



# Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Jug with a mushroom-shaped lip

The jug with the enlarged lip, also called "mushroom", was found inside tomb 11 AR of the Phoenician-Punic necropolis of Sulky, that was investigated by Paolo Bernardini and Piero Bartoloni in the years between 1985 and 1988. It belongs to some grave goods which date from the first half of the fifth century B.C. The jug has dark robe englobe and typical horizontal line decoration grouped on the rim, the neck and on various heights of the body (fig. 1).



**Fig. 1** - Bi-lobate truncated-cone jug from tomb AR 11 of the necropolis of Sulky. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

This type of jug is part of a ritual kit which was widespread in the Phoenician-Punic necropolis of Sulky and whose other fixed elements are the domestic amphora, the bi-lobed jug and the double-spouted oil lamp (fig. 2).



**Fig. 2** - One of the sets of grave goods from the Phoenician-Punic necropolis in Sulky. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by C. Olianas).

The jug with the enlarged lip is the Phoenician and Punic ritual vessel par excellence: it is found, in fact, in the vast majority of Phoenician and Punic tombs from East to West, over a period of time between the VIII and the V centuries B.C. (fig. 3).



**Fig. 3** - Mushroom-shaped jug from the northern necropolis of Tharros, end VII- early sixth century B.C.  
Antiquarium Arboreense (Or)  
([http://www.antiquariumarboreense.it/it/Museo/Archivi/Reperti/Immagini/037\\_DSC\\_5755.jpg](http://www.antiquariumarboreense.it/it/Museo/Archivi/Reperti/Immagini/037_DSC_5755.jpg)).

Compared to prototypes, that were stouter, the Sulky jug was more shapely and the neck has two evident narrowings above and below the median line. These characteristics are especially interesting as the narrowings show that inside the neck, made separately and then welded to the body, they were used to create air bubbles to stop an excessive jet of the ointment that it was made to contain. The body was oval, with a slight narrowing in the lower part. The handle is attached to the widest part between the two narrowings on the neck, and joins with the jug shoulder (fig. 4).

The jug with the mushroom-shaped lip was used as a container for ointments that were used to embalm the dead, when the latter were composed for the funerals.



**Fig. 4** - Jug with enlarged or mushroom-shaped lip from grave 11 AR of Sulky with details of neck and handle.  
Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Cinzia Olianas

## ■ Bibliographic abbreviations

- BARTOLONI 2007      P. BARTOLONI, *Il museo archeologico comunale "F. Barreca" di Sant'Antioco*, Sassari 2007.
- MUSCUSO 2008      S. MUSCUSO, *Il Museo "F. Barreca" di Sant'Antioco: le tipologie vascolari della necropoli di Sulky* = *Sardinia Corsica et Baleares Antiquae* VI, 2008, pp. 9-39.
- MUSCUSO 2012      S. MUSCUSO, *La necropoli punica di Sulky*, in M. GUIRGUIS, E. POMPIANU, A. UNALI (a cura di), *Quaderni di Archeologia Sulcitana 1. Summer School di Archeologia Fenicio Punica (Atti 2011)*, Sassari 2012.

## ■ Periodicals and magazines

- SARDINIA, CORSICA ET BALEARES ANTIQUAE**      *Sardinia, Corsica et Baleares Antiquae. An International Journal of Archaeology*, Sassari, I, 2003 e ss.



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