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MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*
Hirsch Library Research Guide



Grave Stele for a Woman

Unknown Greek

Greek, Classical, 367-334 BC

Marble, Overall: 20 x 17 1/2 x 3 3/4in. (50.8 x 44.5 x 9.5cm)

Museum purchase funded by Miss Annette Finnigan

This stele fragment depicts a woman and servant holding her infant. It is unclear if the deceased is mother, child, or both, given the dangers of childbirth in the ancient world.

Online Resources:

[Hirsch Library Online Catalog](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum of Art Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History](#)

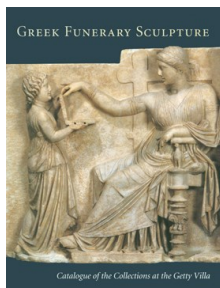
Articles: (full-text access available on-site; off-site access available through your school library or Houston Public Library)

[Kosmopoulou, Angeliki. " 'Working Women': Female Professionals on Classical Attic Gravestones." *The Annual of the British School at Athens* 96 \(2001\): 281-319.](#)

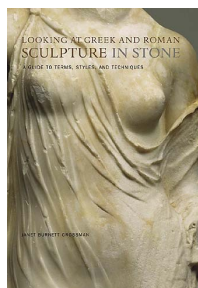
[Wassermann, Felix M. "Serenity and Repose: Life and Death on Attic Tombstones." *The Classical Journal* 64, no. 5 \(1969\): 193-202.](#)

[Ridgway, Brunilde S. "Ancient Greek Women and Art: The Material Evidence." *American Journal of Archaeology* 91, no. 3 \(1987\): 399-409.](#)

Print Resources:



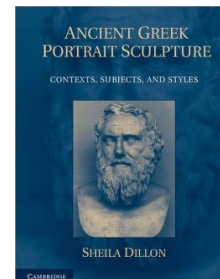
[Greek Funerary Sculpture](#)



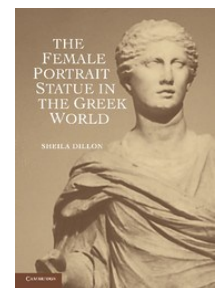
[Looking at Greek and Roman Sculpture in Stone](#)



[Women in Ancient Greece](#)



[Ancient Greek Portrait Sculpture: Contexts, Subjects, and Styles](#)



[The Female Portrait Statue in the Greek World](#)

Bibliography

Object Specific Information

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[Reeder, Ellen D., and Sarah C. Humphreys. *Pandora: Women in Classical Greece*. Baltimore: Trustees of the Walters Art Gallery, 1995. N 5635 .P3 1995 Reserve](#)

General Surveys of Greek Art

[Gardner, Helen, Fred Kleiner, and Christin J. Mamiya. *Gardner's Art Through the Ages*. 12th ed. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2005. N 5300 .G25 2005 Ref.](#)

[Janson, H. W., and Penelope J. E. Davies. *Janson's History of Art: The Western Tradition*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. N 5300 .J3 2007](#)

[Stokstad, Marilyn, and David A. Brinkley. *Art History*. 3rd ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008. N 5300 .S923 2008 Ref.](#)

[Woodford, Susan. *An Introduction to Greek Art*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986. NB 90 .W66 1986](#)

Grave Stele in Greece

[Boardman, John. *Greek Sculpture: The Classical Period: A Handbook*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 1995. NB 94 .B62 1995 Ref.](#)

[Grossman, Janet B. *Greek Funerary Sculpture: Catalogues of the Collections at the Getty Villa*. Malibu: J. Paul Getty Museum, 2001. NB 1803 .G74 G76 2001](#)

[Kaltsas, Nikolaos. *Sculpture in the National Archaeological Museum, Athens*. Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Museum, 2002. NB 87 .A75 K35 2003](#)

[Richter, Gisela Marie Augusta. *The Archaic Gravestones of Attica*. New York: Phaidon Publishers, 1961. NB 1370 .R5](#)

Greek Sculpture

[Charbonneau, Jean, Roland Martin, and François Villard. *Classical Greek Art \(480-330 B.C.\)*. New York: G. Braziller, 1972. N 5630 .C4613 1972b](#)

[Cook, Robert M. *Greek Art: Its Development, Character, and Influence*. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1973. N 5630 .C73 1973](#)

[Pollitt, Jerome J. *Art and Experience in Classical Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972. N 5630 .P54 1972 Ref.](#)

[Stewart, Andrew F. *Greek Sculpture: An Exploration*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990. NB 990 .S74 1990 Ref.](#)

Classical Greece

[Bérard, Claude. *A City of Images: Iconography and Society in Ancient Greece*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989. DF 275 .C3613 1989 Reserve](#)

[Bowra, Cecil M. *The Greek Experience*. New York: Praeger, 1969. DF 77 .B73 1969](#)

This reference guide is just the tip of the iceberg on helpful resources in the library's holdings. Many of the suggested resources above have their own bibliographies. Each of these may lead you to another resource that would also be helpful in your research here in the museum or in another library. To find additional resources, use keywords such as "grave stele" and "stone relief" in the online catalog and in periodical indexes. Once you find a few relevant titles, pay attention to the subject headings to identify similar materials. Examples of useful subject headings are:

Sepulchral monuments--Greece
Sculpture, Greece
Classicism in art--Greece
Sculpture, Ancient Greece

For guidelines about writing it may be helpful to look at Sylvan Barnet's *A Short Guide to Writing about Art*, which includes tips for looking, reading, and writing about art. Ask for it at the reference desk. At every stage of your work, please allow the library staff to help you. Contact us at 713-639-7325 or hirsch@mfah.org