



Necropolis of Is Pirixeddus

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Funerary goods

The grave goods from the Punic necropolis of Sant'Antioco consist of the materials used in the ritual and of the personal items which belonged to the deceased (fig. 1) Based on investigations of the Is Pirixeddus necropolis, the only area widely investigated from the 1950s, it has been possible to outline the most important aspects of the burial items, made by craftsmen and the rituals used with them.



Fig. 1 - Grave goods from a Punic chamber tomb during excavations (From Tronchetti 1989, p. 34, fig. 20).

The “table service” and ritual vases were included in the pottery items for the deceased. There were also containers, amphorae, for the collection of liquids: there were also other containers, pitchers, for example, of various types and sizes and in particular there were several small jugs; there were cups and plates with large flat edges, all items from Phoenician culture, generally characterised by a dark red surface with horizontal brown lines,

alone or in close groups of two, three or four, or in less frequent cases, with “wavy” lines (figs. 2-4).



Fig. 2 - Jars belonging to grave goods found at the necropolis of Sulcis.Municipal Archaeological Museum “F. Barreca” (photo by M. Murgia).



Fig. 3 - Example of jug with tri-lobed lip Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca"
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.).





Fig. 4 - Example of jug with a mushroom-shaped lip Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca"
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

In addition to Phoenician tradition pottery, there were also ceramics imported from the Greek world, items also found in Nora, Tharros and Cagliari (Tuvixeddu necropolis) together with other imitations, which were used when the cost of the Greek originals was clearly above the economic possibilities of the deceased person's family. These imports showed a trend that was concentrated in the 6th century B.C. while in the 4th century B.C., this phenomenon was reduced (fig. 5).



Fig. 5 - The Kylix from Attica. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca" (photo by Unicity S.p.A.)

The pottery included above is proof of the trade relations with the Greek world, brokered by Carthage and coming from Athens and other towns in Greece, while the imitations were made in loco. The Greek originals and the local imitations became more and more common in Punic burial collections over the centuries.



Other items were also included in the collections. Items for personal use and which were attributed with magical and apotropaic properties. The latter, used in the funeral ritual, were in particular amulets made from various materials, such as bone, metals, glass paste, semi precious stones (such as jasper and corniola), talc rock and often accompanied the deceased on multi-colour necklaces. These were generally small objects, mostly religious symbols, such as phalluses, hearts, feet, eyes of Ra, pillars and Egyptian deities such as Bes, Horus, Ptah, Isis and sacred animals. Many ceramic apotropaic masks were found, with whole or broken ostrich eggs, decorated in various ways, scarabs (fig. 6).



Fig. 6 - Magic/apotropaic elements belonging to the grave goods, Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca"
(photo by M. Murgia).

Finally, the deceased was also buried along with his personal items, such as jewellery, usually made of gold, which included earrings, necklaces, "hair slides", rings with engraved bezels or decorated with coloured glass paste (figs. 7-8).



Fig. 7 - Ring with engraving depicting Horus as a Falcon. Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca"
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)





Fig. 8 - Gold ring decorated with coloured glass paste, Municipal Archaeological Museum "F. Barreca"
(photo by Unicity S.p.A.)



■ Credits

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