



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ African A red flat ware bottle

Starting from the final decades of the 1st century A.D., the North Africa Roman province enjoyed an unprecedented economic boom, due to several reasons, the main one being the strong development of olive harvesting. African oil was sold throughout the Mediterranean, and in the adjacent regions, starting from the end of the 1st to the end of the 7th century A.D. (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Oil amphora from Africa, known as Africana Piccola, datable around the 2nd century AD. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborensis*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)

The tableware pottery produced in the potteries of the same areas of northern Africa, now modern-day Tunisia, also travelled with the oil amphorae, literally filling all the empty spaces in the hold.

This type of pottery is known as African red slip ware, and was separated into different productions over time.

The bottle here belongs to the first phase, known as African red slip ware A, that is painted with a good quality orangey-red paint; in this first production period, large amounts of closed-in shapes were also exported (figs. 2-4).



**Fig. 2** - Bottle in African A slipware datable from mid 2nd century A.D. to the beginning of the 3rd century A.D. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 3** - Bottle in African A slipware datable from mid 2nd century A.D. to the beginning of the 3rd century A.D. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arboreense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



**Fig. 4** - Bottle in African A slipware datable from mid 2nd century A.D. to the beginning of the 3rd century A.D. (Oristano, *Antiquarium Arboreense*) (photo from Unicity S.p.A.)



The bottle, with a handle, has a dual rounded body, and the neck is divided into two sections: the lower rounded one and the upper narrow one, decorated with horizontal relief ribbing; the brim is flared.

The vase can be allocated as a Hayes 160 shape and was found in a context that existed from mid 2nd to the start of the 3rd century A.D.



## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

## ■ Bibliography

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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