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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

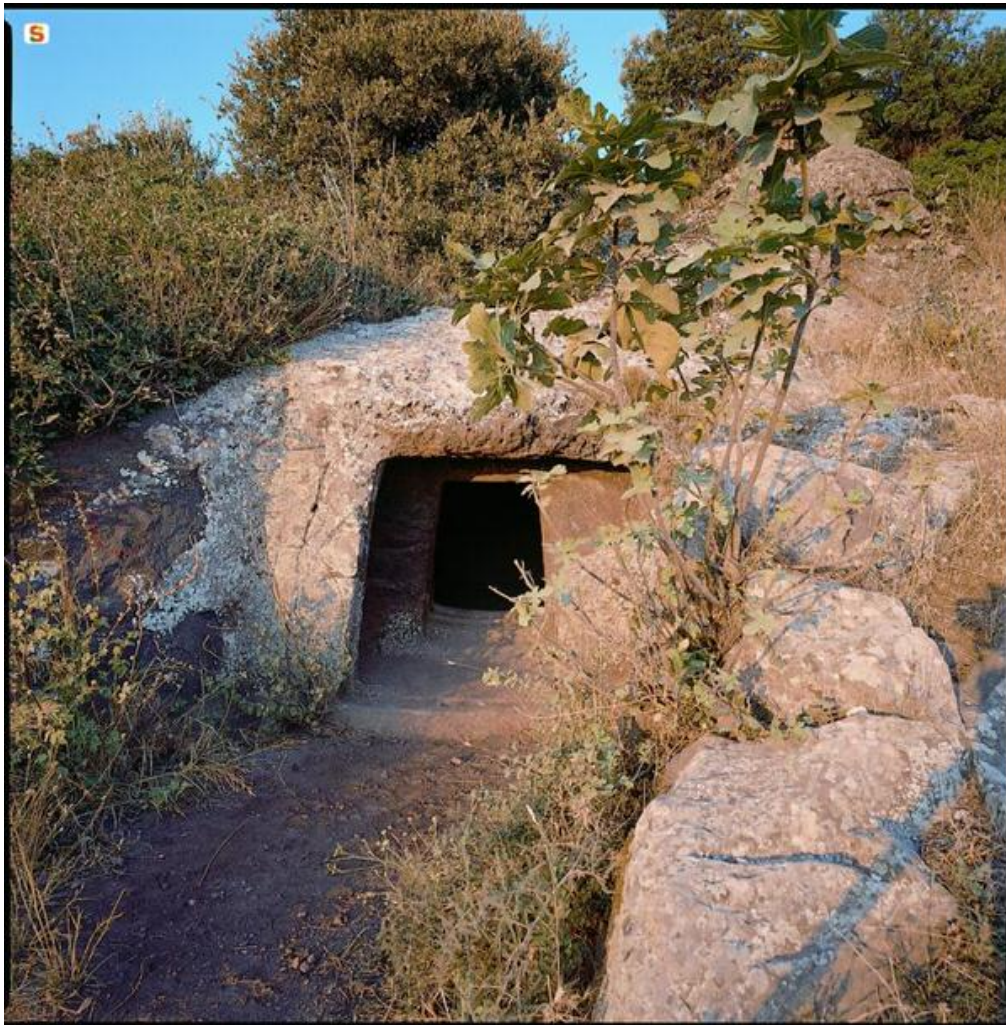
# Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ The territory of Dorgali during the Pre-nuraghic Age

Currently in the searches, if we exclude the debated and weak anthropic traces of the Middle Paleolithic Age (150,000-120,000 B. C.) discovered in the stretch of coast between the Grotta del Bue Marino and Cala Luna (Caves of Ziu Santoru and Cala Ilune), the oldest culture documented in the territory is that of San Michele di Ozieri (Recent Neolithic Age 3200-2850 B.C.). The monumental evidence consists of sporadic discoveries of surface fragments of pottery and objects in chipped and smooth stone, 3 menhir, but above all of the 54 domus de janas, the small man-made caves, mostly isolated and generally consisting of a single cell, dug into the rock and used to bury the dead (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - *Domus de janas* of Pirischè-Dorgali (from <http://www.sardegnaigitallibrary.it/mmt/1024/103097.jpg>).

Again in the pre-Nuragic burial areas (2850-2700 B.C.), of 14 researched dolmen, that of the corridor of Motorra (fig. 2), brought to light terracotta materials from the Ozieri culture for the first time.

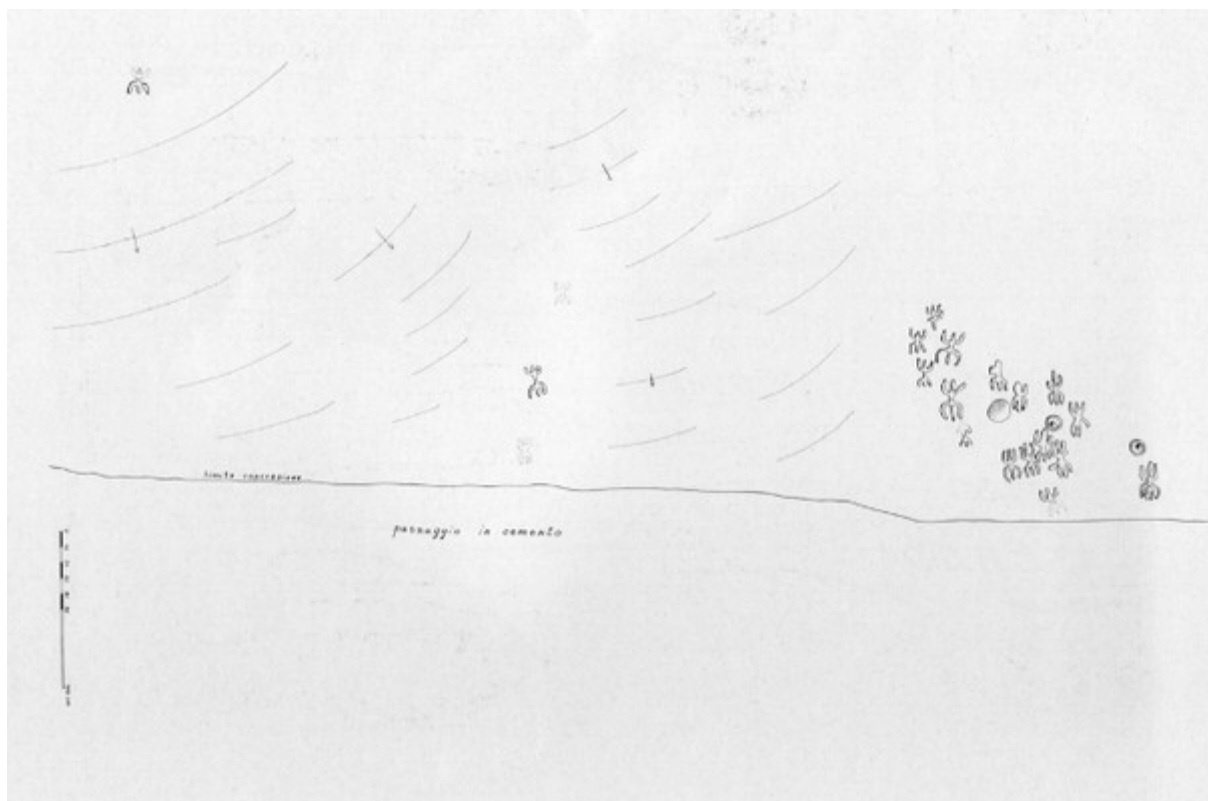


**Fig. 2** - Dolmen of Motorra-Dorgali (from <http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/mmt/1024/103121.jpg>).

Twenty anthropomorphic male petroglyph representations, depicting a dance scene related to solar cults and discovered in the Grotta del Bue Marino, can be dated to the beginning of the Copper Age (Filigosa-Abealzu Culture, 2700 to 2400 BC) (figs.3, 4, 5).



**Fig. 3** - The caves of Bue Marino-Dorgali (from <http://www.sardegna.digitalibrary.it/mmt/480/29648.jpg>).



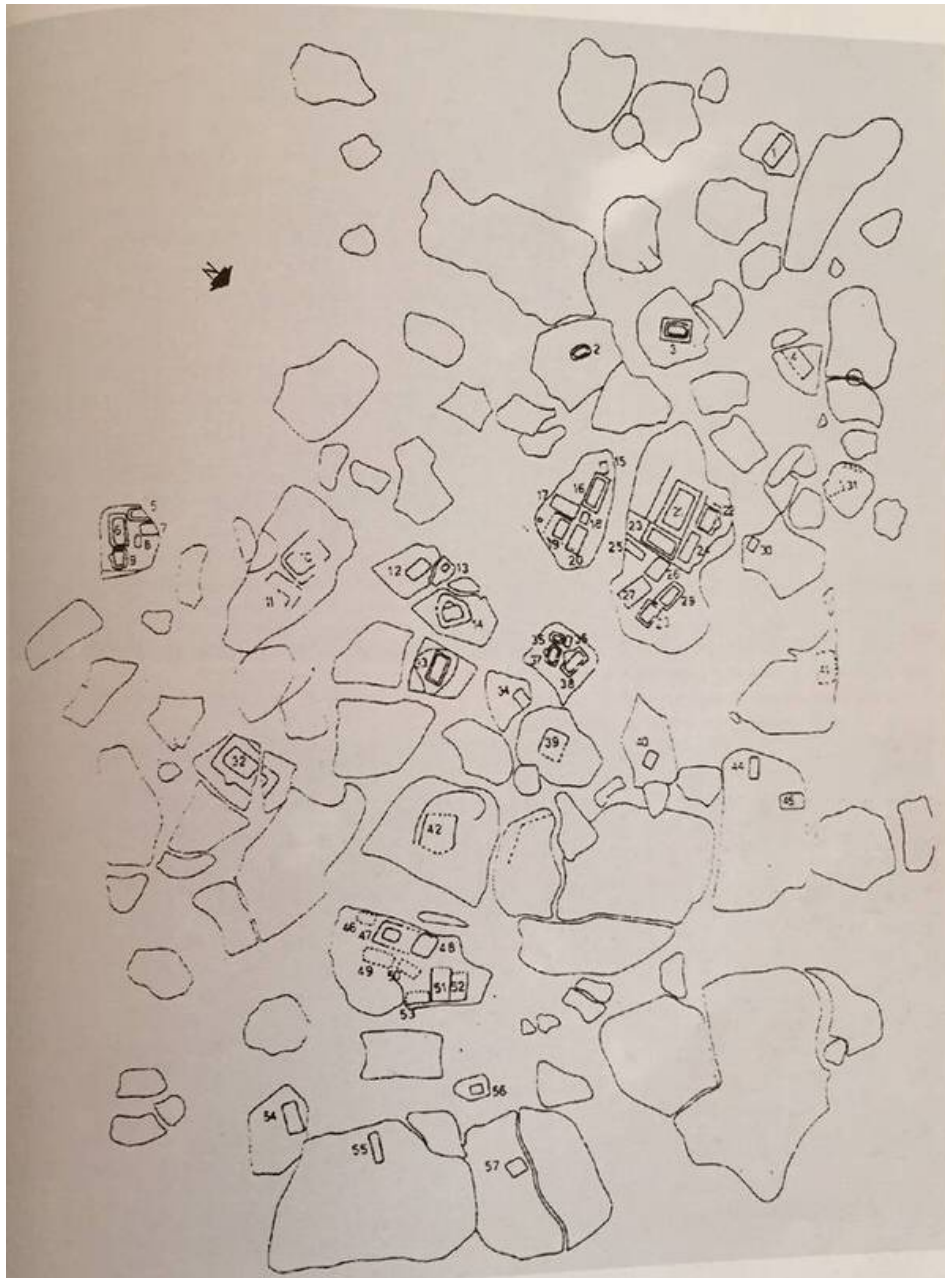


**Figs. 4, 5** - Anthropomorphic petroglyphs from the Grotta del Bue Marino-Dorgali (from <http://www.museoarcheologicodorgali.it/wp/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Petroglifi-2.jpg>).

An oval hut base which may be placed within the Eneolithic facies of the Monte Claro Culture (2400-2100 BC) was found in Punta Marras (fig. 6). The high-relief work found in Sa Icu (fig. 7), these consist of 57 geometric figures carved on outcropping basalt blocks, reproducing the layout of known nearby sacred monuments, can be placed in the same cultural horizon.



**Fig. 6** - The hut of Marras-Dorgali (from MANUNZA 1995, fig. 114, p. 82).



**Fig. 7** - High reliefs of Marras-Dorgali (from MANUNZA 1995, fig. 104, p. 77).

The final phase of the Copper Age, which appears in Sardinia during the Bell Beaker culture (2100-1800 BC) and was widespread throughout Europe and the Mediterranean basin, is attested by the Motorra Dolmen, where a fragmentary *brassard*<sup>1</sup> was found. Moreover, a fragment of semi-circular decorated bowl was unearthed in one of the *domus de janas* of Lottonido.

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<sup>1</sup> A stone plaque, generally rectangular with open holes at the ends, thought to be a wrist guard.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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