Black-figure Amphora with Scene from the Iliad
Attributed to the Hattatt Painter
Greek (Attic), Classical, 540-520 BC
Terracotta & slip, Overall: 10 5/16 x 5 1/2 in. (26.2 x 14 cm)

Museum purchase funded by George Fleming, Robin Gibbs, Lee Godfrey, Charles W. Tate, and Richard Mithoff in honor of Lee Hage Jamail at "One Great Night in November," and by Ali and Hicham Aboutaam

This amphora depicts scenes from the Iliad, the greatest war epic of the ancient world. Two hoplites, foot soldiers, engage in face-to-face battle. Both wear menacing Corinthian helmets. They hold shields on their left arms and wield spears in their right hands. Paris, the Trojan prince who started the war by abducting the beautiful Helen, flees from the battlefield. He wears Eastern dress and carries a quiver of the arrows which would eventually cause the death of the great hero, Achilles.

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)

Print Resources:
How to Read Greek Vases
Approaches to the Study of Attic Vases
Athenian Vase Construction: A Potter's Analysis
Greek Vase-Painting and the Origins of Visual Humor
Heroes: Mortals and Myths in Ancient Greece
Bibliography

General Surveys of Greek Art


The Study of Greek Art


Greek Black Figure Vase Painting


Beazley, John D. *The Development of Attic Black-Figure*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986. NK 4648 .B42 1986


The Iliad and the Trojan War


History, Society, and Archaeology of Ancient Greece and Athens


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 “Ilлад” and “Attic” 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:

- Mythology, Greek
- Vase-painting, Greek
- Vases, Greek
- Greece Civilization to 146 B.C.

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@mfah.org