



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Nuraghic village of Su Nuraxi

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The discovery

The first to notice the presence of archaeological structures in the rise of “Brunco Su Nuraxi” were farm labourers working the land for Oreste Sanna, the owner of the estate. The history of the dig, involving about one hundred workers from Barumini, is still little known today (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - 1951: the dig of Su Nuraxi (from Murru 2000, p. 17).

The young archaeologist Giovanni Lilliu thought there was a nuraghe on the high plain, both because the land was planted with barley and not with wheat, a sign that the land could not stand deep cultivation, and because it was clear to his expert eyes that what the local people of Barumini called “Sa Funtana” (the well) was actually a keep tower.

In the 1950s, after carrying out dig tests on the land to check if there was any archaeological proof underneath the ground, Lilliu decided with the Superintendent of that time, Gennaro Pesce, to undertake a systematic dig campaign to discover the buried monument that was almost completely hidden up to that point (figs. 2, 3). His cousin, Annetta Frailis, a woman from Arzana, became the owner of the land on which the Nuraghe stood when her husband died, and gave permission for the dig without asking for anything in exchange.



Fig. 2 - 1951: The men of Su Nuraxi (from Murru 2000, p. 47).

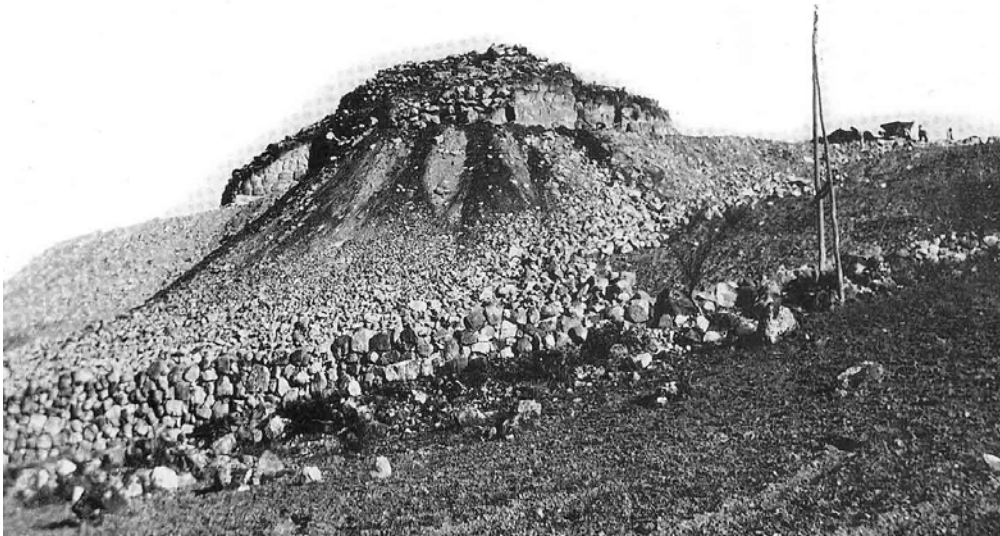


Fig. 3 - 1952: the dig of Su Nuraxi (from Murru 2000, p. 19).

The work team included about forty local labourers, mostly war veterans who were taken from working the land, happy, apart from their wages, and better than what they would have earned working the land, for what they found. The midday break was often not taken, as their curiosity was greater than their appetite. They also used oxen as their driving force (fig. 4).



Fig. 4 - 1954: archaeological area of Su Nuraxi (from Murru 2000, p. 45).

The total amount spent was twenty million Lira.

The archaeologist Giovanni Lilliu defined the dig at Bruncu Su Nuraxi as a "feat" and the workers that collaborated with him "brothers of a great adventure", that lasted five years.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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