

Chrysler Museum Report
By Michelle Fischer



Black-Figure Vessel (Lekythos)

<https://chrysler.emuseum.com/objects/24527/blackfigure-vessel-lekythos?ctx=6ba09a22-a9b7-464a-96c9-d0acf100820a&idx=5>

The black-figure vessel, or Lekythos, pictured above is an example of Greek, Hellenic pottery dating back to between 520 and 510 B. C. The clay vessel pictures a Greek soldier holding a spear and shield while standing in front of a four-horse chariot with a woman charioteer in a gown riding within it. A second soldier stands behind the chariot. This piece represents the black-figure phase of Greek, Hellenic art which was popular before the red-figure phase was mastered around 530 to 520 B.C. and which focused more on everyday life activities rather than the proud, militaristic or godly figures of previous art. The Hellenic qualities are obvious due to the subjects and how the subjects are treated. This vessel depicts two proud, impassive soldiers and a woman chariot driver with a whip. By having the figures show no emotion or any movement represents the pride the Greek's had in facing any obstacle in a manly way by showing no fear or emotion, although this is also due to the limitations of black-figure pottery. The stances of the figures lacks any signs of movement, which became more common during the Hellenistic Age, to depict the preparedness of the soldiers and charioteer to fight any obstacles in their way to impress their society to earn a reputation as being strong and heroic in the face of danger and possibly death. The woman is depicted in a gown, as was common during this age of Greek art. Women would not often appear nude in art until the Hellenistic Age. Additionally, women did not often appear in art until the black-figure and red-figure phases of art unless it was a goddess. Overall, this vessel is an excellent representation of Greek, Hellenic, black-figure art from the late 6th century B. C.