alone (fig. 3) Several bone fragments have been found, in fact, that show signs of butchery, and a large number of whole bones, heads and long bones belonging to adult bovines.



Fig. 3 - The interior of the well (photo by the municipality of Semestene).

The animal remains coming from the well are not too different from the other animals finds; the presence of fragments from animals such as dogs, cats and foxes, and above all hens (not common and very expensive at the time) is important. The remains of deer have also been found. These animals were used for their meat, but also for their antlers (14 fragments were among the items found, used to make daggers and handles for objects that were then finished with metal parts).



■ Credits

Coordination Prof. Rossana Martorelli

Deepening card edited by: Dr. Maria Grazia Arru, Dr. Alberto Viridis, Dr. Cristiana Cilla, Dr. Silvia Marini, Dr. Marco Muresu

■ Bibliography

BONINU, PANDOLFI 2010 = A. BONINU, A. PANDOLFI (a cura di), *San Nicola di Trullas. Archeologia, Architettura, Paesaggio*, Semestene 2010.

ZAGARI 2006 = F. ZAGARI, *Il metallo nel Medioevo. Tecniche, strutture, manufatti*, Roma 2006.





UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a