



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Archaeological area of Tharros

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The Roman necropolis

Necropolises were arranged around the city of Tharros in the Roman era. Unfortunately nineteenth century digs searching for treasures devastated the Roman tombs, even if they were poorer than the Punic ones, and little evidence is left.

From the little data still available, we can see the cremation tombs where the urn containing the deceased's ashes, perhaps made of stone, terracotta or glass, was deposited in a hole in the rock. Other tombs were capuchin or ground tombs containing bones and funeral items. All these tombs date back to the full Imperial Age.

A small necropolis from the early Imperial Age developed inside the moat that was partly filled in in 50 B.C. on the hill of Su Muru Mannu.



Fig. 1 - The necropolis in the moat on Su Muru Mannu (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The most visible element in this burial area was a small mausoleum with a boundary of stone blocks and flooring of rough stones, where a violated mound tomb above a small stone sarcophagus was found. The small monument is dated to the final decades of the 1st century A.D. (figs. 2-3).



Fig. 2 - The small mausoleum in the moat (photo C. Tronchetti)



Fig. 3 - The sarcophagus with the remains of the deceased (photo C. Tronchetti)

All the other toms, which are mostly in the northern part of the moat, are cupae, i.e. With a semi-circular covering (figs. 4-6).

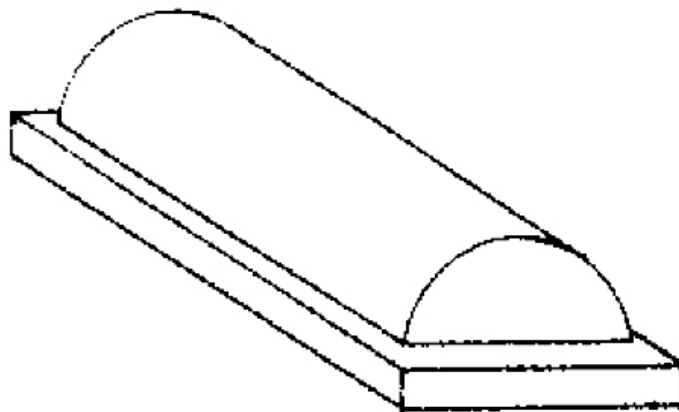


Fig. 4 - Diagram of the cupae roof of a tomb; this type is also known as a coffer tomb with semi-circular covering (from ROMANÒ 2009, p. 218)





Fig. 5 - The necropolis in the moat (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 6 - Cupae tomb in the moat in Tharros (photo di Unicity S.p.A.)

Sometimes, these tombs were painted with figures that imitated the marble *crustae* (fig. 7); in some cases there was a table opposite the tomb where a symbolic holy meal was kept in honour of the deceased person (fig. 8).



Fig. 7 - Decoration painted as marble (photo by Unicity S.p.A).



Fig. 8 - Cupae tomb with the *mensa* opposite (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The cement mound covered in plaster contained the tomb that could either be capuchin (fig. 9) or a simply stone box.



Fig. 9 - Capuchin tomb incorporated into the cupae tomb (photo by Unicity SpA).

Examination of a small number of funeral goods found in these tombs, still not revealed, dated them to the 1st century A.D. And in the early decades of the 2nd.

The cupae tombs are widespread in the western Mediterranean and Sardinia contains a large number, equally distributed in the various urban areas.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

L. BACCHIELLI, *Monumenti funerari in forma di cupola: origine e diffusione in Italia meridionale*, in *L'Africa Romana*, III, 1986, pp. 303-319.

A.M. GIUNTELLA, *Cornus I, 1.L'area cimiteriale orientale*, Oristano 1999

E. ROMANÒ, *Le tombe 'a cupa' in Italia e nel Mediterraneo. Tipologia architettonica, committenza e rituale*, in *Studi Classici ed Orientali*, LII, 2006 (2009), pp. 149-219

C. TRONCHETTI, *Tharros – Lo scavo della postierla e dell'edificio funerario nel fossato – Anno 1981*, in *Tharros XXIV – Rivista di Studi Fenici XXV (supplemento)*, 1997, pp. 39-42.





UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



UNIONE EUROPEA

Progetto cofinanziato dall'Unione Europea
Programma Operativo FESR 2007-2013

FESR - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale - Asse I, Linea di Attività 1.2.3.a