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REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ *Kylix*

The *kylix* was found in the Phoenician-Punic necropolis of Sulky, in an unknown grave. It has been almost entirely reconstructed from several fragments, although one of the two handles has been lost.

The *kylix* belongs to black figure potter and is decorated along the entire external surface with a red band and black palms. The foot is also decorated in red running along the edge of it (figs. 1-2).



Fig. 1 - The Attic *Kylix* from Sulky decorated with palm leaves (photo by Unicity S.p.A).



Fig. 2 - The Kylix from Sulky. The inside of the cup (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

The cup presents a considerable deformation, this was perhaps already present before its firing, or it occurred during the process (fig. 3).





Fig. 3 - The *Kylix* from Sulky (photo by Unicity S.p.A).

The *kylix* of *Sulky* can be dated between the end of the 6th and the 5th century B.C., as from the time of the Carthage conquest of Sardinia and for the whole of the 4th century B.C., the only Greek pottery imported in the Punic centres was from Athens and the region of Attica (fig. 4). Previously, starting from the second half of the 7th century B.C., the Phoenicians preferred bucchero pottery, black ceramic ware produced in the towns of Etruria; during the second half of the 6th century B.C., on the other hand, the Phoenicians were interested in ceramics from Eastern Greece and Corinth.



Fig. 4 - *Kylix* found in Greece, with apotropaic eyes and black figures
(from <http://dmaresources.org/teacherpackets/teachingpackets/TP/Classical/Artwork/ClaKyl.htm>).

This type of pottery was mainly found in graves, but it was also discovered in the town of *Sulky*, and is extremely widespread in Sardinia.

There are several variations of the same type, but in all cases, the *kylikes* were containers for wine reminiscent of the Greek symposium carried out at funerals, possibly similar to the ancient eastern banquet ritual called *marzeah*, where wine was an important element, able to bring the gods closer, and the roots of which in near eastern culture are ancient, linked to the worship of heoes and kings. Besides their strong symbolic value, the presence of this type of ceramic also indicates a high social status, since these are luxury objects which not everyone could afford.



■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Cinzia Olianas

■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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