

# HISTORY of SEUI

Seui is the most important town of the Barbagia of Seulo. According to a legend the first inhabitants were the "Iliensi"; they were Enea's companions who fled the destroyed Ilio (Troy) in Greece and settled in Sardinia. In the prehistoric period the area around Seui was inhabited and the countryside is rich in monuments: domus de janas ( the so-called "fairies' houses" ), nuraghi, pozzi sacri ( sacred wells ).

The nuraghic civilization ended when the Romans invaded the isle. In 534 B.C. Sardinia was under the Byzantine Empire but the centre of Sardinia (the territories called Barbagie) was independent and the customs of these people were pagan. When the Byzantine rule declined in Sardinia the "giudicati" were formed and Seui belonged to the "Marquisate of Quirra" and the "Dukedom of Mandas".

After this period the Aragon Kingdom (from 1233 to 1479) and the Spanish (from 1479 to 1708) ruled over Sardinia. In 1708 the Austrians came to the isle and in 1718, with the London Treaty, the Dukes of Savoia (Princes of Piedmont) took control of the region. In 1901 Sardinia was split up into two provinces (Nuoro and Cagliari); at first Seui was part of the province of Cagliari and in 1927 it was assigned to Nuoro. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the economic development of this town was partly due to the coal mine.

The economy was also based on commerce, agriculture and sheep breeding. Nowadays many "Seuesi" work in the forests as forest rangers and forest workers; tourism is also very important.