The installation displays a selection of items from the small collection of Greek and Roman artifacts held by the College’s Art Collection. Though the exact provenance, or source, for each item is usually unknown, most probably came to the College as gifts from its Classics professors. Some came as gifts from those teachers’ students. Over the years they have been gradually transferred from the Classics Department to the care of the Art Collection to ensure their safekeeping. In addition to the authentic items shown in the cases, on the walls are prints and plaster casts. These, all of which date from the early 20th century, were made as teaching aids.

The plaster casts replicate portions of the frieze from the Parthenon, a great temple dedicated to Athena, goddess of wisdom, in Athens, Greece. P. P. Caproni and Brother Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts, a firm that specialized in such items, made the casts. Athena, leaning on her staff, is shown in the vertical panel to the far left. The other panels depict a procession of horses and soldiers.

The framed prints are chromolithographs, a relatively inexpensive printmaking method used for commercial purposes at the time. They were designed in Germany and printed in the 1910s. The images of ancient Greek and Roman costumes and architectural elements were distributed by a Chicago, Illinois, firm—A.J. Nystrom and Company—that specialized in maps, charts, globes, and other illustrations for younger schoolchildren.

Kathleen Thomas ’10 and Sarah Strapp ’10 curated this display in the fall semester of 2009. Nancy McDearmon facilitated the installation, assisted by Kate Gorman ’11 and Sandi Prentice ’10.
GREEK ARTIFACTS

1. Guttus (Lamp Filler)
   ca. 4th century BCE
   ceramic, wheel-thrown
   This appears to be a vessel designed for putting oil in lamps. Alternatively, it may be an infant’s feeding bottle. This is typical shape and size for most feeders.
   CL.C.018

2. Footed Bowl
   3rd-2nd century BCE
   ceramic, blackware
   The piece, perhaps meant to be used to serve food, is decorated with vines as well as dots and incised circles.
   CL.C.023

3. Skyphos (Drinking Cup with Handles)
   ca. 7th century BCE, Proto-Corinthian
   ceramic
   Gift of Emily Helen Dutton, professor of Classical Studies and dean of the College emerita
   CL.C.034

4. Pyxis (Lidded Container)
   ca. 725-640 BCE, Proto-Corinthian, probably southern Italy
   ceramic, whiteware
   This is a container that was often used to hold ladies’ toiletry items.
   CL.C.027.a, b

5. Horse and Rider Figurine
   ca. 10th-8th century BCE
   ceramic, Geometric style, white ground
   This may have been a child’s toy or could have been left as an offering at a shrine or gravesite.
   CL.C.028

6. Aryballos (Small Jug)
   6th century BCE, Corinthian
   The decoration depicts three foot soldiers (hoplites) with round, red shields.
   CL.C.029
7.
Skyphos (Drinking Cup with Handles)
ca. 7th-6th century BCE, Proto-Corinthian, Aegina, Greece
ceramic
This is a miniature version of a drinking cup. Such miniatures would have been used as offerings at sanctuaries and shrines. The scene painted on the body of the cup shows a rabbit chased by three dogs.
CL.C.033

8.
Bucchero (Vase or Jug with Handles)
7th century BCE, Etruscan
ceramic, blackware
Gift of Kenneth Wright, professor of Classical Studies emeritus
CL.C.026

9.
Oinochoe (Small Pitcher)
ca. 8th century BCE
ceramic
CL.C.035

10.
Alabastron (Perfume Bottle)
ca. 7th century BCE, Corinthian
This is a small container for scented oil or other liquids. It is decorated with a pair of geese. These birds were considered an emblem of Hera, wife of Zeus, the most powerful god in the Greek pantheon.
CL.C.036

11.
Lekythos (Libation Vessel)
ca. 450 BCE, Attic style
ceramic, white ground
The lekythos is a slender, one-handed vessel used for making offerings of wine to the gods. The decoration shows a woman holding a similar piece and pouring liquid from her other hand. Because of its fragile nature, vessels with white ground decoration would have been reserved for special occasions and ceremonies.
CL.C.044
12. Lekythos (Libation Vessel)
ca. 5th-4th century BCE
ceramic, blackware
The body of the vessel shows a head of Hermes, messenger of the Greek gods and guide to the Underworld. Notes in the Art Collection archives indicate that this was found during excavations for the subway in Athens.
Gift of Emily Helen Dutton, professor of Classical Studies and dean of the College emerita
CL.C.045

13. Stater with an Amphora and a Shield (Thebes, Boeotia, Greece)
ca. 4th century BCE
¾ inch, silver
CL.N.003

The face of the coin shows a two-handed amphora. The reverse bears a shield. These motifs are typical of coins minted in Boeotia under a federal system. Unlike other Greek city-states, the cities of Boeotia—dominated by Thebes—issued common currency overseen by a board of magistrates. On either side of the amphora on this coin can be seen the inscription TIMI, an abbreviation for the name of the authorizing magistrate (whose full name remains unknown).

14. Tetradrachm of Alexander the Great with a Profile of Herakles in a Lion Skin and Zeus on a Throne (Amphipolis, Macedonia, Greece)
ca. 4th century BCE
15/16 inch, silver
CL.N.013

The face of this coin shows the hero Herakles wearing the signature lion skin on his head. The reverse shows the god Zeus enthroned. The reverse also bears an inscription identifying the ruler Alexander the Great.
15. Tetradrachm of a Ptolemaic Ruler with a Profile of a Woman and an Eagle (Egypt)
c. 2nd century BCE
15/16 inch, bronze
CL.N.020

This coin likely dates from the reign of one of the Ptolemys, V through VIII. The woman’s head is probably meant to represent Cleopatra I in the guise of the goddess Isis. The reverse, which is damaged, probably bore an image of an eagle.

ROMAN ARTIFACTS

16. Heads of a God and Goddess
ca. 3rd-1st century BCE, Cosa, Italy
ceramic
These are from small votive figurines used for ceremonial purposes. They were made in molds and would have been attached to a ceramic body.
CL.C.017.1; CL.C.017.2

17. Lamp
2nd-3rd century CE
ceramic
This is a mold-made lamp showing Nike, the allegorical figure of victory. She holds her usual attributes, a wreath of laurel leaves and a palm frond.
Gift of R.V.D. Magoffin
CL.C.022

18. Glass Bottles
c. 1st century BCE-1st century CE, Ephesus, Turkey
blown glass
These bottles come from Asia Minor. The iridescent appearance is due to aging. The metal wire on the smallest bottle is not original to the piece.
Gift of Emily Braswell, Class of 1928
CL.G.015.1; CL.G.015.2; CL.G.014
19. Stylus
unknown date
ivory
This is a writing implement, similar to a modern-day pen or pencil. It was used to write in wet clay or soft wax on tablets.
CL.O0.001

20. Ear Spoon and Nail File
unknown date
iron
This would have been used for personal grooming.
CL.M.004

21. Maritime Carpentry Spike
early 1st century CE
iron
This is a spike used in the construction of one of Emperor Caligula’s lavish barges. Submerged in the volcanic Lake Nemi, south of Rome, for many centuries, the barges were retrieved by dictator Benito Mussolini in the 1930s. He constructed a museum to house them at the lake. As the Nazis retreated from Rome to escape the Allies’ advance in World War II, the retreating German army burned the museum and its barges May 31, 1944. The donor may have taken this spike from that site ca. 1944-1945. Removal of cultural items from their country of origin during wartime is no longer considered acceptable museum practice under international law.
Gift of M.L.L. Stohlman
CL.M.005.1

22. Bell and Bird Figurines
unknown date
bronze
These may have been used to decorate a wooden staff.
CL.M.006.1; CL.M.006.2

23. Pitcher
style of the 1st century CE, Pompeii
bronze
Gift of Susan McAllister, Class of 1930
CL.M.007
24. Fibula
7th century BCE, Etruscan bronze
This is a large pin or clasp used to secure heavy garments such as a cape or stole.
CL.M.010.a, b, c

25. Key and Key Ring
unknown date
bronze
The key was probably for a small box or case. Note that the key ring, a simple spiral of metal, is very similar to rings used today.
CL.M.012.a, b

29. Head of a Woman
unknown date
marble
This is probably a portrait of an individual and could have been used in the context of a funeral or a memorial shrine. The holes in the top of the head would have originally held ornaments, for example a diadem, for her hairstyle.
CL.R.008

26. Denarius of Augustus with a Profile of a Man and Two Figures with Implements of Sacrifice (Rome)
2-1 BCE
¾ inch, silver
CL.N.028

The obverse face of this coin reads: CAESAR AUGUSTUS PATER PATRIAE. The Roman senate conferred the official title “father of the country” on the emperor Augustus (Octavian) in 2 BCE. The reverse of this coin, like several others in this selection, features implements used in religious rites. Above the two small figures are a jug and a lituus (the augur’s staff) and each figure appears to hold upright a patera (libation bowl; these shallow, wide, handle-less bowls are typically pictured so that the concave knob on the bottom, used instead of a handle, is visible).
27. Denarius of Augustus with a Profile of a Man and the Curia Julia (Rome)
2-1 BCE
¾ inch, silver
CL.N.031

The building pictured on the reverse of this coin is the Curia Julia, the meeting place of the Roman senate. The third such building of its kind, it was constructed at the direction of Julius Caesar. It was under construction when Caesar was assassinated in 44 BCE. The building was finished in about 29 BCE under the administration of his successor, Augustus (Octavian).

28. Denarius of Julia Avita Mamaea with a Profile of Julia Avita Mamaea and the Goddess Venus Holding an Infant (Rome)
222-235 CE
¾ inch, silver
CL.N.039

Julia Avita Mamaea, a Syrian of noble birth, served as regent for her son, the Roman emperor Severus Alexander. They were murdered together by their own disaffected troops while on campaign in Germany in 235. Their deaths ushered in decades of turmoil and violence. The obverse appears to bear the figure of the goddess Venus, holding a staff in one hand and an infant, possibly meant to be her offspring Cupid, in the other.