



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Roman lamp

The nineteenth century damage to the Tharros necropolises in the search for treasure, especially of Punic gold, caused the dispersion of so many funeral items, some of which ended up in private and public collections. The Roman necropolises, while less rich in items, suffered the same fate.

This intact lamp certainly comes from a Tharros tomb (figs. 1-2).



Fig. 1 - Roman Lamp from 1st century AD with the picture of a gladiator (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - Roman Lamp from 1st century AD with the picture of a gladiator Side view
(Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)

The oil lamp belongs to the type Deneauve IVa, without a handle, with a shape lip, underlined with two small swirls attached to the body. A gladiator is painted on the disc, protecting himself with a rectangular shield and holding a small curved sword in his right hand

The iconography connected to gladiator games are widespread in the figurative index of oil lamps, as this other example shows (figs. 3-4), from another Tharros necropolis and belonging to the type Deneauve VIIa (1st century A.D.) that carries a manufacturer's stamp on the bottom, *AUFI FRON*, that can be read as *Aufi(dius) Fron(imus)* probably located in Africa.



Fig. 3 - Roman Lamp from 1st century AD with the picture of a gladiator (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arboreense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 4 - Roman lamp from the 1st century AD with the stamp of the maker AUFIFRON (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arboreense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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G. SOTGIU, *Iscrizioni latine della Sardegna. II, 1*, Padova 1968.





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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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