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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

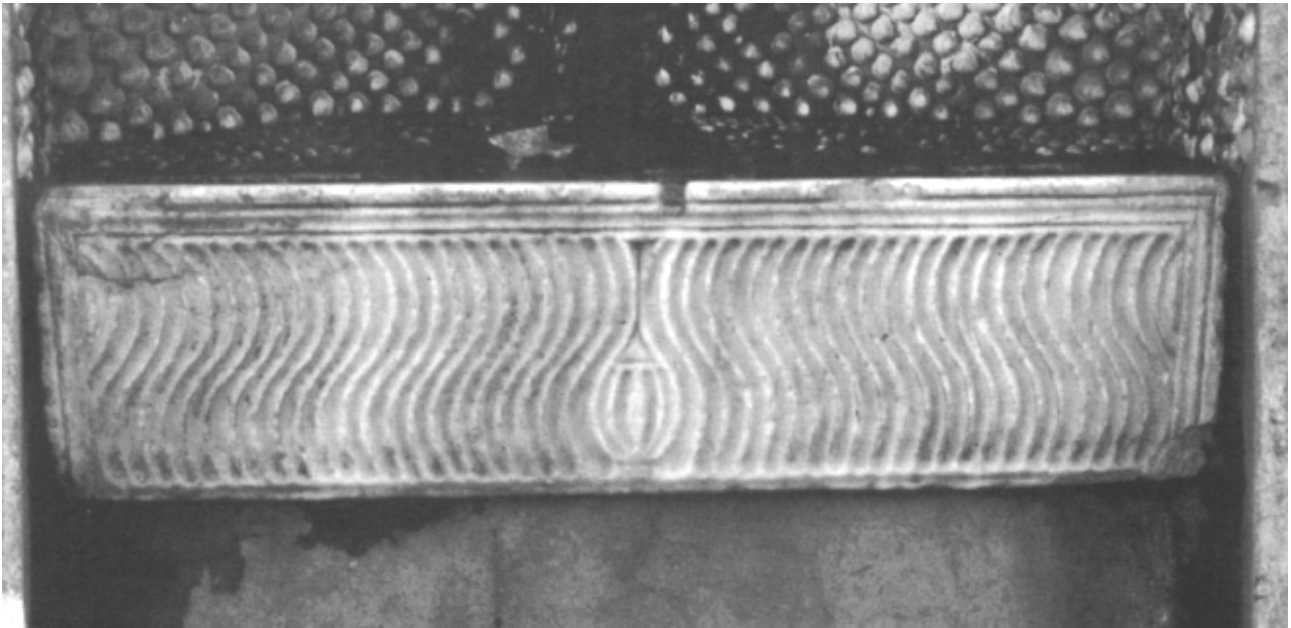
# The area of the Cornus basilicas

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Strigil sarcophagus

A strigilated sarcophagus in Greek marble dated between the end of the IV and start of the V century A.D.: probably comes from the Columbaris funerary area. (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - *Antiquarium* of Cuglieri, strigil sarcophagus in marble (from TEATINI 2008, p. 1308, fig. 7).

It is rectangular in shape, length 1.535 metres, width 0.44 metres and height 0.45 metres; being small in size it was assumed to be for a child. The first mention of the sarcophagus was by the Superintendent Gennaro Pesce, who published it after transporting it to the *Antiquarium* in Cuglieri; previously it had been used as a fountain in the same town. After the find, a hole was made in the bottom of one of the two larger heads and it was nicked on the upper edge of one of the two heads to allow water to flow. The case seems to be surrounded by a frame on the two short sides and on the upper longer one, to frame an area decorated by two series of strigils and divided into two parts by a central almond-shaped pattern in the lower space. The direction of the wavy strigils is a variation compared to the strigilated sarcophagi - that usually saw them converging to the centre - but at the same time, it shows how a *clichè* in Sardinian items of this category (figs. 2-3).



**Fig. 2** - Pula, Parish Church of S. Giovanni Battista: strigil sarcophagus in marble  
(from TEATINI 2008, p. 1307, fig. 6).



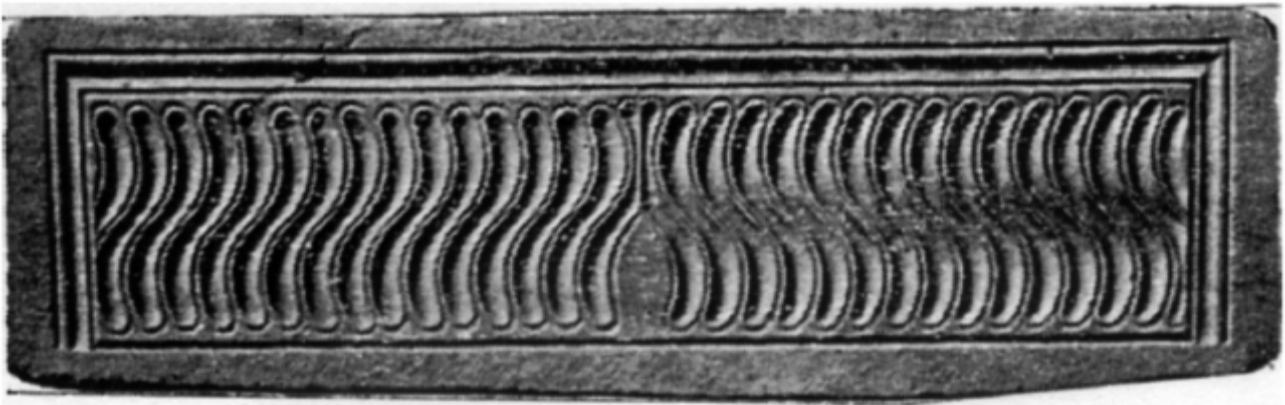
**Fig. 3** - Cagliari, church of San Lucifero: strigil sarcophagus in limestone with *tabula* with handle  
(from TEATINI 2008, p. 1310, fig. 9).

These formal elements are of African work, perhaps from Carthaginian marble experts due to the decoration only on the main facade (figs. 4-5).

The almonds on the strigilated sarcophagi can portray various things, have an empty field or show a small barrel. According to G. Pesce, the last figure is to be seen in the Cornus



example: the almond has a flat, narrow surface; also, in the centre, there is a horizontal slat from where the connection to the starts. A perfect comparison is not possible between the shape of the Cornus almond and the ones from the other coffins.



**Fig. 4** - Carthage, Damous-el Karita: strigil sarcophagus in Greek marble (from TEATINI 2008, p. 1307, fig. 8).



**Fig. 5** - Detail of the Eutropos slab, portraying the shop of a marble worker (From BARATTA 2007, p. 212, fig. 28).

## ■ Credits

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

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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