



Type: Attic marble gravestone

Chronology: 530 BC

Findspot: Attica

Actual location: Metropolitan Museum, Accession Number: 11.185a–c, f, g

Website: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/248500>

The stele is inscribed on the base and dedicated to Megakles from his father and his mother. It is made of several fragments, scattered in different museums.

The youth on the shaft is carrying an oil flask (aryballos). His nakedness and the presence of the oil flask refer to the athletic education of the boy, an important aspect of a young male education in archaic Attica. The boy also holds a pomegranate, a fruit that was commonly associated to fecundity or to death in Greek mythology. A young girl is represented next to the boy but with a smaller size, indicating her younger age.

You may want to check the role of pomegranates in the myth of Persephone going to live in the underworld and look further into the historical interpretation of the stele (<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/248500>).

MY RESEARCH

How far can visual culture offer an understanding of the role of death in defining status and identity of an individual in Greek society?