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Hirsch Library Research Guide



Red Figure Column Krater with two scenes

Syriskos Painter, Greek (Attic)

Greek, Classical, 480-460 BC

Terracotta, Overall: 17 3/8 x 16 1/2 x 14 1/2 in. (44.2 x 41.9 x 36.8 cm)

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This large ceramic vessel, called a column krater, was used for mixing water and wine. It is exceptional for its size, beautifully balanced composition, and finely painted figures. The primary characters are important deities from Greek mythology.

On the front, Zeus and Hera, king and queen of the Olympian gods are seated on either side of a winged goddess, Iris, who pours an offering from a jug, called an oinochoe, into a dish, called a phiale, held by Zeus. Iris' left hand is extended toward Hera who grasps it in her own hand. Hermes, messenger to the gods, walks to the left but looks back to the right. The back of the krater depicts a woman standing between two youths.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

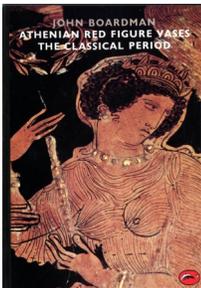
Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

[Pevnick, Seth D. "Loaded Names, Artistic Identity, and Reading an Athenian Vase." *Classical Antiquity* 29, no. 2 \(2010\): 222-253.](#)

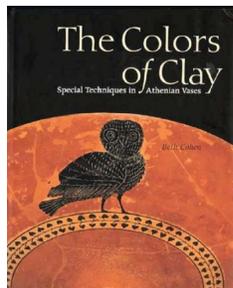
[Pollitt, J. J. "Pots, Politics, and Personifications in Early Classical Athens." *Yale University Art Gallery Bulletin* 40, no. 1 \(1987\): 8-15.](#)

[Neils, Jenifer. "Reconfiguring the Gods on the Parthenon Frieze." *The Art Bulletin* 81, no. 1 \(1999\): 6-20.](#)

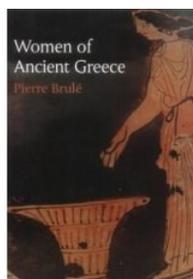
Print Resources:



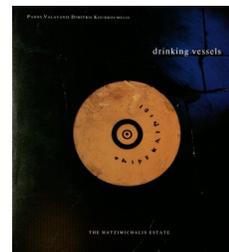
[Athenian Red Figure Vases, The Classical Period](#)



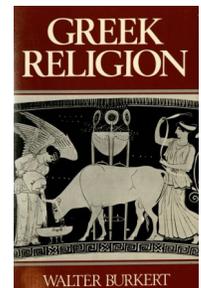
[The Colors of Clay: Special](#)



[Women in Ancient Greece](#)



[Drinking Vessels](#)



[Greek Religion](#)

Bibliography

General Surveys of Greek Art

- [Gardner, Helen, Fred Kleiner, and Christin J. Mamiya. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*. 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. N 5300 .G25 2005 Ref.](#)
- [Honour, Hugh, and John Fleming. *The Visual Arts: A History*. 5th ed. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1999. N 5300 .H68 1999](#)
- [Janson, H. W., and Penelope J. E. Davies. *Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007 Ref.](#)
- [Stokstad, Marilyn, and David A. Brinkley. *Art History*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. N 5300 .S923 2008 Ref.](#)

Greek Art, History, and Culture

- [Beard, Mary, and John Henderson. *Classical Art: From Greece to Rome*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. N 5610 .B295 2001 Ref.](#)
- [Boardman, John. *Greek Art*. New York: Praeger, 1973. N 5630 .B58 1973](#)
- [Boardman, John. *The Oxford History of Classical Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993. N 5610 .O84 1993 Ref.](#)
- [Kurtz, Donna, and Brian Sparkes. *The Eye of Greece: Studies in the Art of Athens*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982. N 5650 .E9 1982](#)
- [Pollitt, Jerome J. *Art and Experience in Classical Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972. N 5630 .P54 1972 Ready Ref.](#)
- [Richter, Gisela. *A Handbook of Greek Art*. 9th ed. Oxford: Phaidon, 1987. N 5630 .R49 1987 Ref.](#)
- [Woodford, Susan. *An Introduction to Greek Art*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986. NB 90 .W66 1986 Reserve](#)

Greek Pottery

- [Boardman, John. *Athenian Red Figure Vases, The Classical Period: A Handbook*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2001. NK 4649 .B624 2001 Reserve](#)
- [Boardman, John. *The History of Greek Vases: Potters, Painters and Pictures*. London: Thames & Hudson, 2001. NK 4645 .B62 2001 Reserve](#)
- [Cook, Robert M. *Greek Painted Pottery*. 2nd ed. London: Methuen, 1972. NK 4645 .C6 1972](#)
- [Lissarrague, François. *Greek Vases: The Athenians and Their Images*. New York: Riverside Book Company, 2001. NK 4645 .L5813 2001 Reserve](#)
- [Noble, Joseph V. *The Techniques of Painted Attic Pottery*. London: Faber & Faber, 1966. NK 4645 .N6 1966](#)
- [Rasmussen, Tom, and Nigel Spivey. *Looking at Greek Vases*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. NK 4645 .L66 1991 Reserve](#)
- [Rouet, Philippe. *Approaches to the Study of Attic Vases: Beazley and Pottier*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. NK 4648 .R68 2001](#)
- [Schreiber, Toby. *Athenian Vase Construction: A Potter's Analysis*. Malibu: J. Paul Getty Museum, 1999. NK 4645 .S365 1999](#)

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "Attic pottery" and "Greek krater" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Vase-painting, Greek
Vases, Greek
Athens (Greece)—Antiquities
Greece—Antiquities

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfa.org