



# Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Etruscan Kantharos in Bucchero style

The nineteenth century damage to the Tharros necropolises in the search for treasure caused the dispersion of so many funeral items, some of which ended up in private and public collections.

The sacking also involved the Old Phoenician necropolises, where several importation items come from, including Etruscan Bucchero earthenware.

The *kantharos* (figs. 1-3) is the shape most represented in Tharros and the whole of Sardinia. The vase, with high mounted handles, of a Rasmussen 3e type, dated back to the first half of the 6th century B.C., is typical of the symposium where it is dedicated explicitly to the consumption of wine, and as such is a constant attribute of Dionysus in the Greek world (fig. 4).



**Fig. 1** - *Kantharos* in Etruscan Bucchero from a Phoenician necropolis in Tharros (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 2** - *Kantharos* in Etruscan Bucchero from a Phoenician necropolis in Tharros (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 3** - *Kantharos* in Etruscan Bucchero from a Phoenician necropolis in Tharros (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)





**Fig. 4** - Attican amphora with black characters and separate neck by the Painter of Amasis, depicting Dionysus with the *kantharos* and two dancing Maenads (530 century B.C.)  
(From ARIAS 1963, picture XLVIII bis)

The close relations between the Phoenician cities of Sardinia and the large coastal towns in southern Etruria are well documented by the large amounts of ceramic tableware made in Tyrrhenian towns and imported to the island by Phoenician trade (fig. 5). These items were then distributed in the island in native communities that had adopted the exotic way of drinking.



**Fig. 5** - Etruscan *Kantharoi* in Bucchero from Tharros  
(from UGAS, ZUCCA 1984, picture XLIX. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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