

Nuraghic complex of S'Arcu 'e Is Forros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ A sea of trade

Due to its strategic position, the wealth of mineral mines, and almost certainly due to the important role in Nuragic civilisation of the reworking of models acquired from different cultural contexts in metal work, Sardinia in the 13th-6th centuries B.C. was included in the main trade routes that went from East and West in the Mediterranean.

The S'Arcu 'e Is Forros site is part of this scenario, that shows it is one of the oldest and most important religious centres for metal working.

The previous items found, such as bronze containers of excellent make (*oinochoe*), buckles, bracelets decorated with geometric patterns, bangles, rings, earrings, buttons, votive quivers, bronze and amber necklaces, silver rings, a pendant of a miniature axe, bronze tripod bezels, a *faïence* scarab, and a bronze pendant of the goddess Tanit, are proof of the several contacts and trading from the beginning of the Iron Age, with the non-island Tyrrhenian communities (figs. 1,2).



Fig. 1 - Vase for wine in bronze with a high lip (*oinochoe*), and a handle with a palm leaf at the base
(From FADDA 2012, pp. 46-57).



Fig. 2 - Bronze buckles, bronze pendant of the goddess Tanit, bronze tripod bezel, axe with semi-moon-shaped bronze blade and engraved decorations, and a scarab in *faïence* (from FADDA 2012, pp. 46-57).

The oldest material proof left by contact with the populations of the Mediterranean East in the inner areas, difficult to reach of Sardinia, is a Canaan amphora, found in fragments inside room 2 of the *insula* 2, near the fireplace, together with askoid jugs and Nuragic urns. The amphora, which has been partly reconstructed, has an inscription on the shoulder, after baking, in Philistine and Phoenician characters dated between the 9th and 8th centuries B.C. (fig. 3).



Fig. 3 - Canaan amphora (from FADDA 2012, fig. 71, page 55).



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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