

New data from fortified coastal settlement of Cap de Forma, Maó-Menorca (Balearic Islands)

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The paper proposed is about new data from the inhabited structures adjacent to the cyclopean monument of Cap de Forma (Maó). The archaeological site is located at a narrow isthmus that cuts through a coastal promontory of more than 30 m in height next to an excellent natural harbour on the south coast of the island. The proto-historical complex consists of a monument built in cyclopean technique beside which develops a necropolis of rock cut tombs engraved on the average slope of the cliff. The features of the monument appear unusual in Talayotic architecture. The excavations carried out since 1997 have allowed the discovery of two living spaces that are leaning against the southern wall of the cyclopean structure. They are large rectangular plan buildings, also these unusual for shape and size of plant if compared to what is known in the rest of the Island; in both has been identified an area used as a combustion zone for domestic purposes (fireplace). In the area between the two dwellings, in a depression filled with limestone stones, has been identified the presence of a hollow excavated in the rock, that can be interpreted as a tank or a well, to supply water for the resident community. The artefacts are almost all pertinent to a chronological horizon corresponding to the initial talaiotic. In particular, we have been found fragments of large vases with inward rim, parts of truncated conical bowls with triangular handle and comb-stamped decoration and miniaturistic cups. It is of great interest the discovery of some sherds of pre-Talayotic period, which could be referred to the first phase of frequentation of the site. The paper intends therefore to offers an interpretation about the nature of the settlement built shouldering the cyclopean wall of the main monument, and about the new results of the dwellings' excavation.

