



Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Gold hair slide

Gold and silver jewellery of different shapes was unearthed from the necropolis in Sulky. Among this, a widely documented typology is that of the so-called hair slide or edged rings, with the body consisting of a gold tubular foil, in most cases with a bronze core: these consisted of rings with thinner ends and coiled so as to form a kind of spring which could be opened and closed at will around the ends of the braid.

The most well known examples are often smooth, without any particular decorations (figs. 1-2), others have one end shaped like a swan's head (fig. 3), others are decorated in filigree and granulation (fig. 4) or plaited as in the case of one of the hair slides found in *Sulky* (fig. 5).



Fig. 1 - Simple edged ring. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



Fig. 2 - Edged rings of different sizes on display at the Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca (photo by C. Olianás)



Fig. 3 - Edged ring with a swan head-shaped end (from Quattrocchi Pisano 1974, table VI, fig. 95).



Fig. 4 - Edged ring decorated with filigree and granulation, from Carthage. National Archaeological Museum of Bardo, Tunis (from Pisano 1988, p. 373).



Fig. 5 - Edged ring found in Sulky with detail of the particular gold thread weaving. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

Jewels are one of the most characteristic and significant aspects of Phoenician-Punic craftsmanship. The development of this class of materials, with the possibilities offered by trading of metal along Mediterranean routes, is linked to an artistic tradition that was rich and successful for centuries in the Phoenician motherland. In Sardinia, the evidence from Tharros so far appears to be the largest and most important because of the quality and quantity of the jewellery as well as of the other athyrmata (bric-a-brac). It is hard to say whether the Sulky hair clip was forged in a workshop in Sulky or whether it hails from the well-known ones in Tharros, or even from Phoenicia. The doubt in question comes from the evidence of a substantial homogeneity and conservatory nature of this kind of production that makes it difficult to distinguish between items made in the East and those in the West. The hoarding of jewels that could be kept for several generations, always being used, limits the possibility of precise chronological definition, as even when found in easily datable archaeological contexts, it isn't possible to deduce the period of actual production, but only that of use.

Hair slides were adornment for hairstyles and very probably were indications of belonging to a high social class with great economic possibilities. In the case of hairslides, their apotropaic function does not seem important, as it is plausible that for this class of materials, they were mere embellishment.



■ 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.
- PISANO 1989 G. PISANO, *I gioielli*, in Aa. Vv., *I Fenici*, Milano 1989, pp. 370-393.
- QUATTROCCHI PISANO 1974 G. QUATTROCCHI PISANO, *I gioielli fenici di Tharros nel Museo Nazionale di Cagliari*, Roma 1974.





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