



UNIONE EUROPEA



REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Two-spout oil lamp

The two-spout oil lamp (fig. 1) was found in fragments inside tomb 9 PGM in the Phoenician-Punic necropolis of *Sulky*. Almost entirely reconstructed, there is still a gap on the spouts. It is dated to the 5th century B.C., based on the chronology of its burial context and the set of funeral items to which it belongs.



Fig. 1 - Two-spout oil lamp from grave 9 PGM in Sulky (photo by Unicity S.p.A).

It has a kind of grip applied to the convex bottom, probably used to transport it or to insert it on a support (fig. 2) and it is characterised by two spouts and simple shape, created by altering a plate.



Fig. 2 - Sulky oil lamp with detail of its handle (photo by Unicity S.p.A).

The two-spout oil lamps are a common category in the necropolis of Sulky and in all the sites of the Punic west, and are similar, at a later date, to another type, the so-called “cup” oil lamp, very widespread in Sardinia, between the end of the 5th and the beginning of the 4th century B.C., also being used during the Roman Republic period, therefore starting from 238 B.C. (fig. 3).



Fig. 3 - Punic cup oil lamps found in Sardinia. Archaeological Museum Collection of Arborea, in the province of Oristano (from http://oristano.intourcity.it/index.php?lang=IT&city=Arborea&option=com_dettaglio&id=95).

The only chronological discriminating factor at the time found for this shape is the presence of one or two spouts: the single spout oil lamp (fig. 4) is relevant to the early moments of Phoenician expansion and is not found in contexts any later than the 8th century B.C. This latter type was found in the oldest phases of the *Sulky tophet*.



Fig. 4 - Single-spout oil lamp from Selinunte
(from <https://mbasic.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=666439433419436&id=418721871524528&set=pb.418721871524528.-2207520000.1427472836>).

For the two-spout oil lamps, like the one in question, their use includes all the central and western Mediterranean in a period of time ranging from the 7th to the 5th century B.C. The oil lamps come from the well-known Phoenician plates with the short convex brim and wide body, used throughout the Phoenician world between the mid 8th century B.C. and the middle of the next century, a shape that was then replaced in its primary function, with plates with a wider brim and smaller hollow. The example in question is a common variation found in the necropolis of Sulky, and probably, in addition to lighting the darkness of the burial chambers during funerals, they were left lit inside the tomb (and in this case the blackening of the area of the spouts tells us something precise) so that they could be used by the deceased to face his journey to his eternal home.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Cinzia Olianas

■ Bibliographic abbreviations

- ACQUARO, BARTOLONI 1986 E. ACQUARO, P. BARTOLONI, *Interazioni fenicie nel Mediterraneo centrale: l'Africa e la Sardegna*, in L. SERRA (a cura di), *Gli scambi culturali e socio-economici fra l'Africa settentrionale e l'Europa mediterranea. Atti del Congresso Internazionale di Amalfi, (5-8 dicembre 1983)*, Napoli 1986, pp. 191-228.
- BARTOLONI 1992 P. BARTOLONI, , *Lucerne arcaiche da Sulci* in AA.VV., *Sardinia in the Mediterranean . A footprint in the sea. Studies in Sardinian Archaeology presented to Miriam S. Balmuth (Monograph in Mediterranean Archaeology,3)*, Sheffield 1992, pp. 419-423.
- 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.

■ Periodicals and magazines

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



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