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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Double bronze axe (Serra Orrios)

A double axe (fig. 3) and a bronze alloy tool used for working wood come from the Nuragic village of Serra Orrios, in the area of Dorgali (figs. 1, 2).



Fig. 1 - View from above of the Nuragic village of Serra Orrios-Dorgali
(from <http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/index.php?xsl=615&s=17&v=9&c=4461&id=102911>).



Fig. 2 - Detail of the huts of the village of Serra Orrios-Dorgali
(from <http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/index.php?xsl=615&s=17&v=9&c=4461&id=63111>).



Fig. 3 - Double bronze axe from Serra Orrios-Dorgali
 (from http://www.museoarcheologicodorgali.it/wp/museo_archeologia_in_sardegna/la-storia-di-dorgali-in-20-reperti/).

As part of the Nuragic metallurgical production, double axes belong to a category of artefacts influenced by Cyprus and found in Sardinia, intact or incomplete, in various settlements and in Nuragic closets. They are built on the principle of having a cutting edge on both sides, with a central handle. They are divided according to the type of blade in massive double axes, heeled double axes and parallel blades, and double axes with orthogonal bites¹ (figs. 4, 5).

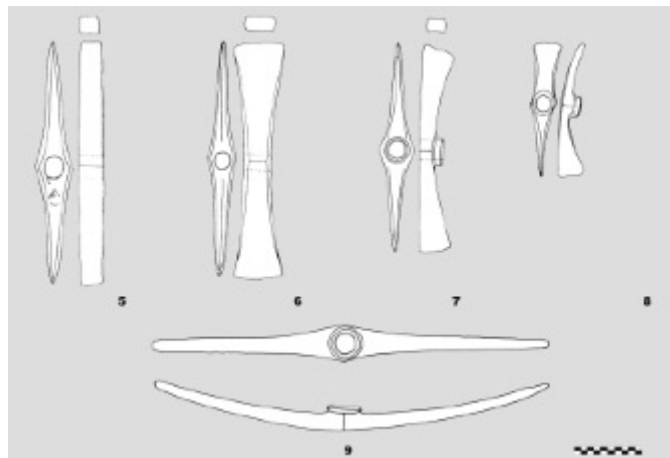


Fig. 4 - Various types of double axes found in different locations in Sardinia
 (from LO SCHIAVO 2014 p. 98).

¹ A type of small pickaxe, also known by the name of Maleppeggio.



Fig. 5 - Double axes found in Sardinian Nuragic contexts (from DEIANA 2014 p. 293).

The dual axe of Serra Orrios, with parallel blades and a neck, with a flat upper surface, a semi-circular lower side, two parallel jutting blades at the sides of the handle jutting out of the round neck, diagonal to the axis of the tool, parallel to the blade, where the wooden handle was inserted. This is a style completely unknown outside Sardinia, that can be interpreted as a local Nuragic reworking of prototypes from the East. It was created by using a simple stone mould with a half-shell (mono valve) in a single block with the hollow shape of the axe, and where the molten metal was poured into.

The find, dated between the final phase of the Bronze Age and the Early Iron Age (XII-VIII centuries BC), is on display at the Archaeological Museum of Dorgali.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a