

The area of the Cornus basilicas

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ Glass

In the area of Cornus several Roman era suburban necropolises have been found (1st-4th century A.D) such as the ones in Corchinas, Filigarzu di Pittinuri, Fossigheddas di Pittinuri, Utturu 'e su Clericu di Pittinuri, Torre 'e su Puttu, S'Angrone and Su Copercu. From the beginning of the 19th century, these areas were violated by illegal diggers: a large amount of glass was recovered from the tombs (figs. 1-2) that became a part of private collections, which were then donated to the Museums in Cagliari, Sassari and Turin.



Fig. 1 - Cornus: carinated glass cup, I-III A.D. - Gouin Collection (photo by N. MONARI- RA_00163374/R.A.S.)



Fig. 2 - Cornus: carinated glass cup, I A.D. (photo by N. MONARI- RA_00163373/R.A.S.).

Some items reveal the burial practise of cremation (see fig. 3) as in the case of the urns (figs. 4-6), where the burnt remains of the body were placed, and the *unguentarium*, with which the bodies were annointed before the ritual.

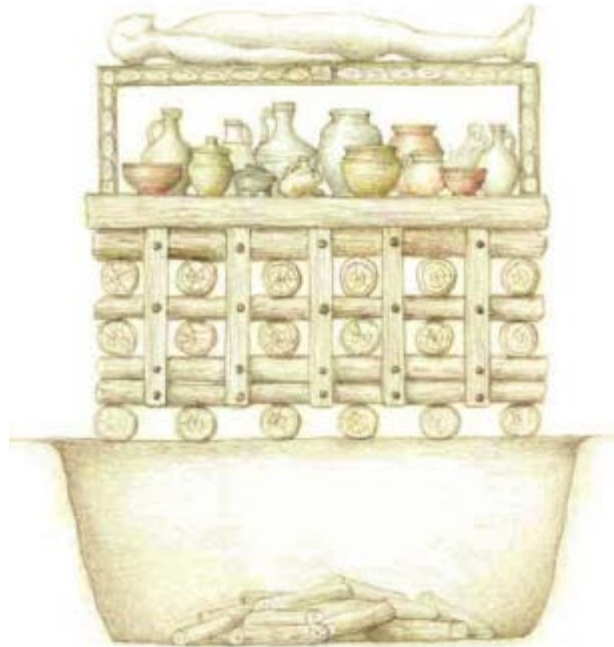


Fig. 3 - Reconstruction of the funeral pyre (from <http://www.paleopatologia.it/Documenti/Arch-Fun/2011/Lezione%203%20-%20I%20Romani.pdf>).



Fig. 4 - Oristano, *Antiquarium Arborensis*: urn with omega handle in blown glass from Cornus, I A.D. (photo by C. Cocco).



Fig. 5 - Cornus: glass olla, I/II A.D. (photo by N. MONARI- RA_00039035/R.A.S.).



Fig. 6 - Cornus: glass olla, I/II A.D. (photo by N. MONARI- RA_00039039/R.A.S.).

Glass items covering the period of between the IV and VII century A.D. - the greater quantity is referable to the 5th and 6th centuries - were found both at Columbaris during the digs and in the Cornus areas. Heterogeneous shapes of blown glass have been found, with different types of manufacture (free hand, moulded with relief decoration, etc) as part of the field of the various ornaments and tableware. The first groups includes lamps, with Eastern shapes: these are truncated cones with handles and conical ones (Isings 106d - fig. 7), and finally the *unguentariums*. To be dated, these items refer to a moment when the funerary practice was a burial, that is the deceased person's body was placed whole in a stone or earth grave, by the wish of the most widespread religion, Christianity.



Fig. 7 - Cornus-Columbaris: lamp Isings 106 d (from CUGLIERI I, fig. 15).

With regard to tableware, plates, glasses (fig. 8) and goblets (fig. 9), semi-spherical dishes (Isings 96, 115), *unguentariums* (figs. 10), jugs and bottles were found. The latter had a round body (Isings 132 - fig. 11) or a round centre (Isings 104, 133 - fig. 12).

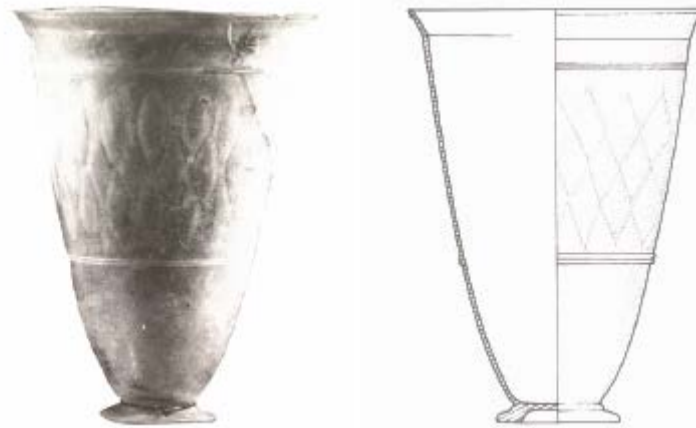


Fig. 8 - Cornus: trunk-conic glass on small, disc-shaped foot (from BORGHETTI, STIAFFINI 1994, p. 254, table 106).

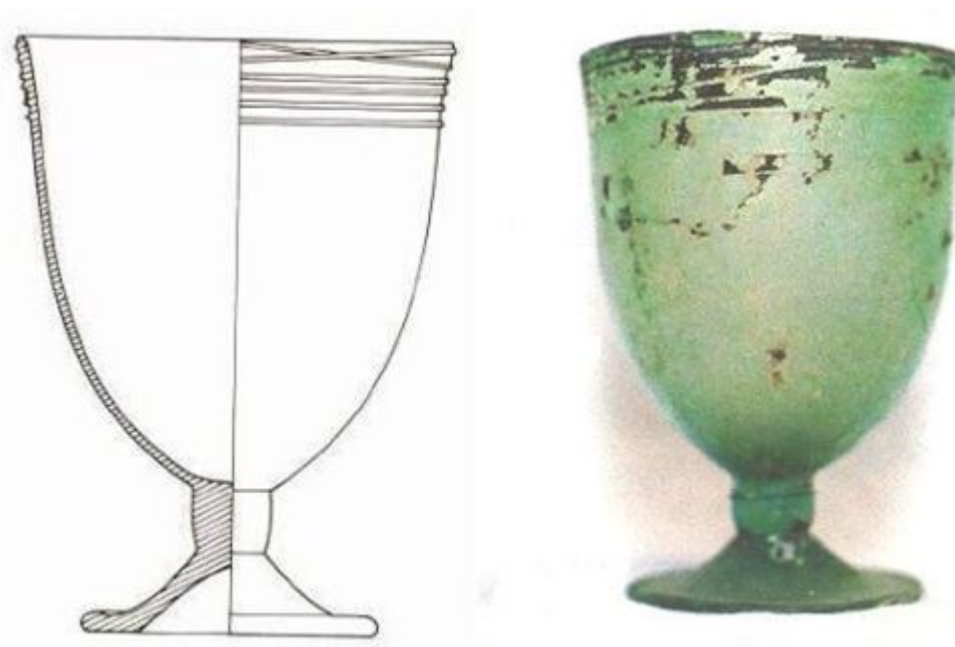


Fig. 9 - Cornus: chalice, drawing and photo (from BORGHETTI, STIAFFINI 1994, p. 263, TAB. 115; from CUGLIERI I, fig. 7).

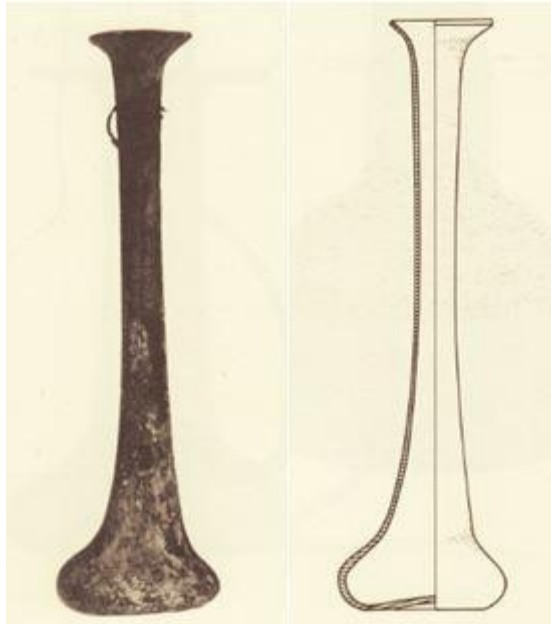


Fig. 10 - *Unguentarium* shape Isings 82B1 from the National Archaeological Museum of Cagliari
(From BORGHETTI, STIAFFINI 1994, p. 288, table 33, n. 288).



Fig. 11 - Cornus: glass bottle (from CUGLIERI I, fig. 8)

This group is flanked by grave goods for performing the *refrigerium*, found near the specific elements used for those banquets, like tables. The material found alongside the tombs 44, 71 (fig. 16), 33 and 68 is dated to the 4th century, the first moment of burial activity in the area, while the glass that cover the time period of the 5th and 6th centuries A.D. Refer to the tables on the tombs 16-17 and 20-21. They are all valuable objects in different shapes but can always be connected to the funeral meal, like cups, glasses, bowls, pitchers and bottles.



Fig. 12 - Cornus, barrow tomb n. 71: reassembled glass bottle (from CUGLIERI I, fig. 13).

Seventy-five items of waste (fig. 13) from glass work (see fig. 14) were found in the area of Columbaris: this shows the local production of some, if not all, the materials found and is associated with the crafts area found in the southernmost sector of the complex (fig. 15).





Fig. 13 - Waste from Columbaris (from CUGLIERI I, fig. 16).

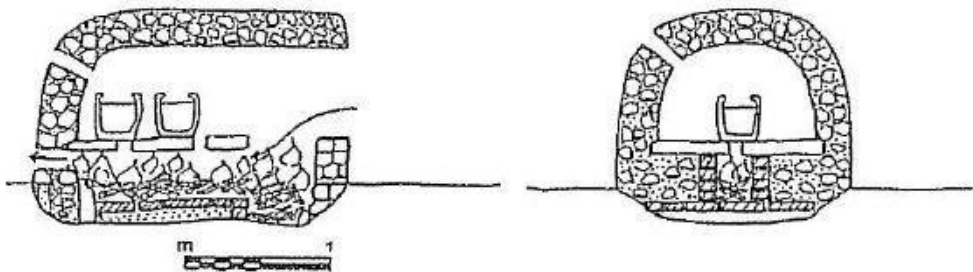


Fig. 14 - Reconstruction of the glass ovens of Germagnana (from STIAFFINI 1994, p. 205, fig. 1).



Fig. 15 - Columbaris basilica area with indication of the residential-crafts complex (Graphic reproduction F. Collu, by Cornus I.1, p. 200, table II).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Claudia Cocco and Dr. Francesca Collu

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