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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Nuraghe Mannu

The huge Nuragic, historical settlement of the Mannu nuraghe, in the area of Dorgali, stands on a high volcanic plain (200 metres above sea level) which controls the Gulf of Orosei and the natural access route of Codula di Fuili, near Cala Gonoe, from a dominant, charming position. The name of the monument (*mannu*, that means large in Sardinian) probably comes from the size of the multi-layered settlement, rather than the nuraghe, which was actually small.

Investigated several times between 1927 and 2006, the site is linked to the trade traffic and navigation routes on the eastern Sardinian coast (fig. 1).

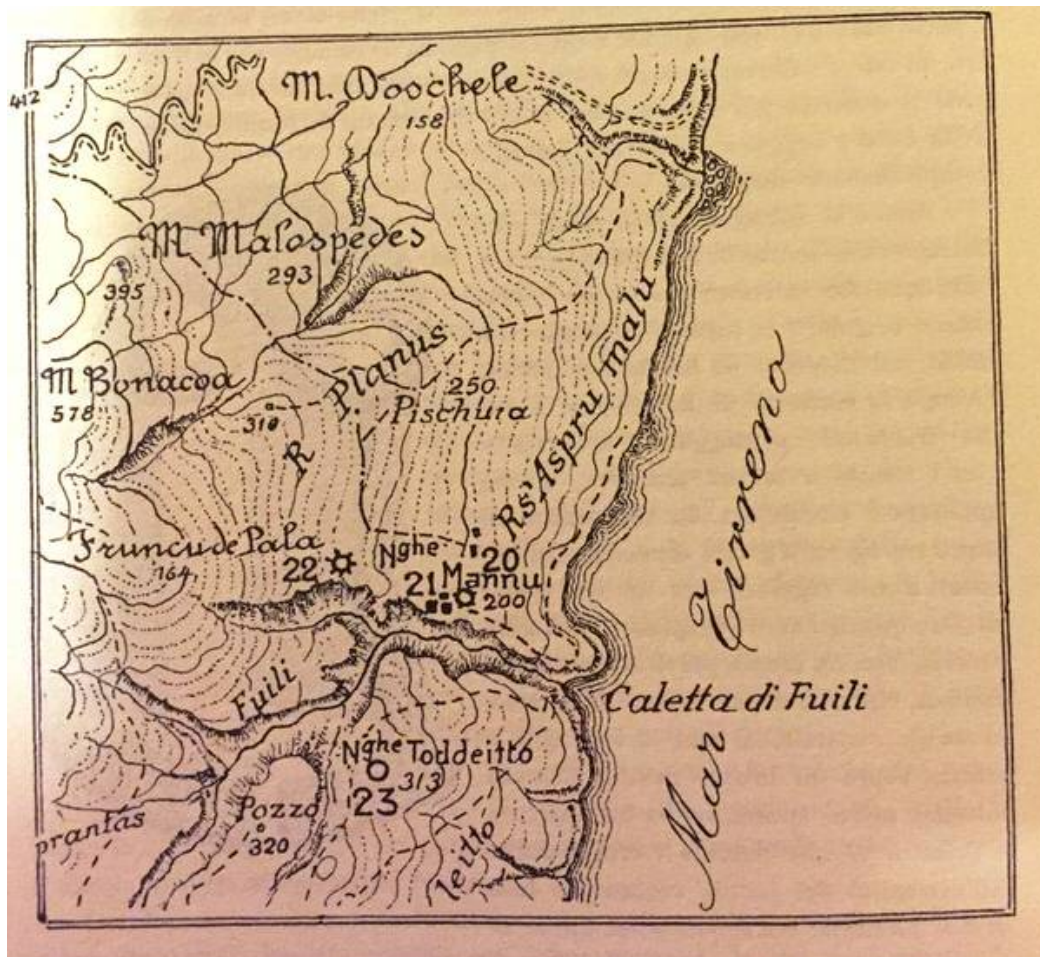


Fig. 1 - Nuraghe Mannu (from TARAMELLI 1933, fig. 11, p. 450).

The archaeological area includes a simple nuraghe surrounded by a large Nuragic and Roman settlement, connected with terracing (fig. 2).



Fig. 2 - Nuraghe Mannu-Dorgali (from DELUSSU 2009, fig. 1, p. 1).

The nuraghe (fig. 3) is a simple *tholos*, built with large polygonal blocks of local stone (residual height 4.70- 3.50 metres, on 13-8 rows; diameter 12.80 metres at the base, 11.20 metres at the top). Through a jack arched trapezoidal corridor with a small exhaust window, fitted with a passage staircase, now blocked, of which there are still twelve steps left, it is possible to enter the sub-elliptical chamber, with two overhead recessed niches in the walls. The excavation of the Nuraghe unearthed Nuragic pottery ranging from the Middle Bronze Age to the Iron Age (XV-IX centuries B.C.). Around the area of the Nuraghe, there are the circular huts of the Nuragic village, built with polygonal medium size stones.



Fig. 3 - Nuraghe Mannu-Dorgali (from <http://www.sardegna.digitallibrary.it/mmt/1920/412295.jpg>).

The Roman Age settlement (fig. 4), dating from the Republican Age and the late Imperial Age (2nd century B.C. - 6th century AD), there are still two-room homes built with isodomic walls, often reused, and with semi-worked stones, dry-walled, covered with tile roofs and supported by single or double pitched wooden beams.





Fig. 4 - Roman buildings, area 3000 of Nuraghe Mannu (from DELUSSU 2009, fig. 4, p. 3).

Daily life during Roman times is documented by abundant ceramic fragments, metal artefacts, coins and animal remains. The site moreover documents a further historic phase: Byzantine and early Medieval Age from the IV-VI century B.C.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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