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REGIONE AUTÓNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
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# Archaeological area of Tharros

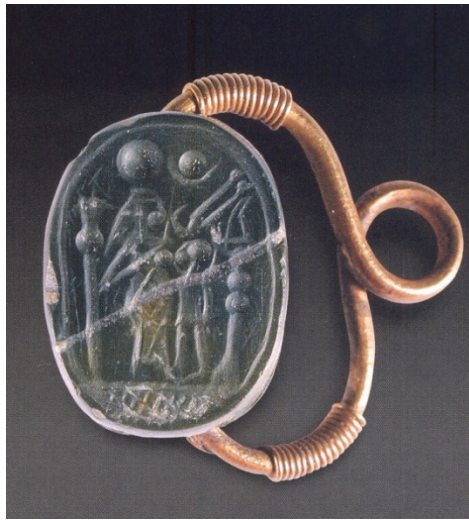
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## ■ The jewels of Tharros

Tharros is the Punic city in Sardinia that has returned the largest number of jewels, with this term meaning not just items in gold and silver, but also scarabs, that are now without their precious metal mount.

Studies of Punic jewellery have allowed a hypothesis that most jewels were made in Tharros itself, with a lower number of importations. The fact that the green jasper that the scarabs are made of (fig. 1) is of Sardinian origin reinforces this origin, being more than likely that the mount was made in loco to fit the amulet



**Fig. 1** - Scarab in green jasper mounted in gold with the picture of Isis feeding Horus (4th century BC).  
(From AA.VV 2004)

The types of gold jewellery range from gold bracelets (fig. 2), earrings, more or less ornate (figs 3-5), pendants (fig. 6) and rings.



**Fig. 2** - Gold bracelet from Tharros (7th-6th century B.C.) (Archaeological Superintendency Archive)

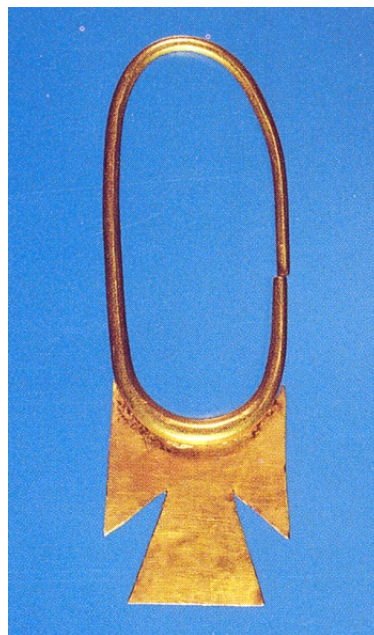
The oldest examples, datable to the end of the 6th century B.C. Onwards, have very articulate formations: earrings with several pendants, details of which are shown in the granulation technique.



**Fig. 3** - Gold earring comprising: an oval loop, a crescent with bird protomes, a falcon pendent and an acorn pendent (5th century BC) (From AA.VV 1990, fig. 1)



**Fig. 4** - Gold earring with oval loop, a crescent with bird protomes and a round pendent with noticeable stem (5th century BC) (From AA.VV 1990, fig. 4)



**Fig. 5** - Gold earring with looped cross (4th-3rd century BC) (from AA.VV 1990, fig. 13)





**Fig. 6** - Pendent showing Isis holding her breasts whilst breast feeding (5th century BC)  
(From AA.VV 1990, p. 76)

Similar motifs to the ones in Tharros jewels are widely diffused throughout the Punic world, in particular in Carthage, such as, for example, the earring with the handle-cross (fig.5) that was found often in funeral items. Some special elements found at Tharros have not been found anywhere else, making one presume local production.

If we consider that the raw material gold cannot be found in Sardinia, the large amount of gold jewellery in Tharros is a clear sign of the wealth of the city, which did not just import jewels but made them and then sold them to the rest of the island.

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

## ■ Bibliography

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