



Type: Athenian white-ground lekythos

Findspot: Unknown

Chronology: c.450-440 BC

Actual location: Shefton Gallery, Great North Museum

Reference: Oakley, J. H. (1997) The Achilles Painter. Mainz. (Pl. 103C/D)

Weblink: <https://collectionssearch.museums.org.uk/#details=ecatalogue.497835>

This white-ground lekythos was used as a container for perfumed oil as part of the funerary ritual. These vessels are often found in graves. The surface is badly damaged. The image shows two women, one seated the other standing. The seated woman extends her hand towards the standing woman who offers a plemochoe (a vessel associated with marriage and death). The standing woman wears an unusual sleeved, patterned outfit. This could indicate that the figure is a foreign slave, but foreign clothing was also adopted by Athenian citizens.

A sakkos (hair net) and oinochae (jug) hang from the upper border behind the standing woman.

MY RESEARCH

How did the use of pinakia ensure members of the jury could not be bribed?
What does this object tell us about the functioning of Athenian democracy?