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REPUBBLICA ITALIANA



REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA  
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

# Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale  
**SARDEGNA** Virtual Archaeology



## ■ Foot of a multi-foot vase (Thomes)

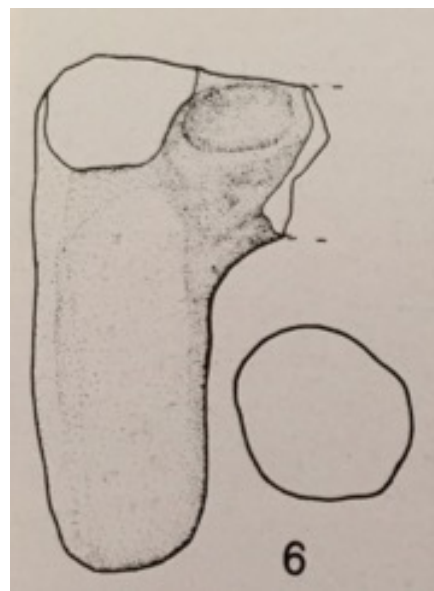
Among the clay artefacts found when excavating the giants' tomb of Thomes, there is a foot fragment of a tripod vessel, alias a polypod (multi-foot) vase.

The finding is on display in the Archaeological Museum of Dorgali.

There is only one cylindrical shaped foot left of the vessel (dimensions: 10.3 cm height; max. 3.7 cm), with straight ends, and a piece of the joint to which the unidentifiable body was attached (figs. 1-2).



**Fig. 1** - Foot of a multi-foot vase from Thomes-Dorgali (photo by Unicity S.p.A).



**Fig. 2** - Graphic reconstruction of the foot of a multi-foot vase from Thomes (from MORAVETTI 1980, table XXX.6).

The rough surface, which was red-brown in colour, was quickly smoothed, made from an impure paste full of foreign matter.

Tripod pots correspond to a ceramic type of various dimensions which allows cooking food in direct contact with fire. In different shapes, they were common throughout almost all prehistoric Sardinian cultures, from the Neolithic Age up until the Middle Bronze Age (figs. 3, 4).



**Fig. 3** - Tripod vase from the Monte Claro Culture exhibited at the National Museum G. Sanna of Sassari from Su Crocifissu Mannu-Porto Torres (from [http://www.culturaitalia.it/opencms/museid/view-Item.jsp?language=it&id=oai%3Aculturaitalia.it%3Amuseiditalia-work\\_42107](http://www.culturaitalia.it/opencms/museid/view-Item.jsp?language=it&id=oai%3Aculturaitalia.it%3Amuseiditalia-work_42107)).



**Fig. 4** - Early Bronze tripod vase with elbow-shaped handle with axe-shaped elongation from the Is Carillus Cave of Teulada/Santadi (from MANUNZA 2014, fig. 1, p. 58).

This vessel shape disappears during the early centuries of the second millennium BC, during the Middle Bronze Age. Some feet of the wide ribbon tripod vessel type, whose vase shape is so far unknown, were attributed to a type of pottery belonging to a culture of the early Middle Bronze Age in Sardinia called Sa Turracula (1600-1500 BC), the dating of the archaeological context unearthed in the giants' tomb of Thomes.

In Nuragic civilisation, in the Final Bronze Age phase (12th-9th century B.C.) There are some small tripod supports on votive bronze statues, used in Cypriot tradition (fig. 5).



**Fig. 5** - Miniature tripod from the Cave of Pirosu-Su Benatzu in Santadi  
(from [http://www.museoarcheologicosantadi.it/aree-archeologiche/il-tempio-di-su-benatzu/arredi-e-corredo-sacro/par\\_1/img\\_0/image\\_preview](http://www.museoarcheologicosantadi.it/aree-archeologiche/il-tempio-di-su-benatzu/arredi-e-corredo-sacro/par_1/img_0/image_preview)).

## ■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

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## La Sardegna cresce con l'Europa



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