

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The lithic cistas: function and use (funerary ritual)

During the fifth-fourth millennium B.C., at the same time as the custom of underground burials began, the custom of burying the dead inside a stone cista spread throughout Spain, France, Corsica and Sardinia. This aspect of megalithic burial is documented in the necropolis of Li Muri (fig. 1), and dates to Sardinian Late Neolithic Culture (3400-3200 B.C.); it is defined as early megalith age.



Fig. 1 Necropoli di Li Muri (Arzachena, SS). Planimetria.

Fig. 1 - Plan (from Antona, Lo Schiavo, Perra 2011, p. 242, fig. 1).

The cista, single or combined with other small necropolis, generally consists of four blocks of stone placed side by side, either buried underground in respect of the ground level or visible on the surface; rectangular, square or trapezoidal, without a protective structure or enclosed within a ring of stone slabs consisting of small and medium size rubble and a circular mound structure or with a ring of single stones, a double external wall circle or large vertical stone slabs (fig. 2).



Fig. 2 - Arzachena, Necropolis of Li Muri, lithic cista of circle 2 (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The type of cover of the burial cistas of Li Muri is unknown, as they have always been found without any possible top slab. The same situation was discovered in comparable monuments in southern Corsica, similar to those of Gallura, a fact which has led some to hypothesise the original existence of a wooden cover.

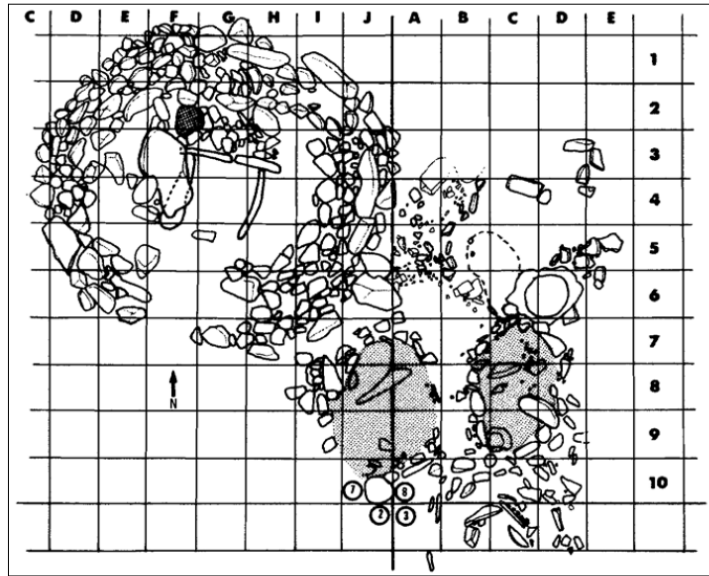


Fig. 3 - Necropolis in circles with cista at Monte Rotundu, Corsica
 (from Antona, Lo Schiavo, Perra 2011, p. 245, fig. 3).

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Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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