

The Symbolism of the Dome through the Study of the Coal Millstone (charcoal kiln) in Corsica and its Continuity in the Course of the History

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Abstract The aim of this communication is to describe the permanency in the island of Corsica of the coal millstone, the complex structures of carbonisation of the wood, allying diverse materials, structures characterized by an ancient symbolism which is connected with its shape, that of the dome. We shall see how the conical structure also meets in the funeral domain, demonstrating continuity in its use. We so propose a study of the symbolism of wooden coal millstones. The structure thus takes the shape of a dome with a central chimney. We reveal practical reasons connected to symbolic references there, with the transmission of an old cosmic meaning: the link of the earth in the sky, in the vault of heaven. The summit of the central chimney of the charcoal kiln, represent symbolically the axis of the world. We shall see how this constant of the conical forms, persisted in the island until today.

Keywords dome, symbolism, coal millstones, construction funeral