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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Glass paste necklace beads

A large number of necklaces and glass paste beads come from the tombs in the Sulky Punic necropolis.

The majority of those now on display in the museums have mostly been recomposed and, therefore, we do not know their original composition. The most common beads are mostly spherical with a glass thread decoration of different colours, obtained by adding mineral oxides to the elements that make up the glass.

The necklaces found in the Sant'Antioco necropolis are no different from the ones found in the remaining Phoenician-Punic sites of Sardinia and the western Mediterranean (fig. 1). The most used decoration is the loop one, then there are also those with polka dots, parallel lines and in relief. A few beads have an elongated, tubular, cylindrical or "acorn" shape (fig. 2)



**Fig. 1** - Necklace with variously decorated beads. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by C. Olianas).



**Fig. 2** - Necklace with round polychrome, monochrome and "acorn" beads.  
Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by C. Olianias).

In addition to polychrome glass beads, monochrome and sometimes translucent, green, blue, colourless, transparent red beads were found, decorated with simple parallel incisions, or smooth, in the Sulky tombs. There were also one made from semi-precious stones (fig.3).

The necklaces sometimes included pendants made into human faces: one of the most important examples comes from Olbia and was found in a female tomb of the 4th-3rd century B.C., with a similar apotropaic function (fig. 4). A similar necklace coming from Carthage can be attributed to the same period of time. For examples from the necropolis of *Sulky*, the timescale is between the 6th and 4th century B.C.

The glass beads were placed inside the tombs, placed on the deceased or arranged on plates.

The technique used for pendants and jewellery was the sand or clay " method, but his son had wanted to do it years before. One the nucleus was modelled, they were wrapped in a sheet, fixed to a pole or a straw and placed in molten glass; it was then turned on a smooth

flat surface, preferably metal or stone, to flatten the rough parts, afterwards the centre is taken out and is decorated with an engraving of rows of various colours. The use of moulds was common for creating figured pendants.



**Fig. 3** - Necklace beads from the necropolis of Sulky, monochrome and polychrome with original hard stone beads and imitations. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by C. Olianas).



**Fig. 4** - Glass paste polychrome necklace from Olbia. National Archaeological Museum of Cagliari (from <https://museoarcheocagliari.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/fig-12-collana-di-olbia.jpg?w=418&h=277&crop=1>).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Cinzia Olianas

## ■ Bibliographic abbreviations

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