



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Gold bracelet

The amount of gold contained in the Punic necropolis tombs in Tharros caused a true treasure hunt in the second half of the 19th century, which led to the plundering and loss of so many precious items. One part of these items, however, reached private and public collections, enough to give us an idea of how wealthy the city was.

This gold bracelet is a unique piece, almost perfectly preserved, as only the clasp is missing (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Phoenician gold bracelet (Cagliari, National Archaeological Museum)  
(Archaeological Superintendency Archive)

It has five layers, joined by hinges formed by small cylinders with an inner connection pin. The layers grow in size from the outside towards the centre, where the main decoration is found. This portrays the winged scarab of Egyptian religious tradition, with a falcon's head, that holds the sun disc with its feet above its head (fig. 2).



**Fig. 2** - Detail on the central sheet with the winged scarab holding the sun  
(from AA.VV. 1991, cover. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

The side sheets are decorated with palm leaves and lotus flowers. The decoration is made using different techniques: embossing for modelling, and granulation for defining the details.

This type of bracelet, although not identical in decoration, is known in Carthage with examples in gold-plated silver, and a fragment in silver was found in Tharros (fig. 3).



**Fig. 3** - Part of a silver bracelet from Tharros, with palms similar to the ones on the gold bracelet  
(from AA.VV. 1991, fig. 88)

The bracelet can be dated between the 7th and 6th centuries B.C. with the greater probability towards the latter.



## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

## ■ Bibliography

AA.VV., *I gioielli di Tharros*, Roma 1991

G. QUATTROCCHI PISANO, *I gioielli fenici di Tharros nel Museo Nazionale di Cagliari*, Roma 1974.





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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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