Red-figure Hydria with scene of 3 Women & a Wader Bird
Attributed to the Painter of the Yale Oinochoe, Greek (Attic)
Greek, Classical, 470-460 BC
Terracotta: 13 3/4 x 13 1/4 x 12 in. (34.9 x 33.7 x 30.5 cm)
Museum purchase funded by General and Mrs. Maurice Hirsch

This domestic scene of three women, in the presence of a pet heron, was appropriate for a hydria, a vessel used by women to carry water from the fountain. The artist depicted the women, the drapery folds, and the heron with great naturalism. Herons were kept as pets and were also sacred to the Greek goddess Aphrodite.

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:
Art, Myth, and Culture: Greek Vases from Southern Collections
How to Read Greek Vases
From Myth to Life: Images of Women From the Classical World
Pandora: Women in Classical Greece
Women in Greek Myth
Bibliography

General Surveys of Greek Art


Greek Art, History and Culture


Greek Pottery


Ancient Mythology


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 “Greek hydria” and “Attic pottery” 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@mfah.org