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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Monolithic covering of a tomb

The digs in the final decades of 19th century, that devastated the Punic necropolises in Tharros, brought to light some details of the tomb covers.

The monolithic block (figs. 1-2) returns a type of dual-sloping cover, on which a small altar is placed, with an upper concave place, that is a miniature “stelae-altars” found in the Tharros tophet.



Fig. 1 - Monolithic covering of Punic tomb (5th century BC.) (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborese*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - Monolithic covering of Punic tomb (5th century BC.) (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborese*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)

These small altars-incense holders were probably used to burn perfumed substances in rituals dedicated to the deceased.

This type of cover for ground tombs is typical of Tharros, where several examples have been found, mostly identical (figs. 3-4).



Fig. 3 - Monolithic covering of Punic tomb (5th century BC.) (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*)
(photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 4 - Monolithic covering of Punic tomb (5th century BC.) (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*)
(photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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