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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Nuraghic complex of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros

Patrimonio culturale

SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The smelting workshop

In the steepest part of the dwelling area (*insula* 1) there was access to room 15 that was sub-rectangular in shape (size 4.74x3.15 metres), a workshop, with the entrance built on an opening in the external wall surrounding all the buildings in this area (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Map of *insula* 1 with the different rooms that face onto the courtyard (from FADDA 2012, fig. 53, p. 40).



Fig. 2 - Kiln with lead sheets found in the various layers connected to the several phases of work (from Fadda 2012, fig. 60, p. 46).

On the right side of the workshop, there is a stone workbench along the whole perimeter wall on the south-east side, above which there are the remains of four low-flame kilns that were used until the 9th-8th century B.C. (Iron Age) for the smelting of lead and the recycling of metal from votive offers (usually bronze items that were fixed to their bases with molten lead, and were exhibited on the sacred perimeter of the nearby sanctuary. The smelting system was a simple one: a hole of about 0.5 metre diameter was dug, that was then lined with fresh clay and inside the fuel and the mineral were arranged in layers, enclosed by a circle of stones. Limestone rock was added to the mineral and the fuel, that turned into quicklime when baked, and removed the impurities from the minerals used. The last phase of use for the lead-smelting kiln can be identified as the Iron Age (9th-8th century B.C.) due to the presence of an askoid jug with a handle decorated by circles and a hull-bottom bowl with a lip that can be identified as part of characteristic pottery items of this period (fig. 3).



Fig. 3 - Jugs with circle decorations found in the kilns
In room 15 (from Fadda 2012, fig. 63, p. 48).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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