

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ History of the necropolis of Li Muri: The Neolithic

The Neolithic age in Sardinia is a very important period for man (6000-2850 BC), thanks to its new social and technological innovations for agriculture and livestock, from which the first stable settlements were born based on a productive type of economy, on the progress in the use of stone to make different types of tools, as well as on clay processing testified by a rich ceramic production. Even a unique territory such as that of Gallura had an active role in the trade of lithic material which from its shores reached the West Mediterranean via Corsica.

The inhabitation of the Gallura area is evident from the Early Neolithic, as is proved by the traces near the coast concerning places and workshops for processing Sardinian obsidian and flint used in the production of weapons and utensils for daily use, connected to commercial traffic of these raw materials gravitating in the Western Mediterranean route through Corsica (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Flint blades from Li Muri in Arzachena (from Mancini 2011, p. 15).

The population consolidated during the Middle and Late Neolithic ages with the presence of permanent settlements consisting in villages made up of huts (Pilastru, Arzachena), or



rock shelters (Mont'Incappiddhatu, Arzachena) and oriented towards an agro-pastoral economy and, in particular, with the emergence at first of characteristic forms of funerals (megalithic circle necropolis), and subsequently with a wide geographical distribution, which see dolmens as the development of Megaliths (fig. 2).

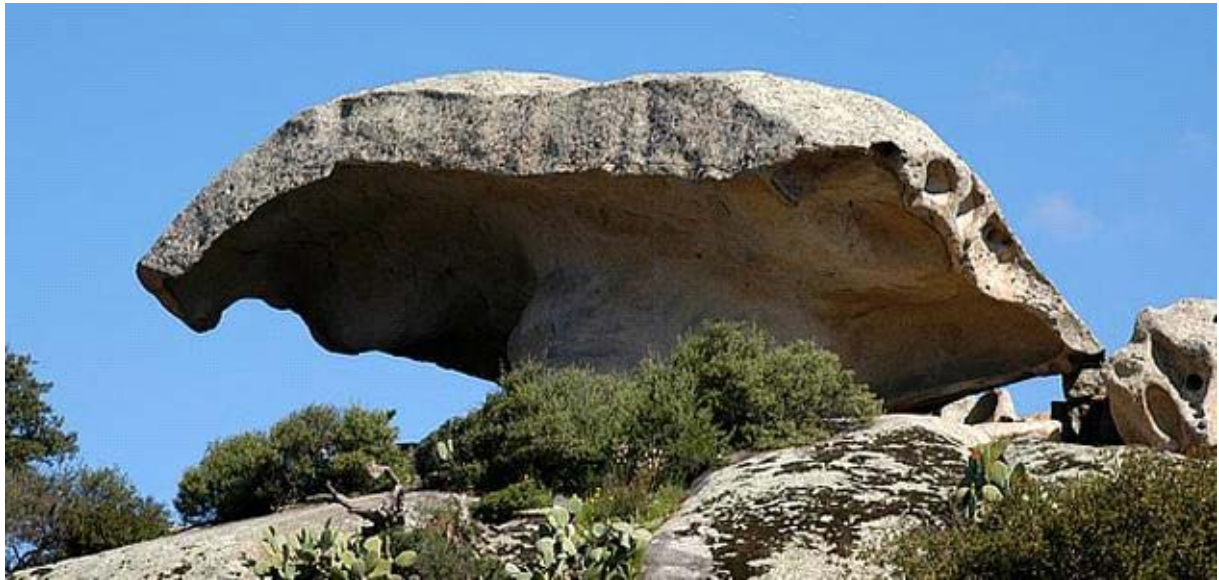


Fig. 2 - Mont'Incappiddhatu, Arzachena
(from <http://www.arzachenacostasmeralda.it/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/fungo.jpg>)

In fact, funeral buildings, and dolmens in particular, determine the sense of belonging of a community to a territory and probably limit the boundaries of the inhabited area exploited because of its natural resources (fig. 3).



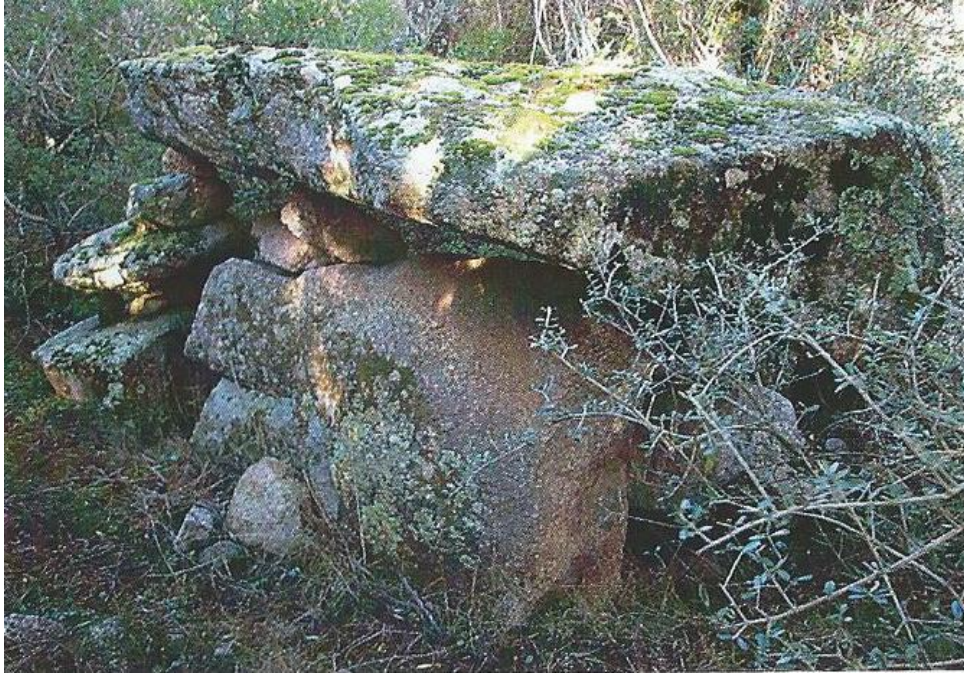


Fig. 3 - *Dolmen* Li Casacci in Arzachena (from Mancini 2010, p. 24).

Considered one of the first manifestations of megaliths in Sardinia, the funerary circles of Li Muri were chronologically classified in the transition facies of San Ciriaco dated to the first half of the fourth millennium BC, which precedes the Neolithic Culture of San Michele of Ozieri (3200-2850 BC).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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