



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archeological area of Sant'Eulalia

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Coins in the *thesaurus*

Inside the *thesaurus* well found in the Northwest area of Sant'Eulalia, 307 bronze coins (figs. 1-2) were found, that can be dated between the 3rd century B.C. and the end of the 1st century B.C., or respectively from the Late Punic Age to the beginning of the rule of Augustus¹.



Fig. 1 - 307 coins found in the *thesaurus* (photo by AFS).



Fig. 2 - Coins of the *thesaurus* (photo by AFS).

¹ Mureddu 2002a, pages 58-59; Mureddu 2003b, pages 390-391 Pinna 2002a, p. 35.

The bronze items show the continuous use of a sanctuary for several centuries, to which the *thesaurus* also belonged. From a preliminary study on the first renovated coins, it was possible to identify some semi-axes dated between the 3rd and 2nd centuries B.C.²; while they are also proof of the Roman domination - in 238 B.C. - some coins, which show the word ROMA on the exergum, hypothesised as the production mint (figs. 3-4).



Fig. 3 - Coin found in the *thesaurus*: reverse (photo by AFS).



Fig. 4 - Coin found in the *thesaurus*: recto (photo by AFS).

² Mureddu 2002a, pages 58-59; Pinna 2002, p. 35.

Generally, coins found in the thesauruses have been interpreted as votive offerings for the area of worship, but according to the hypothesis by S. Catalli and J. Scheid, they may be the ritual taxes paid to carry out sacrifices. For this function and for the data found in several similar cases in Italy, the same authors believe that the payment of this sum took place near the temple, although on the outside, near the altar³. The *thesaurus*, by definition a «small monument used to collect monetary offers in a sanctuary, the model of which can be found in Hellenistic east customs»⁴, was located inside a sanctuary outside Punic Cagliari, Krly, as happened in similar Italian centres⁵. A consistent comparison with the monument of Sant'Eulalia and its monetary offers can be seen in Campo della Fiera in the Orvieto countryside (fig. 5): the dates of this case and similar ones in central Italy show the same Cagliari timescale, mostly included between the 3rd century B.C. And the 1st century B.C.⁶

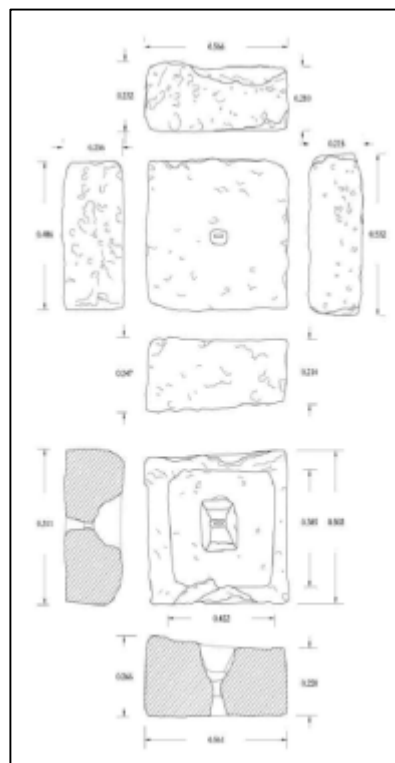


Fig. 5 - Findings of the *thesaurus* in Campo della Fiera, Orvieto

³ Catalli, Scheid 1994, pages 63-65.

⁴ Torelli 2005, p. 354.

⁵ Mureddu 2002a, p. 58; Mureddu 2003b, p. 391.

⁶ Ranucci 2010, pages 104-105, 118-121.

(From Ranucci 2010, p. 106, fig.1).



■ Credits

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■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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■ Periodicals and magazines

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RAC *Rivista di Archeologia Cristiana*, Città del Vaticano, I, 1924 e ss.

RN *Revue numismatique*, Parigi, I, 1838 e ss.





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