



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Nuraghic village of Su Nuraxi

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Giovanni Lilliu, the father of Sardinian archaeology

Giovanni Lilliu, "*professori de is perdas beccias*", as he was defined, was an internationally renowned archaeologist and a great intellectual, with his intensive intellectual activity and his several important contributions lent lustre not only to archaeological science but also to history, culture, political and institutional life in Sardinia (fig 1).



Fig. 1 - Giovanni Lilliu (from http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/immagini/17_176_20090209172218.jpg).

He was born in Barumini on 13th March 1914. A graduate of Classic Literature, he was a pupil of the palaeontologist Ugo Rellini at the National School of Archaeology in Rome, where he completed his specialisation. From 1943 to 1955 he held several teaching posts at the Faculty of Literature at the University of Cagliari. From 1944 to 1955 Lilliu was an Official of the Superintendency of Antiquities of Sardinia. Starting from 1939, he carried out several searches and digs in Sardinia and in the Balearic Islands.

Lilliu owes his fame to discovering the Nuragic palace of Su Nuraxi, in Barumini, his birthplace (fig. 2).



Fig. 2 - Giovanni Lilliu leads the dig of hut 135 in the village of Su Nuraxi in Barumini (from <http://www.isoladelleTorri.beniculturali.it/getImage.php?id=54&w=800&h=600&f=0&.jpg>).

In 1955, he founded and led the School of Specialisation of Sardinian Studies at the University of Cagliari, also covering the role of tenured professor of Sardinian Antiquities, and was also the Head of Faculty of Literature and Philosophy.

He promoted the establishment of the Istituto Superiore Regionale Etnografico in Nuoro in 1972, an institute that he was Head of from 1985 to 1995. He covered so many prestigious roles and received many acknowledgements, professor emeritus and member of several Italian and overseas scientific institutes; he has been a member of the Accademia dei Lincei since 1990. In 2007, he received the "Sardus Pater" award from the Autonomous Region of Sardinia. He died in Barumini on 19th February 2012.

In 2013, on the first anniversary of Professor Giovanni Lilliu's death, the university of Cagliari wanted to remember his scientific, human and political contribution by naming the Cittadella dei Musei after him, and with a sculpture by the Master Pinuccio Sciola that would in some way remember the civilisation of the large Nuragic stones (fig. 3).

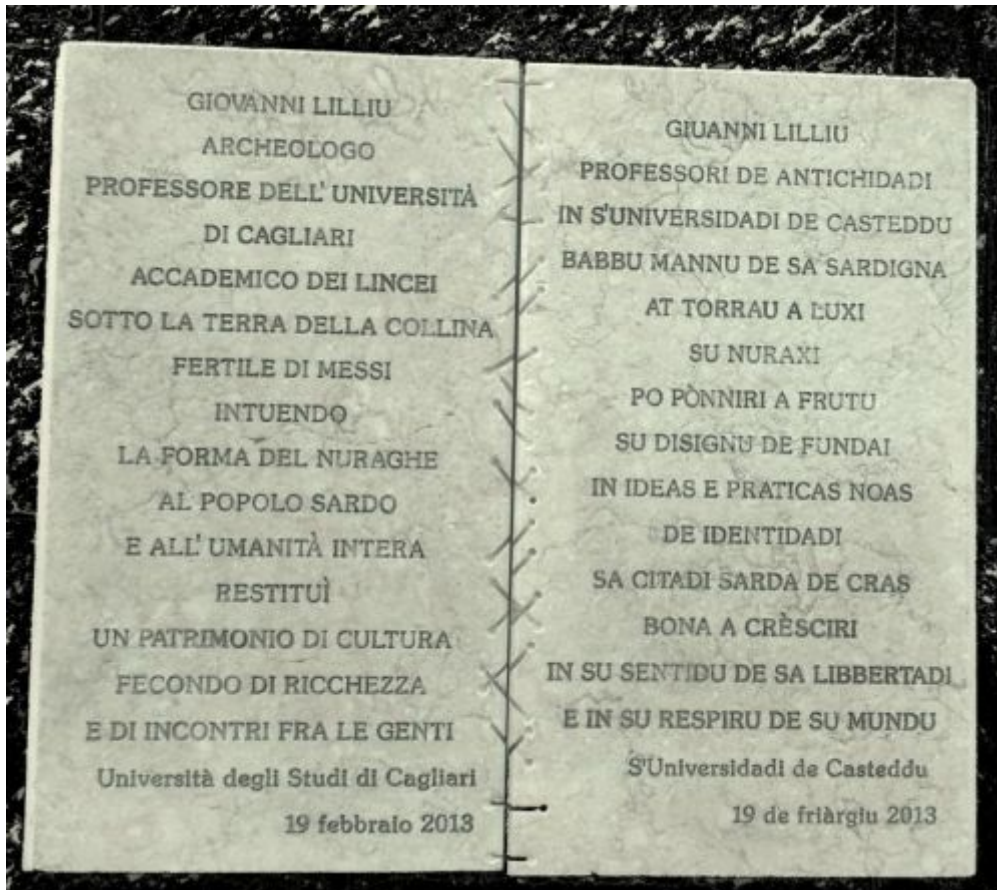


Fig. 3 - Commemorative stone (from <http://www.isoladellelorri.beniculturali.it/getImage.php?id=142&w=500&h=446>).

His endless bibliographical productions includes basic scientific works for Sardinian archaeology, including "La civiltà dei Sardi dal neolitico all'età dei nuraghi" (Turin, 1963), "Sculture della Sardegna nuragica" (Cagliari, 1966), "La civiltà nuragica" (Sassari, 1982), "Arte e religione della Sardegna prenuragica" (Sassari, 1999), but also popular publications, articles written in Sardinian and anthropological essays, where he coined and defined the concept of "constant Sardinian resistance".

In 2013, at the Giovanni Lilliu Centre of Communication and Promotion of Cultural Heritage in Barumini the exhibition "*Giovanni Lilliu - Stratigrafie di una vita*" was opened, a new knowledge-gathering path on the professor emeritus, organised by the Municipality of Barumini and the Fondazione Barumini Sistema Cultura.

In 2014, during the centenary of his birth, the exhibition "*L'isola delle torri. Giovanni Lilliu e la Sardegna Nuragica*", was opened in Cagliari at the San Pancrazio exhibition complex, organised by the Superintendency of Archaeological Heritage for the Provinces of Cagliari and Oristano and for the Provinces of Sassari and Nuoro.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

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