



Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Bronze earring with a glass paste bead decorated with "eyes" (Abyss of Ispinigoli)

The well, which divides the large room found in the abyss of Ispinigoli¹ (fig. 1), in the Dorgali area, turned up an ornamental item, a bronze earring dated in the past to the Punic era, while now it is agreed to attribute it to the High Medieval Age².

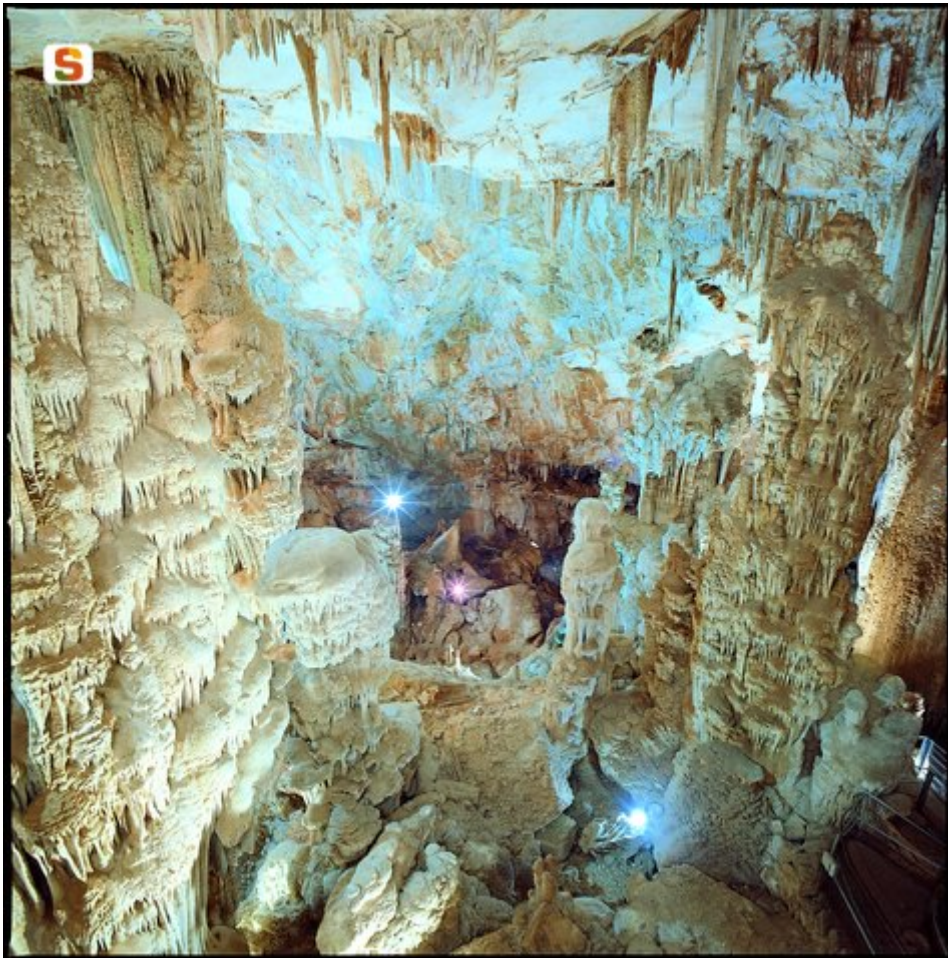


Fig. 1 - Abyss of Ispinigoli (from <http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/mmt/480/103007.jpg>).

¹ The Abyss is part of the articulated karst complex of Ispinigoli-San Giovanni Su Anzu-Sos Jocos, three communicating caves along about 15 km, the highest point is that of the Ispinigoli abyss or the "Abisso delle Vergini". It is considered one of the most beautiful karst caves in Europe.

² MORAVETTI 1998 p. 88; Pulacchini 1998, p. 29.

The earring (dimensions: diameter 1.5 cm; thickness 0.2 cm) consists of a sub-elliptical bronze wire, with open and thin ends, in which a blue round glass paste pearl with a "fiery eyes" white and blue decoration was inserted (figs. 2, 3).



Fig. 2 - Earring decorated with "fiery eyes" from the abyss of Ispinigoli (from PULACCHINI 1998, fig. 27, p.30).

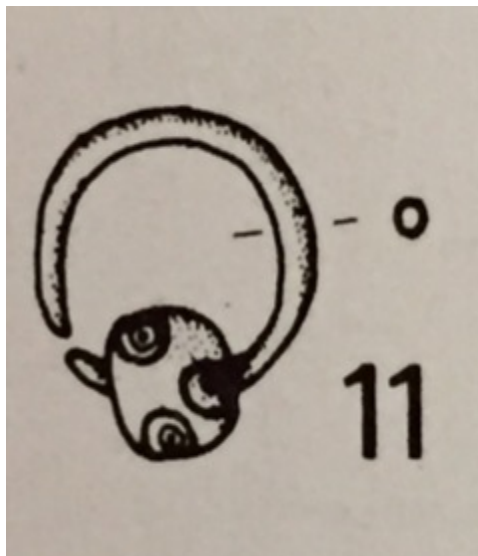


Fig. 3 - Graphic representation of the bronze earring from Ispinigoli (from MORAVETTI 1980, table XLIX.11).

The "fiery eyes" decoration was very common in Sardinia from the Prehistoric to the Early Middle Ages; it was frequent on objects made of bone, stone, ceramic, bronze, and was used for a long period of time, and in different cultural environments, ranging from the early second millennium BC and the 6th-7th century A.D.

The jewel was found along with another silver earring with a yellow glass paste bead (fig. 4).

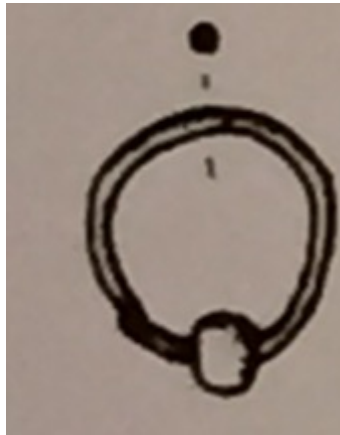


Fig. 4 - Graphic representation of the bronze earring from Ispinigoli
(from MORAVETTI 1980, table XLIX.10).

Numerous artefacts have been recovered from the cave over the past years, dated between the Nuragic Age and the Early Middle Ages.

The artefact is on display in the Archaeological Museum of Dorgali.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

MORAVETTI A., *Nuovi materiali dalla voragine di Ispinigoli*, in *Tombe di giganti nel Dorgalese*, in *Dorgali. Documenti Archeologici*, Sassari 1980, pp. 165-171, Tav. XLIX.10-11.

MORAVETTI A., *Serra Orrios e i monumenti archeologici di Dorgali*, Sardegna Archeologica. Guide e itinerari, 26, Sassari 1998, pp. 86-89.

PULACCHINI D., *Il museo archeologico di Dorgali*, Sardegna Archeologica. Guide e itinerari, 27, Sassari 1998, fig. 27, p. 30.





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