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Archeological area of Sant'Eulalia

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Pottery from Montelupo Fiorentino

The central crypt of the Sant'Eulalia archaeological area also included scarce fragments of pottery from Montelupo Fiorentino, a Tuscan centre famous for its ceramic production. One item found¹ (fig. 1) can be attributed to an open table recipient (plate) while a second still has the bottom and hollow of a bowl².



Fig. 1 - Montelupo pottery from S. Eulalia (photo by AFS).

The plate has surfaces waterproofed by an opaque white enamel (made of alkaline silicate and a mixture of lead oxide and tin oxide) but it is only decorated with parallel blue and yellow bands and brown and light blue brush strokes on the inside. The fragments of the items allows a hypothetical comparison with the so-called "decorated with orange band" type (see fig. 2)³ also found in the Cagliari area of Vico III Lanusei (fig. 3)⁴.

¹ STACCA 2002, p. 118, fig. 60b, p. 122, n. 60.

² PINNA 2003, p. 387 and note n. 34. See Berti 1998, Tab. 366, p. 399.

³ Berti 1998, p. 198, tab. 319, p. 378.

⁴ Carta 2006, p. 209, fig. 138; p. 212.



Fig. 2 - Majolica plate from Montelupo Fiorentino – 1590-1620 (BERTI 1998, p. 378, Tab. 319).



Fig. 3 - Montelupo ceramics from Vico III Lanusei (from CARTA 2006, p. 209, fig. 138).

This type is produced over a long period of time, probably from 1570 to 1630⁵. Another hypothesis places the item from S. Eulalia (fig. 1) in relation with the “vine leaf” type popular throughout the 17th century⁶. The bowl has a decoration that can be compared with the type known as “green spiral” for the presence of the hole in the typical green and orange spiral decoration (see fig. 4).

⁵ Berti 1998, p. 199.

⁶ Stacca 2002, p. 122, fig. 60b, n. 6. See BERTI 1998, p. 214, Tabs. 360-362, p. 397; Carta 2006, pp. 212-213, fig. 139, p. 212.



Fig. 4 - Majolica bowl from Montelupo Fiorentino (1730-1760), (BERTI 1998, p. 399, Tab. 366).

Some whole items decorated in this style were found in a furnace outflow (dated between 1730 and 1760), in Montelupo, which have shown the complexity of the figures characterised by a *horror vacui* produced by the same repeated elements in the patterns. The Tuscan bowls (fig. 4)⁷ have curved orange brushstrokes on the curved walls, enclosing concentric green semi-circles arranged around a central decoration: the remaining spaces are filled with parallel manganese segments.

Montelupo production items can be found throughout Sardinia and for this reason is considered to be an indicator of trade between the island and Tuscany in the 15th-18th centuries. This type of pottery and the dates of each fragment provide essential chronological data for the stone construction of the burial chamber enclosing the Sant'Eulalia crypt, already included in the 18th century⁸.

⁷ See Berti 1998, Tab. 366, p. 399.

⁸ Sanna 2003, pages 385, 387 and note n. 34.

■ Credits

Coordination Prof. Rossana Martorelli

Deepening card edited by Dr. Claudia Cocco and Dr. Francesca Collu

■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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