



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Stelae with baetylus

The stelae at the Tharros tophet, of which there are more than three hundred, still intact and broken, offer a view of several representations, although they are a rough, elementary iconographic documentation.

One of the most common images is that of the baetylus, the sacred pillar, considered to be the gods' seat (figs. 1-3).



Fig. 1 - Punic stelae with baetylus from the 5th-4th century B.C. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborensis*)
(photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - Punic stelae with baetylus from the 5th-4th century B.C. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arboreense*)
(photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 3 - Punic stelae with baetylus from the 5th-4th century B.C. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arboreense*)
(photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



The mirror of the stele has a small aedicula with a top of an uraeus snake that frames a baetylus idol with the upper part narrowed. The stelae have a continuation of the temple concept on two sides, with two relief work pillars.

The Egyptian style crown places the stelae in Class II of the Tore classification (fig. 4).

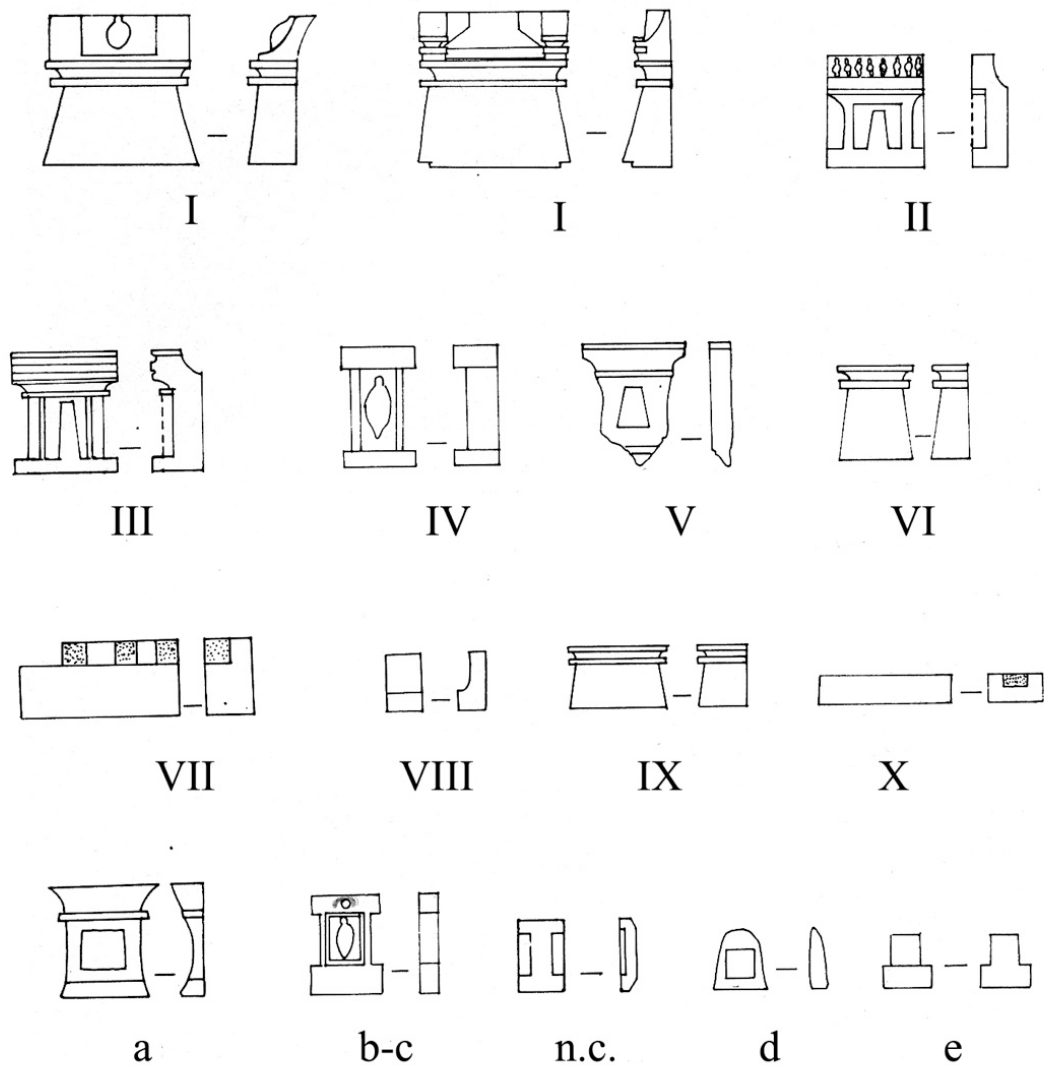


Fig. 4 - The type classification of the stelae in Tharros (from TORE, 1975, picture 1. Review C. Tronchetti)

Dating of the stelae is between the 5th and 4th century B.C.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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