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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archeological area of Sant'Eulalia

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Crucifixes

A Christian symbol par excellence as it represents the death of Christ, the crucifix is intimately linked to the burial aspect and, therefore rightly documented in burial items in the tombs of the central crypt under the church of Sant'Eulalia. Seven metal specimens were found both near some burials, and in earth layers filling spaces between them¹. One of the seven items was probably placed on the lid of a wooden coffin: it is in fact in the hollow of the back part and still has a nail in the right hand, that allowed it attach to the wood² (fig. 1).



Fig. 1 - Bronze crucifix (photo by AFS).

In spite of the degree of oxidation, the Christ shows anatomical details such as muscles on the chest and arms, stretched to allow the adhesion of wooden hands across the cross (lost); it also shows the presence of a skirt around the hips. The Saviour is represented according to a known iconographic pattern: the face leaning back, the arms

¹ Pinna 2003b, p. 329; fig. 14, p. 335.

² Murgia 2002b, fig. 82, p. 163.

stretched upwards, the lower limbs separated and joined together at the feet, overlapped for the nail that was hammered through them. Other examples were attached to the shroud, as they still have shreds of cloth on the back (figs. 2-4); in one case - the shroud fabric covers the crucifix in sign of reverence and devotion to preserve the body of the dead Christ (fig. 2)³



Fig. 2 - Crucifix with fabric (photo by Unicity).



Fig. 3 - Detail of two crucifixes displayed (photo by Unicity).

³ Pinna 2003b, p. 327; fig. 5, p. 333.



Fig. 4 - Detail of one crucifix (photo by Unicity).



■ Credits

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■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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