



UNIONE EUROPEA



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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Memorial stone

The sculptures offered by the tophet in Tharros are varied; one category that has been preserved has been so far found to be unique to Sardinia.

The sculpture shows a square stone with the lower part tapered towards the top, crowned by a jutting cornice that defines the top edge (figs. 1-3) This has an opposite direction, forming a kind of Egyptian moulding, on which the sun globe is represented as relief work. The back wall of the stone shows traces of red paint.



Fig. 1 - Sandstone memorial stone from the Tharros tophet (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborensis*)
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - Sandstone memorial stone from the Tharros tophet (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborensis*)
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)





Fig. 3 - Sandstone memorial stone from the Tharros tophet (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*)
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The large memorial stones are a characteristic of the Tharros tophet, simple like in this example, and enriched with other elements in the top part. In Sardinia, Tharros is the only place that has returned them, and can be compared in other countries with Motya and Carthage (fig. 4).



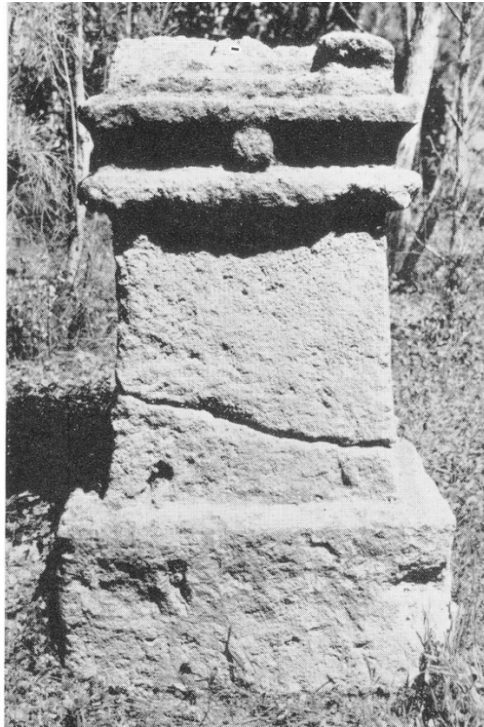


Fig. 4 - Memorial stone form the tophet in Carthage (from BARTOLONI 1976, picture XLIII, 151)

The stone belongs to class VI of the Tore classification (fig. 5).

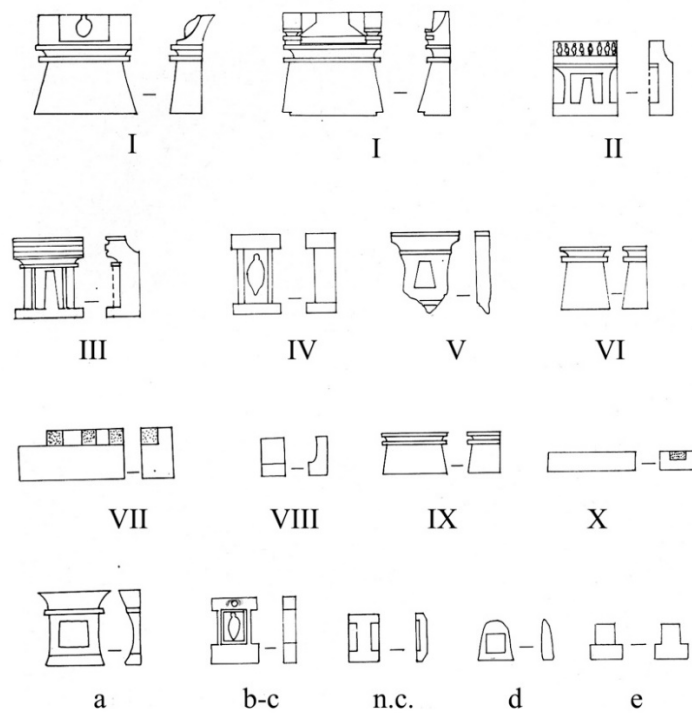


Fig. 5 - The type classification of the stelae in Tharros (from TORE, 1975, picture 1. reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

The stratigraphy of the Mozia tophet has dated the Tharros monument between the end of the 6th and the start of the 5th century B.C.

As well as in the tophet, memorial stones were also used in the necropolises, as can be seen here, probably from the northern necropolis in Tharros, with an inscription that states "tomb of B'LZBL, wife of ZRBL, son of MQM", dated to the 4th century B.C. (fig. 6).



Fig. 6 - Funeral stone from Tharros from 4th century B.C. (from UBERTI 1986, p. 115)

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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