



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Pitcher

Ashes from cremated people were placed in the Tharros tophet in various kinds of urn.

In the earlier phase, between the end of the 7th and the 5th centuries B.C., the shape most used (211 examples found in digs in 1971) was the “pitcher with the cylindrical neck, with a step halfway up the top” (figs. 1-2).



Fig. 1 - Round-necked pitcher from the tophet
(Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - round-necked pitcher from the tophet (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborensis*) (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

Evolution of a Phoenician shape that started in the 8th century B.C. (Fig. 3), this type of pitcher always has no feet, the round neck with the step in it, a thick, overhanging brim; it has little, if no decoration, limiting itself to one or more bands of colour on the body (fig. 4); there is no decoration in the older examples.





Fig. 3 - Urn from the Mozia tophet, from the mid 7th century B.C.
(From CIASCA *ET ALII* 1973, picture XLIII, 1)

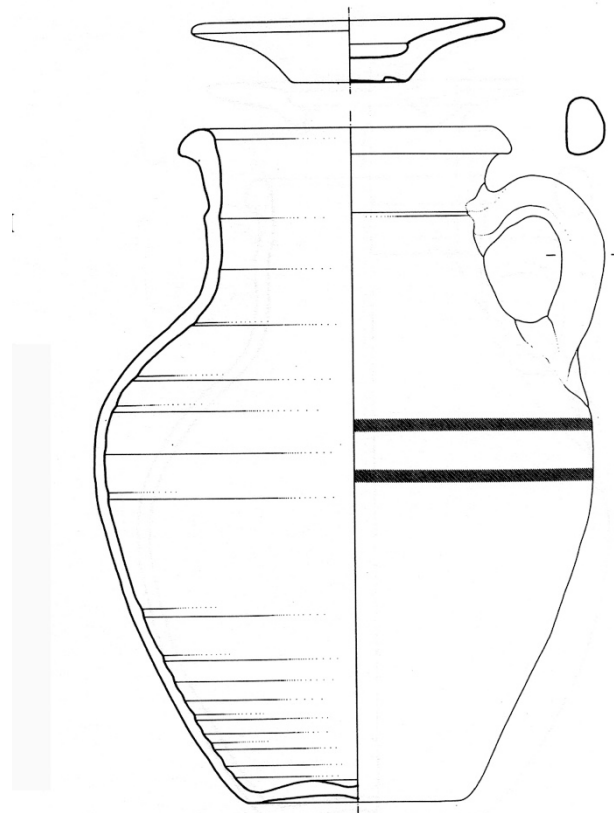


Fig. 4 - Pitcher used as an urn from the Tharros tophet (from ACQUARO 1989, P. 30)

The pitcher, used as an urn, was usually covered with an umbilicate plate (fig. 5).





Fig. 5 The umbilicate plate covering the top of the urn (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*)
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

It is not possible to provide a closer date for the pottery due to the large number preserved from Phoenician and Punic ceramic production that stayed more or less the same in shape and decoration for centuries.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

E. ACQUARO, *Scavi al tophet di Tharros. Le urne dello scavo Pesce – I*, Roma 1989

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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