

**Bard Graduate Center Research Guide:
Greek and Roman Material Culture**



The aim of this guide is to provide a starting point for research into the decorative arts and material culture of ancient Greece and Rome. It is by no means comprehensive and is intended to provide an overview of research sources available at the BGC, in the surrounding community, and online.

This guide was compiled by Roger Yerburgh at the Bard Graduate Center Library.

Images above, left to right: Bronze tripod stand, Greek, early 6th century B.C. (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997.145.1); Glass Gladiator Cup, Roman, ca. A.D. 50–80 (Metropolitan Museum of Art, 81.10.245).

Reference Sources for Greek and Roman Material Culture

The BGC's reference section, located on the second floor, holds many volumes dedicated to Greek and Roman history and mythology.

- **Atlas of Classical History** [G1033 .A833 2000](#)
- **Atlas of the Greek World** [DF77 .L43](#)
- **A Dictionary of Ancient Greek Civilisation** [DF16 .D513](#)
- **Dictionnaire des Antiquités Grecques et Romaines d'après les Textes et les Monuments (10 vol.)** [DE5 .D21](#)
- **Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore, and Symbols (3 Vol.)** [GR35 .J6](#)
- **A Dictionary of The Roman Empire** [DG270 .B86 1995](#)
- **The Genealogy of Greek Mythology : an Illustrated Family Tree of Greek Myth from the first Gods to the Founders of Rome** [BL785 .J36 2003](#)
- **La grande Enciclopedia di Roma** [DG804 .G67 2000](#)
- **The Grove encyclopedia of classical art and architecture (2 vol.)** [N5610 .G76 2007](#)
- **A Handbook to Life in Ancient Rome** [DG77 .A35 1994](#)
- **The Oxford Classical Dictionary** [DE5 .O9 1996](#)
- **The Oxford Guide to Classical Mythology in the Arts, 1300-1990s (2 vol.)** [NX650.M9 R45 1993](#)
- **The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome (7 vol.)** [DE5 .O95 2010](#)
- **Princeton Encyclopedia of Classical Sites (2 vol.)** [DE59 .P7 1976](#)

Glass perfume bottle



Roman, 1st Century A.D.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(74.51.49\)](#)

Books in the Collection

The BGC library holds numerous titles related to Greek and Roman Material Culture. The list below contains a selection of the BGC's holdings. For a more comprehensive list or for more specific topics, please consult the [library catalog](#).

Allison, P. *The Archaeology of Household Activities*. London: Routledge 1999. [CC72.4 .A736 1999](#)

Andreae, B. *The Art of Rome*. New York: Abrams, 1977. [N5760 .A4813 1977](#)

Arias, E. *A History of 1000 Years of Greek Vase Painting*. New York: Abrams, 1962. [NK4645 .A69](#)

Boardman, J. *Greek Art*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1985. [N5630 .B58 1985](#)

Humphrey, J. *Greek and Roman Technology: a Sourcebook*. New York: Routledge, 1998 [T16 .G74 1998](#)

Mertens, J. *The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Greece and Rome*: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1987. [N5603.N4 M485 1987](#)

Ogden, J. *Jewellery of the Ancient World*. New York: Rizzoli, 1982. [NK5555 .O53 1982](#)

Swift, E. *Style and Function in Roman Decoration*. Burlington: Ashgate, 2009. [NK680 .S95 2009](#)

Traulos, J. *A Pictorial Dictionary of Ancient Athens*. New York: Praeger, 1971. [NA280 .T68 1971](#)

Terracotta Wall Bracket



Cypriot, ca. 1050-950 B.C.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(74.51.550\)](#)

Periodicals

The BGC subscribes to many journals that include articles and scholarship on Greek and Roman Material Culture. The list below represents a selection of relevant holdings. To browse the periodicals collection please visit the [BGC's periodical tool](#).

[American Journal of Archaeology](#)

[Antiquity](#)

[Classical Antiquity](#)

[Classical Quarterly](#)

[Gnomon](#)

[Greece and Rome](#)

[Hesperia](#)

[Journal of Hellenic Studies](#)

[Journal of Roman Studies](#)

Terracotta Lamp



Terracotta Lamp, Roman-Cypriot

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(74.51.2173\)](#)

Image Resources

The BGC Shared Shelf image management account holds many images of Greek and Roman Material Culture chosen by members of the BGC community. Further image resources are available by searching the holdings of:

[ARTstor](#)

The ARTstor Digital Library is a nonprofit resource that provides over 1.5 million digital images in the arts, architecture, humanities, and sciences.

[The Beazley Archive](#)

The Beazley Archive contains the world's largest collection of photographs of ancient Greek painted pottery, as well as relevant books and offprints, extensive material on the history of gem-collecting, and thousands of other documents and photographs relating to classical archaeology and to Sir John Beazley. The archive's database contains 70,000 records and 30,000 images.

[Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum](#)

The Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum is made up of a series of high-quality catalogues of mostly ancient Greek painted pottery in collections around the world. The first fascicule appeared in 1922 and since then around 380 have appeared, illustrating more than 100,000 vases in 24 countries.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)

The Met has an extensive collection of high quality images of objects drawn from their Greek and Roman collections.

Bronze mirror support in the form of a nude girl



Greek, ca. 540-530 B.C.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(74.51.5680\)](#)

Databases

The following databases provide background on Greek and Roman history and mythology.

[Theoi Project](#)

The aim of the Theoi Project is to provide a comprehensive, free reference guide to the gods (*theoi*), spirits (*daimones*), fabulous creatures (*theres*) and heroes of ancient Greek mythology and religion.

[TOCS-IN](#)

Provides tables of contents to journals of interest to classicists. Includes some links to full text articles.

Cubiculum (bedroom)



From the Villa of P. Fannius Synistor at Boscoreale, Roman, 50-40 B.C.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(03.14.13a-g\)](#)

Primary Sources

The following sources offer primary sources relating to Greek and Roman history and culture.

[Perseus Project](#)

Tufts University presents a collection of resources that cover the literature, history and culture of the Greco-Roman world.

Bronze handle attachment in the form of a mask



Greek or Roman, 1st Century B.C.-1st Century A.D.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(1972.118.98\)](#)

Important Institutions

The following institutions hold important collections of Greek and Roman material culture. In most cases these institutions also house libraries and research centers that support scholarship.

[Art Institute of Chicago, Ancient and Byzantine Collection](#)

[British Museum](#), Greek and Roman Collections

[Cleveland Museum of Art, Ancient Near East, Greek, and Roman Art](#)

[Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Greek and Roman Collection](#)

[Metropolitan Museum of Art, Greek and Roman Collection](#)

Bronze mirror with a support in the form of a draped woman



Greek, mid 5th century B.C.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(1972.118.78\)](#)

Other sites for Greek and Roman material culture

[Ancient Greek Mythology](#)

A site devoted to the study of Ancient Greek Mythology. It aims to provide reliable material, and links to reliable third-party sites. Created and maintained by Anthony Bulloch. Dept. of Classics, University of California, Berkeley.

[Diotima](#)

Provides links to materials for the study of women and gender in the ancient world.

[Electronic Resources for Classicists: The second Generation](#)

A collection of direct links to collections of images, electronic publications, sites devoted classics.

[Rassegna degli Strumenti Informatici per lo Studio dell'Antichità Classica](#)

A survey of digital resources on the classical world.

Faience polyhedron inscribed with letters of the Greek alphabet



Roman, 2nd-3rd century A.D.

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(37.11.3\)](#)