

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Bronze statue of a praying priestess (Nuraghic complex of Albucciu)

The votive bronze statuette, 13.1 cm high, discovered on the terrace of the Albucciu Nuraghe, is displayed in the Nuraghic hall of the National Museum G.A. Sanna of Sassari. The author of the excavation and of the discovery during the early sixties of the last century, was archaeologist Maria Luisa Ferrarese Ceruti (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Nuraghe Albucciu (from http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/Nuraghe_Albucciu.jpg).

According to the most accepted iconographic reading, the bronze statuette apparently reproduces a priestess with a conical hat (*tutulus*) and an ample cloak placed on her

shoulders, dressed in a short tunic and a neck chube closed below the chin (figs. 2,3,4). Her face is characterised by round eyes, aquiline nose and ears in relief. The legs are made in a single block, while her toes are just outlined by parallel incisions. She holds a bowl in her left hand, while with her right hand she makes a gesture of prayer. The hypothesis that she may instead be a ranking figure in an offering stance cannot be entirely ruled out. It is made of bronze by the technique of lost wax casting. It is dated to the Iron Age (X-VII century B.C.).



Figs. 2, 3, 4 - Bronze offering figurine in front and profile view (from ANTONA 2013, p. 105).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

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