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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Bronze chain pendant (Tillai)

At the Tillai<sup>1</sup> site, in the area of Dorgali,<sup>2</sup> a pendant with bronze chains was found, with sheet metal and lance-shaped pendants (fig. 1), currently shown at the Dorgali Archaeological Museum, together with others of similar nature from the same place.



**Fig. 1** - Pendant from Tillai-Dorgali

(from <http://www.museoarcheologicodorgali.it/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/7.png>).

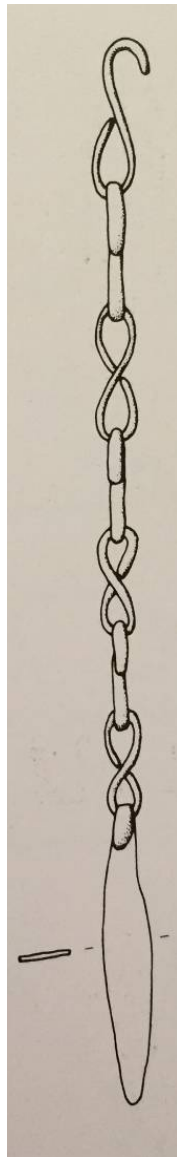
The pendant is formed by three chains hung on a circular bronze ring open on one end at the bottom, that has been flattened and turned, where three chains made from a number

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<sup>1</sup> So far the remains of a Nuraghic village and a stretch of road, estimated as Roman, are known of this site.

<sup>2</sup> The name “pendant” refers to a category of multi-functional jewellery corresponding to ornaments made up of connecting elements, of different types, connected with rings of various shapes.

of sheet metal elements and bronze wire have been hooked, alternated with a perforated and full surface, in the figure of the number "8". At the base of each chain there is a "leaf" element in thin sheet metal decorated with engraved points and studs made as bumps. A similar object was found in the Nuraghic village of Isportana-Dorgali, consisting of a single bronze chain with a pendant (fig. 2).



**Fig. 2** - Bronze chain with lanceolate pendant from Isportana-Dorgali  
(from LO SCHIAVO 1980, Tav. XLVII n. 3).

Moreover, this type of items can be compared with identical chain pendant, made up of sheet metal rings in the shape of the number "8", and lance-shape pendants, found in

various places in Sardinia, sometimes also unknown, in nuraghi, tombs and cupboards (Lanusei, Tiana, Gadoni, Serri, Ballao etc) and which were found starting from the second half of the 19th century after digs carried out at the time, or discovered accidentally or illegally, generally associated with mixed stratigraphic contexts (figs. 3, 4, 5).

Therefore, based on the data published to date, their chronological and cultural allocation is difficult: until recently they had been dated to the Nuraghic Age <sup>3</sup> (VIII-VII century B.C.), but today we prefer to frame them in the High Middle Ages <sup>4</sup>.



**Fig. 3** - Chain pendant found in a Nuraghe of Tiana (from PINZA 1901, Table XVII, p. 171)



**Fig. 4** - Chain pendant finishing with lanceolate foils - National Archaeological Museum of Sassari former Coll. Dessì (da LILLIU 1966, n. 339 p. 448).

<sup>3</sup> LILLIU 1966, p. 449; Fadda 2006, p. 62; Lo Schiavo 1980, pages. 161-164; Pinza 1901, p. 144, p. 192.

<sup>4</sup> FADDA 2004, pages 42-43; Fois 2014, pag. 280.



**Fig. 5** - Bronze necklace with chains ending with leaf-shaped elements from Nuraghe Sanu-Taccu of Osini, on display at the Museum of Speleo-Archaeology of Nuoro (from FADDA 2006, fig. 65, p.62).

As an interpretation, the function of these items is disputed: most of the experts<sup>5</sup> is in agreement in believing them to be ornamental items.

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<sup>5</sup> FOIS 2014, pag. 280; Fois 2000, pages 50-51; Fadda 2006 p. 62; Pinza 1901, p. 144.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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