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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Bronze steelyard (Dudurri)

A bronze steelyard with rod and suspension chain was found in Dudurri in the Dorgali area (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Bronze steelyard from Dudurri-Dorgali

(from <http://www.museoarcheologicodorgali.it/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/12.png>).

The small scales from the Imperial Roman Age belongs to the collections at the Dorgali archaeological museum. It dates back to the II-VI/VII centuries AD. Finely crafted, it is considered one of the best preserved specimens found in Sardinia.

The steelyard was a type of scales with only one suspended plate by chains at one end of a weighing rod (fig. 2). The objects to be weighed could, depending on cases, be placed on the plate or be hung on a hook fixed to a disk in the same place as the plate, held still in turn by shorter chains at the end of the rod, close to which one or two hooks were fixed, used to shift the balance of the scales and, consequently, to reduce or increase the weight.

The capacity of the Roman steelyard was probably equal to that of the modern ones (kg. 10-150).



Fig. 2 - Roman steelyard at the Antiquarium Ostiense

(from <http://www.beniculturali.it/mibac/multimedia/MiBAC/minisiti/alimentazione/foto/big/106.jpg>).

Unfortunately similar findings are not common in Sardinia: one of the few known examples are the bronze steelyard scales with hook, rod, suspension chain and relative weights found out of context in Baddeunna near Pattada (fig. 3). The small bronze steelyard with suspension hook and suspension chains for the plate, of which only a few parts remain (fig. 4) found in a chamber tomb in the eastern necropolis of Balai or the Scoglio Lungo (in use from the 1st to the 6th-7th century A.D.) of *Turris Libissonis* (now Porto Torres) and a bronze plate that is part of a Roman steelyard found in Viddalba.



Fig. 3 - Bronze steelyard found in Baddeunna-Pattada (from BONINU 1986, fig. 216, p. 151).



Fig. 4 - Bronze steelyard from the necropolis of Scoglio Lungo of Turrìs Libissonis (from MANCONI 1986, fig. 375, p. 282).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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