



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Port and coastal towers of Arbatax

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Stone

Numerous traces of life in Roman times have been found in the Tortolì area. In 1976, in the immediate vicinity of the country church of S. Lussorio (fig. 1), on land being ploughed, they found a grey granite, cylindrical stone, fragmented at the bottom and top (fig. 2).



Fig. 1 - The church of San Lussorio, near where the stone was found

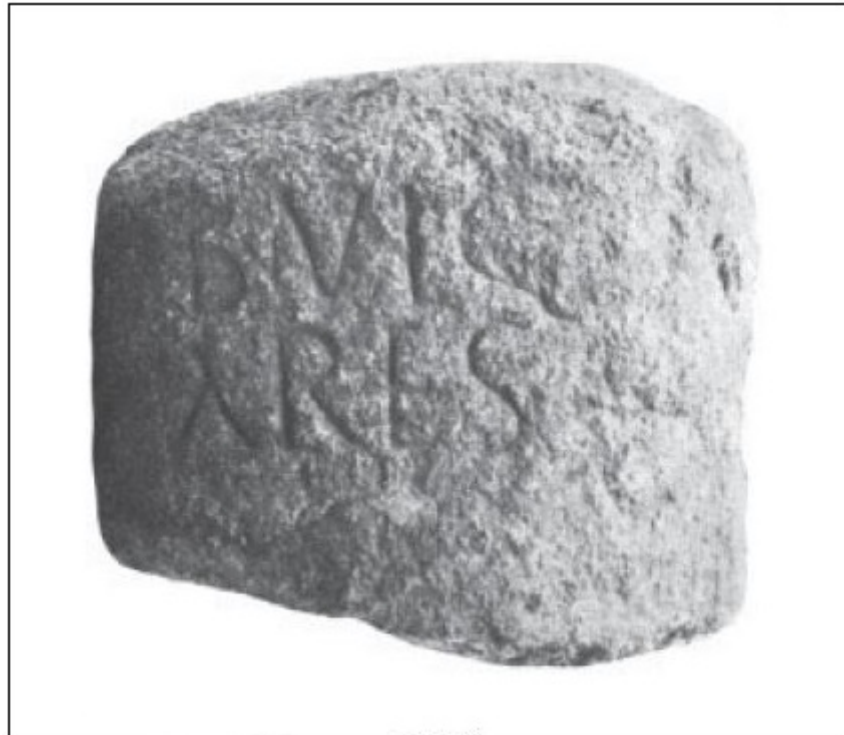


Fig. 2 - The stone of Tortolì (from Meloni 2000, p. 1697).

An epigraph engraved on its surface (figs. 3-4), datable to the late imperial Roman period, records the presence of (*servants*) *vulgares*, that is peasants of a servant status which made sure the *praedia*, the Roman farms¹, were managed correctly. The *vulgares* of the Tortolì stone were probably generic slave labourers who worked on an estate in the area.

¹ Meloni 2000, pp. 1695-1702; Mastino 2005, p. 291.



Fig. 3 - The stone of Tortoli (photo by M.G. Arru).



Fig. 4 - Detail of the inscription B'v'ULG/ARES (photo by M.G. Arru).



Along with the stone they found fragments of tiles, bricks, a granite column drum and fragments from the rims of *dolia* (large vases) which seemed to belong to a grain store. There was probably a farm in this area with rooms used to store cereals, oil and wine. It is not currently possible to understand what that stone marked. It could refer to a burial, border or a building.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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