



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Votive quiver

The nineteenth century digs in the Tharros necropolises caused the dispersion of Phoenician tomb funeral collections belonging to the first phase of contacts between the Phoenicians and the local community, when the new arrivals lived peacefully with the locals.

Locally produced items, such as votive quivers also belonged to these collections, although unfortunately decontextualised (figs. 1-2). Actually, these are miniature representations of a double sheath that holds a dagger on one side and three stilettoes on the other.



Fig. 1 - Bronze quiver made in the late-Nuragic age, taken from an unknown Phoenician tomb in Tharros. Side with the dagger (8th-7th century BC). (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - Bronze quiver made in the late-Nuragic age, taken from an unknown Phoenician tomb in Tharros. Side with the stiletto pins (8th-7th century BC). (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)

The pins (or stiletto pins) are connected to a mobile head that allows greater force to be used when throwing the weapon.

This type of object, in miniature form, is very common on the island (figs. 3-4) and a large number have also been found outside Sardinia, in Etruria, with which the late Nuragic populations had close relations.



Fig. 3 - Bronze quiver made in the late-Nuragic age, taken from an unknown Phoenician tomb in Tharros. Side with the dagger (8th-7th century BC). (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 4 - Bronze quiver made in the late-Nuragic age, taken from an unknown Phoenician tomb in Tharros. Side with the stilettoes (8th-7th century BC). (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



In some Phoenician tombs from the 7th century B.C. in Bithia (Domusdemaria) and Othoca (Santa Giusta) similar sheaths have been found of a natural size; the leather part has been lost, of course, but the dagger and stiletos have been found on the deceased person's body.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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