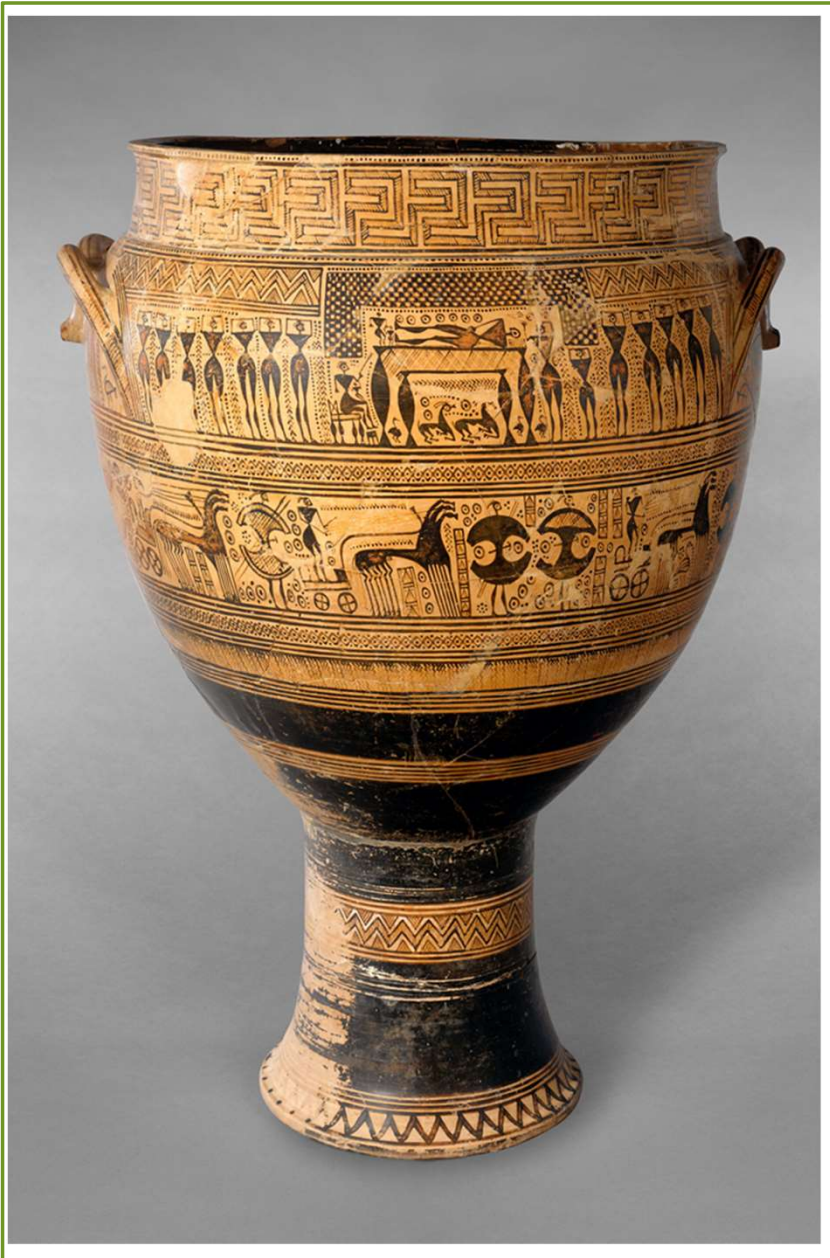


5.3 THOUGHT AND BELIEF – DEATH



Type: Attic Terracotta krater
Chronology: 750–735 B.C.
Findspot: Attica
Actual location: Metropolitan Museum, Accession Number: 14.130.14
Website: <https://www.metmuseum.org/toah/works-of-art/14.130.14/>

This monumental krater (108.3 cm high) was used as a grave marker on a Greek burial of the Geometric period (ca. 900-700 BC). Such markers were later replaced by stone sculptures in the Archaic period.

The scene is divided in two horizontal bands: on the top the deceased lies on a bier and is surrounded by members of his household and by people raising their hands over their heads in an act of mourning.

The band below shows a procession of chariots and foot soldiers. Interestingly, the way the deceased is honoured here is by referring to the past Bronze Age world, when hourglass shields and chariots had a role in war that by the 8th century had already disappeared.

You may want to research more on the society that produced Geometric pottery in Attica and Athens and on why images such as those represented on the krater were deemed appropriate in a funerary context.

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?