

Basilica of San Saturnino

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The necropolis of San Saturnino

The basilica named after the martyr Saturnino stands in a place that was the eastern suburban sector of Cagliari in the Roman era, inside an area that was part of a large necropolis that went from the Bonaria hill to the area of the modern Via Sonnino, and was used in a time period ranging from the late-Punic era to the Christian age. The burial area close to the church was home to various types of tomb: sarcophagi, mausoleums, cappuccina tombs, mound tombs, ground tombs, underground tombs (figs. 1-3). The necropolis was later used again by the Cagliari Christian community and housed both pagan and Christian tombs. Some epigraphs found in the San Saturnino site bear witness to the presence of tombs for Cagliari church religious figures, from around the 5th-6th centuries.

A short distance from the San Saturnino site, under the church of San Lucifero (built in the 17th century after the alleged tomb of the Cagliari bishop Lucifero who lived in the 4th century was found) are the remains of some burial areas known as "underground churches" or sacelli of Lussorio, Rude and Lucifero.



Fig. 1 - Pit tombs covered with stone slabs and bricks (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 2 - Limestone sarcophagus, with lid (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 3 - Mausoleum in the burial area of San Saturnino (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

■ Credits

Coordination by Dr. Rossana Martorelli

Deepening card edited by Dr. Maria Grazia Arru

Preliminary research by Dr. Lucia Mura

■ Bibliography

COLAVITTI, TRONCHETTI 2003 = A.M. COLAVITTI, C. TRONCHETTI, *Guida archeologica di Cagliari. Sardegna archeologica. Guide e itinerari*, Sassari 2003, pp. 42-43.

MARTORELLI 2006 = R. MARTORELLI, *Dall'età romana all'alto medioevo*, in R. MARTORELLI, D. MUREDDU (a cura di) *Archeologia urbana a Cagliari. Scavi in vico III Lanusei (1996-1997)*, Cagliari 2006, pp. 24-27.

SALVI 1988 a = D. SALVI, *La necropoli orientale*, in D. MUREDDU, D. SALVI, G. STEFANI (a cura di) *Sancti Innumerabiles*, Oristano 1988, pp. 79-83.

SALVI 1988 b = D. SALVI, *L'area cimiteriale di San Saturnino*, in D. MUREDDU, D. SALVI, G. STEFANI (a cura di) *Sancti Innumerabiles*, Oristano 1988, pp. 85-88.

SALVI 2002 a = D. SALVI, *Cagliari: l'area cimiteriale di San Saturnino*, in P.G. SPANU (a cura di) *Insulae Christi*, Oristano 2002, pp. 215-223.

SALVI 2002 b = D. SALVI, *Cagliari: San Saturnino: le fasi altomedievali*, in P. CORRIAS, S. COSENTINO (a cura di) *Ai confini dell'Impero*, Cagliari 2002, pp. 225-229.



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a