

Megalithic circles of Li Muri

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



The territory of Arzachena during the Middle Ages

The port and village of *Arsaghena*, built near the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, were part of the medieval diocese of *Civita* (fig. 1) and of the curatoria of *Unales* in the Giudicato of Gallura, whose territory was located between the sea, the hills of Cugnana, and the Riu Carana-Riu in Liscia (fig. 2).

During the Middle Ages, the geomorphological configuration of the territory, mostly rocky, which implicated a less dense settlement, rendered Arzachena a minor centre of interest within the great Mediterranean trade network.

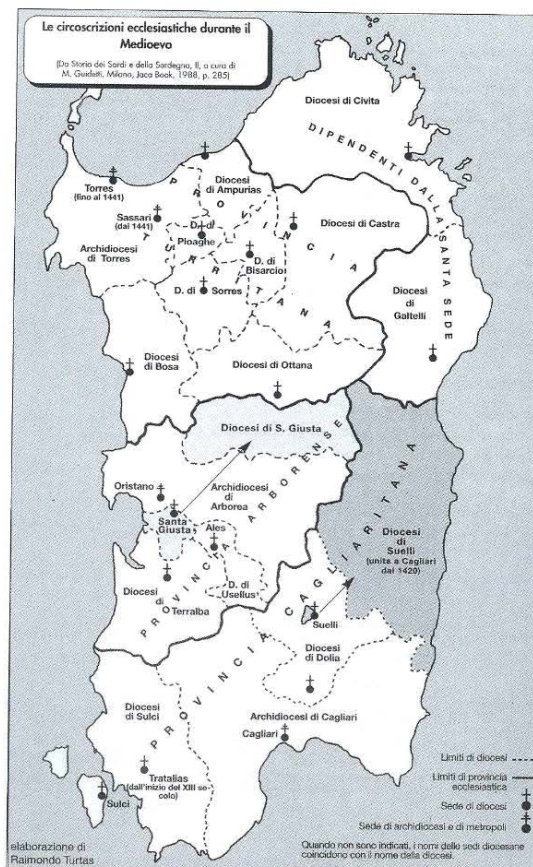


Fig. 1 – Sardinian dioceses during the Middle Ages (from Pinna 2008, p. 94).

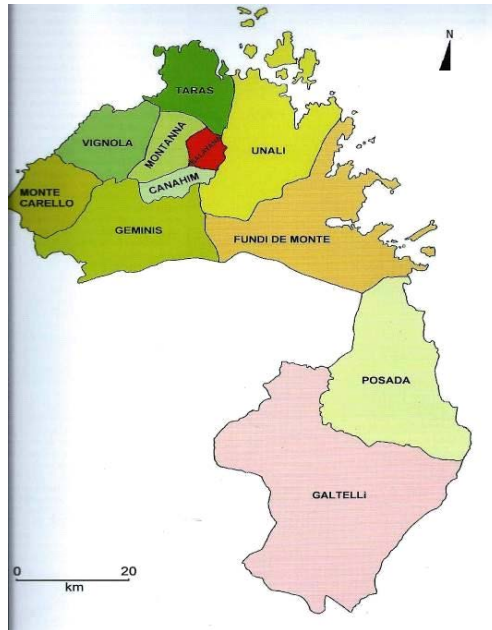


Fig. 2 - The Curatorie of the Giudicato of Gallura (from Pinna 2008, p. 91).

Between the late thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries, the people of Pisa took control of the northern part of the kingdom of Gallura, in particular of Civita, renamed Terranova, which in 1300 became an important military base and a large trading centre, while the conquest of the remaining territory of the *Giudicato* was effected gradually.

In 1330, after the defeat of the Pisani and once the hostility of the local population had been overcome, Arzachena and the curatoria of Unale, invaded by the troops of Ramon de Cardona, passed under the Crown of Aragon.

In 1346 Giovanni of Arborea, the brother of Mariano IV, managed to buy the town and the port of Arzachena, owned by Francesco Daurats and joined the fief to Fundimonte which included the city of Civita or Terranova (today's Olbia).

The town was abandoned between the late fourteenth century and the beginning of the fifteenth century due to the plague.

Modern Arzachena was steadily repopulated during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, thanks to the contribution by the population from the surrounding areas, which clustered around the church of Santa Maria Maggiore, rebuilt in 1776 (fig. 3).



■ Credits

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■ Bibliography

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