

PROVINCE OF TRENTO

HERITAGE OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVAL AND BOOK GOODS

DEPARTMENT FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL GOODS

ON THE ANCIENT SHORES

NEOLITHIC RESTS OF A SETTLEMENT FROM THE “CULTURE OF SQUARED-MOUTH VASES” IN BRIONE STREET, RIVA DEL GARDA

Museum of Riva del Garda, 8th May - 1st November 2009

Opening hours: 10am - 12.30pm / 1.30pm - 6pm, closed on Monday; open every day in July, August and September.

6,000 years ago, the level of the water of the Lake Garda was about three metres higher than it is today and its waters reached out to the Northern glacial plain of Sarca. The history and evolution of the lake and its surroundings, together with other interesting information, is the centre of attention of the exhibition “On the Ancient Shores. Neolithic rests of a settlement from the *Culture of squared-mouth vases* in Brione Street, Riva del Garda”, set up until 1st November in the Museum of Riva del Garda. The exhibition is organised by the “*Soprintendenza per Beni librari archivistici e archeologici*” (Heritage Office of Archaeological Archival and Book Goods) of the Province of Trento, in collaboration with the Historical and Archaeological Department of the Project MAG. The exhibition documents the discovery in 2007 of a Neolithic settlement, which dates back to the half of the fifth millennium BC, at the foot of the Monte Brione.

A good twenty arboreous and shrubby species already identified are evidence of the presence - more than 6,500 years ago - of a Mediterranean flora: ilex, Turkey oak and Phillyrea, but also oak tree with caduceus leaves, Scotch pine, alder and crab apple. They all demonstrate those particularly propitious environmental characteristics, which, already then, made this area unique compared with the rest of the territory of Trentino. The exhibition was opened on 8th May 2009 and documents the first scientific results of one of the most important archaeological discovery in the area of the Basso Sarca: the discovery, over the years 2007 and 2008, of a wide settlement from the Neolithic era of the *Culture of squared-mouth vases* (half of the fifth Millennium BC) in Riva del Garda, in an area where a hotel was going to be built. The prehistoric settlement is located in the surroundings of a channel of the river Sarca, not far from the ancient shore of the Lake Garda, in an area which is already famous for its tombs of the Neolithic era of the *Culture of squared-mouth vases* and for the discovery of other numerous

findings of the Roman Age.

The exhibition route shows the first results of current interdisciplinary studies and a selection of more significant archaeological findings, with the aim of offering visitors an overview of the prehistory in Riva del Garda, through the reconstruction of the ancient landscape, the material culture and the economic and technological activities of the Neolithic community which lived at the foot of the Monte Brione.

The archaeological findings discovered in Brione Street are of major scientific importance, because they allowed for the first time to document stratigraphically the presence of Neolithic sediments in the area of Alto Garda. The strategic position of the site - very close to ancient waterways - and the discovery of raw materials and handiwork brought from far away, lead to the conclusion that the settlement at the foot of the Monte Brione were part of a wide network of cultural contacts and circulation of goods and products on a large scale, both with transalpine territories and with Po and peninsular areas.

Information

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