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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The origins of Dorgali

One of the theories about the origins of the name Dorgali, located on the eastern edge of the Barbagia territory on the central-eastern coast of Sardinia (figs. 1,2,3), in addition to that of *Turcàli*, named such after the invasion of the Turks, is that a certain Drugàl was the founder of this town and that its people were Saracens¹.



Fig. 1 - The territory of Dorgali (from CARTA 2006, p. 419).

Another hypothesis assumes that the name Dorgali derives from *Sulcalis*, which refers to the crack of the inlet of Fuili. Some authors instead believe that the origin of the name Dorgali should not be sought in the invasion by the Turks (*Turcàli*), nor in the one by the Saracens (*Drugàl*), but from an etymological point of view it could be attributed to the word "sorga" (spring, source). There is the memory of a fountain called Orga ("spring") at

¹ On this matter, Vittorio Angius states that "It is tradition that a certain DRUGAL was the founder of this population and that the people were of Saracen origin".

the centre of the village, which with the augmentative form became *Orgali*. Through subsequent adjustments it became *S'Orgale* and finally *Dorgali*. The presence in the town and nearby of numerous religious buildings dedicated to saints belonging to the eastern menologium suggests the existence of today's town already in the Byzantine Age. During the early fourteenth century when there were roughly 250/300 inhabitants, it was annexed to the curatoria Galtelli of the Giudicato of Gallura and was one of the most populous centres of its southern part. It is mentioned as *Villa Dorguali* in the *Compartiment de Sardenya*, i.e. the description drafted in 1358 by Pietro IV The Ceremonious regarding Sardinian villages owned by the Aragonese. Moreover it is among those villages which paid their tithes to the Roman Curia during the middle of the fourteenth century. In the *Chorographia Sardiniae* (1580-1589) by Giovanni Francesco Fara it appears as *oppidum Drugali*.



Fig. 2 - Overview of the village (from CARTA 2006, p. 428).



Fig. 3 - Early twentieth century, costume from Dorgali
(from <http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/mmt/480/34813.jpg>).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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