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Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Bronze disc with Late Roman Age inscription (Siddai)

At the archaeological site of Siddai'e Susu¹, in the area of Dorgali (fig. 1), a bronze disc was accidentally found with the Latin inscription (measurements: diam. 11.29 cm; thickness 2.9 cm; weight 345.5 g.), in which Egnatuleius Anastasius is quoted with the title of *vir clarissimus* and with the appointment of *praefectum vigilum*².



Fig. 1 - View from above of the Siddai-Dorgali site (from DELUSSU, IBBA 2012, fig. 1, p. 2196).

On the front side of the plaque, there is an almost complete inscription, while the rear, with no wording, has several cracks, i.e. defects from the manufacture process of the item using the lost wax technique (figs. 2, 3).

¹ In the area, located at the foot of the western slope of Mount Irveri, a site was located where mobile artefacts and remains of walls were found on the surface from buildings whose plans and types are unknown, probably relating either to a barracks (*statio*) for tracking goods in transit and/or local warehouses, or to a barracks with a goods depot annexed for supplying Rome, or even a depot built perhaps on the initiative of the mentioned *praefectus vigilum*. The site, discovered accidentally as a result of previous agricultural works, is dated between the Roman Republican Age and Late Antiquity.

² The office of *Praefectus Vigilum* (*Prefect of the Vigiles*) during the Roman Imperial Age was held by an official who took on the role of commander of the police brigade of the city of Rome e police officer in charge of the surveillance and night security of the town.



Figs. 2, 3 - Bronze Disc with late Roman Age inscription from Siddai-Dorgali
(from DELUSSU, IBBA 2012, fig. 2, p. 2197).

Every single word of the text, engraved with regular and elegant letters, is separated by a full stop and seven stylized ivy leaves, roughly oval in shape (Fig. 4).





Fig. 4 - Bronze Disc with late Roman Age inscription from Siddai-Dorgali
(from <http://www.museoarcheologicodorgali.it/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/15.png>).

Based on a series of clues deduced from the text, the disc's year of manufacture should fall within the time period ranging between 326 and 337 AD, the period of time when the prefect of alleged African origin, who commissioned it, was in office. It is probably that the bronze disc, like a plaque, as would be suggested by its concave shape, was built into the door step or architrave of a doorway in a building that has now been destroyed. The artefact is on display in the Archaeological Museum of Dorgali

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

DELUSSU F., IBBA A., *Egnatuleius Anastasius: un nuovo praefectum vigilum da Dorgali*, in *L'Africa Romana. Trasformazione dei paesaggi del potere nell'Africa settentrionale fino alla fine del mondo antico*, Atti del XIX Convegno di Studio, Sassari 16-19 dicembre 2010, II, Roma 2012, pp. 2195-2210.





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