

TEACHERS' NOTES ON GREEK HANDLING ITEMS

Schools Liaison Dept



About this pack

This pack contains general information about the items handled in a teaching session at the Museum and Art Gallery. It is normally given to teachers after the handling session, for use as a basis for follow up work in school.

The digital photographs can be used to remind children of the artefacts they have handled in the museum. They can also form the basis of further research by the children - comparing with information they can find in text books or on CD ROM.

The text is intended for the teacher's own use but could be adapted for children if required.

This pack is available in colour as an Adobe Acrobat file from the Schools Liaison Website <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/museum/index.htm>

COINS IN THE HANDLING COLLECTION

- Silver DEKADRACHM of Syracuse.

Worth 10 drachmai. (405-380 B.C.)

The original has dyes cut by EUAINETOS.

On the front is probably the head of the nymph Artemis-Arethusa.

There are dolphins around the edge.

The word **YPAKO I N** appears on the coin, meaning 'Of the Syracusians.'

On the rear is a four-horse chariot. The charioteer is crowned with a wreath by **NIKE**, which means 'victory.' Below the ground armour and weapons can be seen.



- **Silver TETRADRACHM.**

Worth 4 drachmai. From the reign of King Antigonos 'Gonatas' of Macedon. (277-239 B.C.) 'Gonatas' is a nickname, relating to knees, perhaps 'knock-kneed' or 'knee-cap protector,' referring to a piece of armour.

On the front is a Macedonian shield with a bust of PAN, clearly showing goat-horns.

On the rear is ATHENA, holding a spear and a shield. To the left is a small helmet with a crest, to the right is a monogram, W (probably AH=LE.)

BA IAE ANTI TONOI_(of King Antigonos.)



OTHER ARTEFACTS IN THE HANDLING COLLECTION



- **Terracotta figure of a bull.**

Hellenistic Greek, 1st/2nd/3rd century B.C.

The horns have been lost, but the build suggests a bull, as does the excessive dewlap.

It was made in a two-part mould, each half made separately, then joined together. There is a crack along this joint.

The white areas are traces of white slip. Traces of red paint can be seen on the head.

- **Mirror.**

This would have been shiny when new. It was kept polished to reflect well. Probably bronze. Other mirrors were made from copper.



- **Sling bullet.**

Hellenistic Greek, 1st/2nd/3rd century B.C.

These were mass-produced in a mould. The lines around the edge are where the two halves of the mould joined.

The inscription includes the letter A.

Bullets usually carried witty slogans, like 'A present from _____,' or even perhaps a general's name. Made from lead.

- **Lamp.**

From Cyprus, 2nd or early 1st century B.C.

This lamp would have been wheel-made, with a hole cut through the side and a nozzle stuck on.

The nozzle's blackening was caused by burning.

This lamp has a rather enclosed body, which helped to stop the oil evaporating and kept mice and insects out of it.



- **Lamp.**

Athenian, 5th century B.C.

This lamp is earlier than the previous artefact -the body is shallower and more open.

The hole through the centre allowed the lamp to be put on a lamp-stand.

It has two nozzles, so it could be used to burn two wicks at once. Some ancient lamps are known to have had as many as several hundred wicks.

- **Terracotta head.**

3rd century B.C., made at Poseidonia/Paestrum, a Greek city in Southern Italy.

The face on this woman's head was made in a mould, then details were added, i.e., the large discs of clay at the ears the diadem across the front of the head.

The woman has an elaborate hairstyle.

The head is broken from a fuller length figure and traces of red paint can be detected.

The original white slip is visible and the head was possibly found at Pompeii.



- **Figurine fragment.**

This figurine is wearing a diadem or headdress and has an interesting hairstyle.

It was made in a mould and the white deposit is modern plaster. The broken edge has been ground flat, for mounting on a modern base.

- **Terracotta brazier fragment.**

2nd century B.C.

The bearded head was one of three, equidistantly spaced around the top of a terracotta brazier, which acted as supports to vessels placed on top.



- **Stone hand.**

This is a right hand, made from marble.
The little finger is missing and the hand holds an unknown object.

- **Terracotta.**

6th-5th century B.C.

This is in the shape of a tortoise, possibly a creature native to Northern Greece.

The head is broken, but traces of white slip and dark brown paint are visible.



- **Jug.**

Greek, from Southern Italy, 4th century B.C.

This small jug, an **OINOCHOE**, has basic decoration.

The 'red-figure' style shows the head of a woman wearing a headdress of some sort.

'Red-figure' style was a red background covered with black, except for a panel for the decoration. This was painted in, using the paint to give the details. 'Black-figure' style was earlier than 'red-figure.' The decoration was painted as blocks of colour on the red background and details were made by incising lines through the black, to reveal the red.

'Black paint' or 'black glaze' was actually very runny clay solution, the colours formed by controlling the firing.

There is a **TREFOIL** mouth to the jug, made by pinching in the rim of a wheel-thrown pot.



- **Dish.**

End of the 4th century B.C.

This dish was originally covered by black glaze.

The decoration was produced by a mixture of three methods:

1. The palmettes (floral motifs) were impressed using a stamp, not properly pushed onto the unfired pot each time.
2. The S-shaped design has been made by using a roller with this design cut on it, in reverse. (Like a pastry cutter.)
3. Freehand lines were drawn to join the palmettes.

