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REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
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Giants' tomb of Thomes

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Glazed ceramic bottle

A glazed pottery bottle, a container specifically used to contain liquids, characterised by a green lead lining, comes from the dig of the exedra in the giants' tomb in Thomes (figs. 1-2), where the various layers had been mixed. The item, which was damaged when recovered, was immediately put back together *in situ*.



Fig. 1 - Giants' tomb of Thomes, Dorgali (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 2 - Rendering of the exedra space of the giants' tomb of Thomes, Dorgali (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

About 14 cm high, it belongs to the category of “spread glaze” pottery, thus called due to the glaze, distributed in spots that only covers part of the item’s surface¹. It has been identified in Italy during the Late Antique Age and High Medieval Age. In the archaeological contexts of Italy, this type of pottery can be found in Tuscan settlements of Scarlino-Grosseto and Rocca San Silvestro-Livorno, and in the centres of Arezzo, Lucca and Chiusi, and more generally well documented in central Italian regions. The bottle found in Thomes has a flat bottom, no legs, a sub-cylindrical shaped body linked to a truncated cone shoulder, a round neck, and a slightly outward jutting rim. The mixture is purified and a red-brown colour (figs. 3-4) The thickest areas of lining have the shiniest dull green glaze, but are irregular with bubbles. The remaining areas, which have absorbed most of the paste, remain opaque, with yellow-orange colour spots.



Fig. 3 - Medieval bottle, giants’ tomb of Thomes-Dorgali (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

¹ This irregularity in the glass may be intentional or due to technical causes, that during firing and cooling cause the cracking and creasing of the glaze, that leaves the ceramic parts of the body underneath.

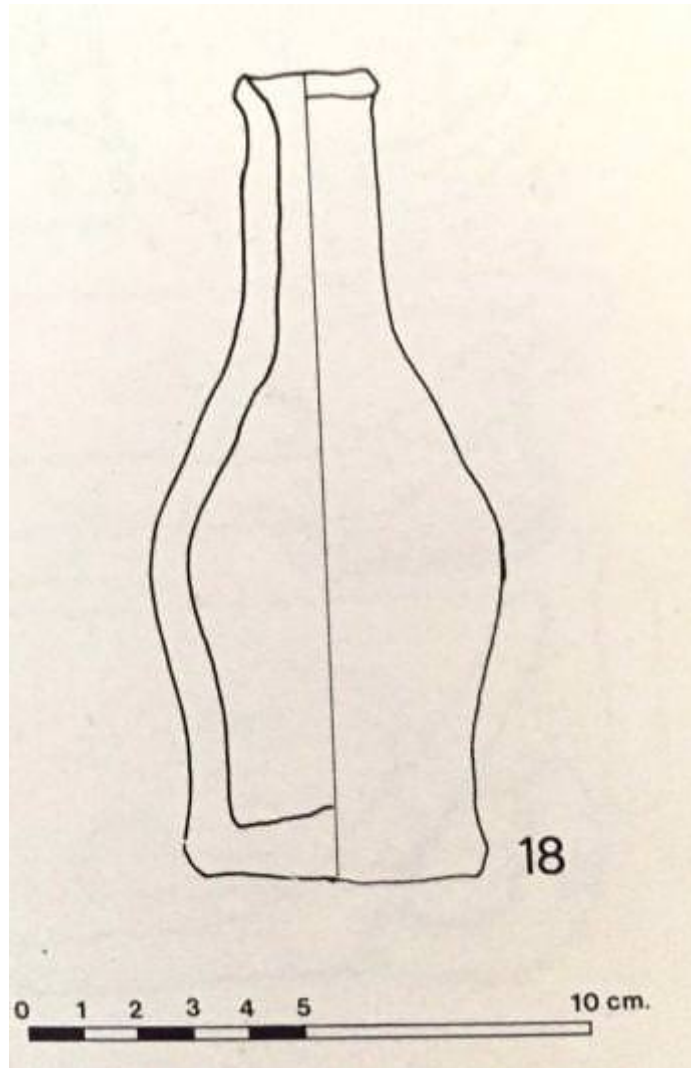


Fig. 4 - Graphic reconstruction of the artefact (from CAPRARA 1980, table XXXII.18).

The artefact documents inhabitation of the giants' tomb of Thomes during the Middle Ages, between the seventh-eighth and the thirteenth century AD, almost certainly related to the medieval villages of *Nurule* and *Isarle*, founded near the prehistoric funerary monument.

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Emanuela Atzeni

■ Bibliography

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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