



Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The southern Phoenician-Punic necropolis

The Phoenician-Punic city of Tharros had two necropolis areas, one north and one south of the inhabited area (fig.1).

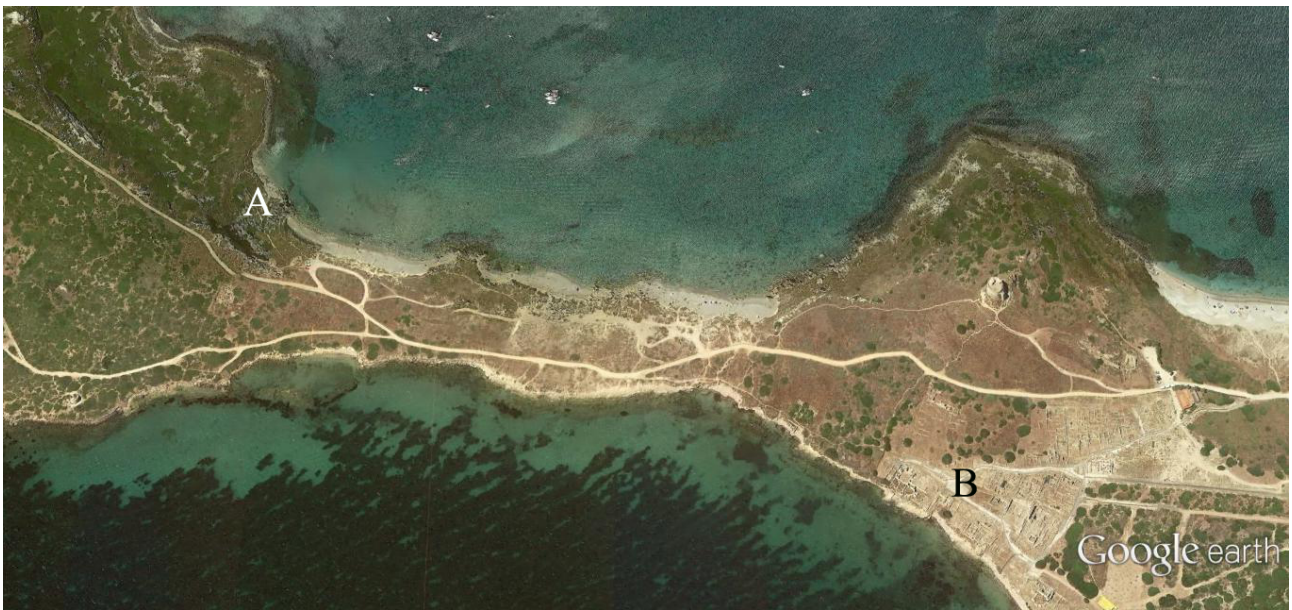


Fig. 1 - Location of the southern necropolis of Tharros. A) the site of the necropolis; B) Tharros (from Google Earth. Reprocessed by C. Tronchetti)

The southern necropolis was larger, mainly used in the Punic Age (end of 6th -3rd century B.C.) and was a rich one. In the 19th century, this led to a real treasure hunt, that meant the tombs being plundered and destroyed and almost all items being dispersed into private and public collections (fig. 2).

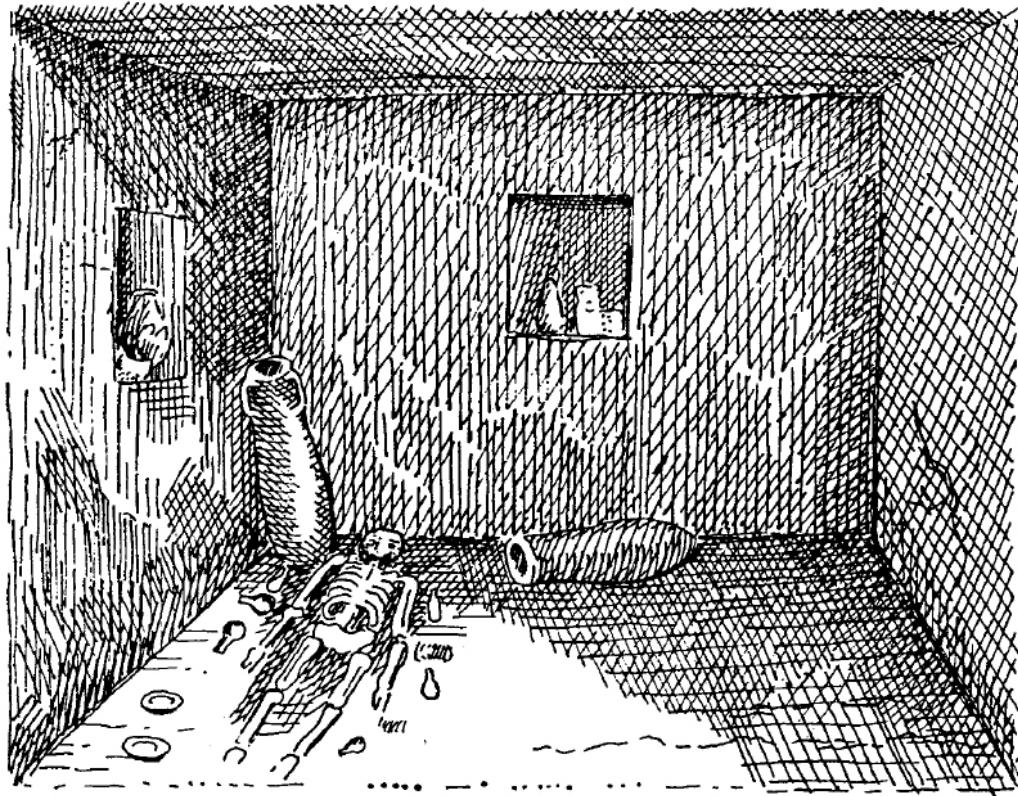


Fig. 2 - nineteenth century drawing of the inside of a chamber tomb (from ACQUARO, FINZI 1986).

The necropolis comprised hypogeum chamber tombs, with rectangular access wells. There were usually narrow, high steps on one side of the well for descent (figs. 3-5).



Fig. 3 - The southern necropolis (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 4 - The southern necropolis (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

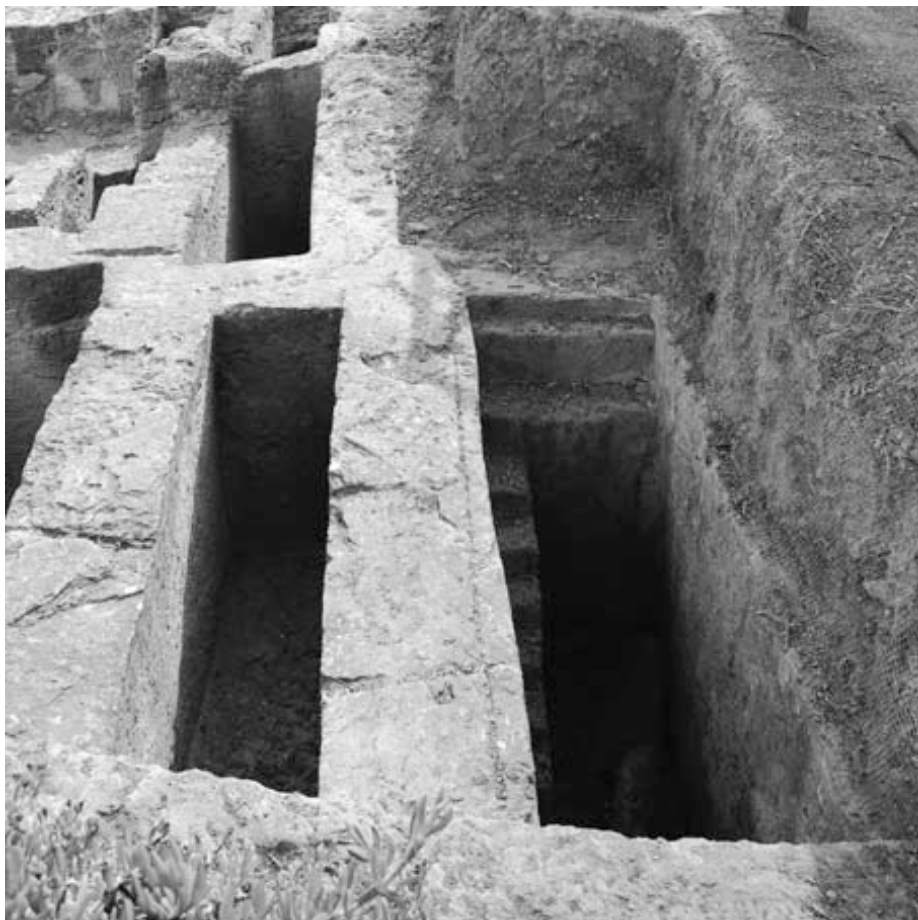


Fig. 5 - The southern necropolis. This photo shows the steps along one wall of the well on the right (from DEL VAIS, 2006).

More recent investigations regarded recovering architectural data on the tombs, while the funeral items could only be part of type studies, as the compositions of these items were mostly lost, and the preserved ones are not worth trusting. The picture drawn up is that of a very wealthy town, at the centre of trade relations with various regions of the Mediterranean.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

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