

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Wheel-shaped pendant (Nuraghic complex of Albucciu)

The wheel-shaped pendant was found in the passage of the C entrance to the Nuraghic Albucciu complex in Arzachena (fig. 1).

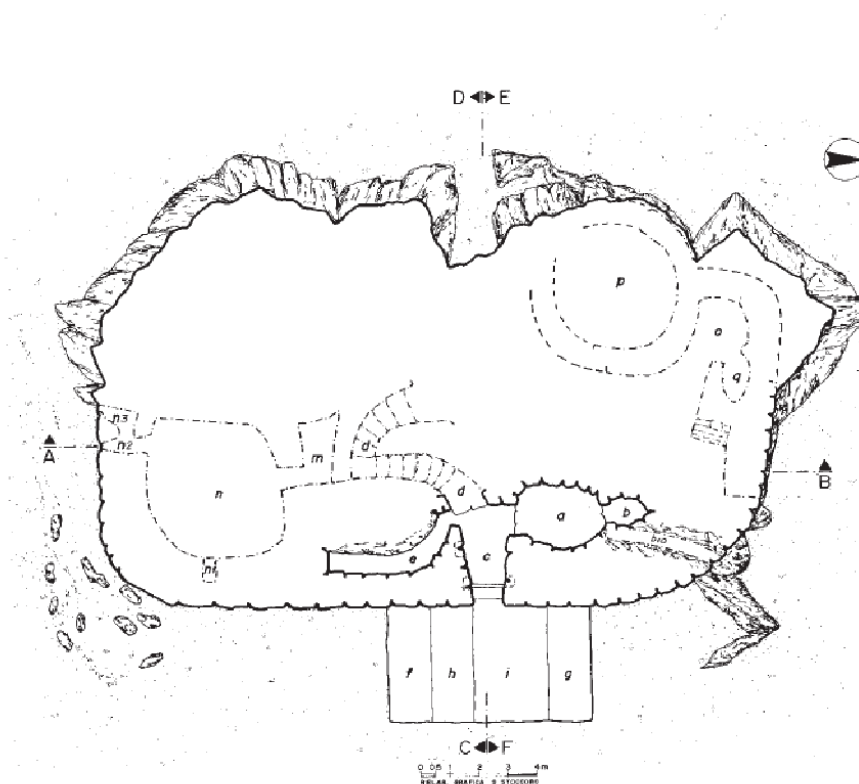


Fig. 1 - Nuraghe Albucciu, ground floor plan (from ANTONA RUJU, FERRARESE CERUTI 1992, fig. 12).

Despite its poor preservation, this miniature object (diameter 4.4 cm) can be read easily; it is on display in the Nuraghic hall of the National Museum G.A. Sanna of Sassari and dates from the twelfth to the eighth century B.C. The object was made in bronze by mould casting. It consists of two concentric circles, with an almost ellipsoidal section, joined by a cross which forms four spokes (fig. 2).



Fig. 2 - Four-spoke wheel (from MORAVETTI A., ALBA L., FODDAI L. 2014, p. 209).

The pendant appears to recall the symbol of the sun disk, the union of the forces of the sky which has also been found in other artefacts discovered in different island contexts, for example, it is repeated in a pendant found at Nuraghe Nurdole in Orani, while from Nuraghe Genna Maria in Villanovaforru comes the disk-shaped pintadera (stamp) decorated by five concentric circles arranged in a cross, considered a *unicum* (figs. 3, 4).



Fig. 3 - Pendant from Nuraghe Nurdole in Orani (from MORAVETTI A., ALBA L., FODDAI L. 2014, p. 280).



Fig. 4 - Pintadera (stamp) from Nuraghe Genna Maria in Villanovaforru (from MORAVETTI A., ALBA L., FODDAI L. 2014, p. 257).

The object was studied, interpreted and re-dated again in the mid-eighties of the last century by archaeologist Giuseppa Tanda. The researcher identified the head of an ornamental pin, perhaps used to fasten a coat or another article of clothing: this hypothesis would be supported by the presence on its back of a faint trace of the break of a

missing portion, in the central part of the disc. The new dating suggested by Tanda, twelfth century B.C., was prompted by a comparison between the fragment from Albucciu Nuraghe with the heads of pins from some Central European areas (Swabia, Lower Saxony and Lower Bavaria) and manufactured by the civilisation of the Mounds during the recent and final period (XIII-XII centuries B.C.): to support this dating, which is older than the one given by Giovanni Lilliu (VIII-VII century B.C.), contributes the Carbon 14 dating of the organic archaeological remains of one of the layers (no. 6, in room "N") in the Nuraghe of Albucciu. Formally, it was described by Tanda as a *"four-spoke bronze wheel with double rim"*, linked to the figure of the spoked wheel used by Nuraghic Sardinians. The wheel was reproduced on a small scale not only as an ornamental object, but also as part of cult models representing wagons.



■ Credits

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