



# The Techniques of Painted Attic Pottery

*Joseph Veach Noble*

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The greatest pottery in ancient European art was produced in Athens and the surrounding region, called Attica. These masterpieces of ceramic art are the product of an inspired collaboration between potter and painter. Unsurpassed in boldness and grace of form, the vases were shaped by potters who were masters of sculptural design. Equally remarkable for their pictorial design, the vases were painted by artists whose dynamic figure drawings have remained a powerful influence on Western art from before the Age of Pericles to Picasso. Published in cooperation with The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, *The Techniques of Painted Attic Pottery* is the authoritative work on the methods of the ancient Athenian potters and vase-painters. The author is Joseph Veach Noble, Operating Administrator of The Metropolitan Museum, ceramic archaeologist, and a skilled ceramic craftsman who has reproduced the working methods - and the products - of the Attic potters in his own workshop. The author begins by describing all the major types of Attic vases - amphora, hydria, krater, kylix, et. - and how each shape was formed by ancient potters. Mr. Noble then proceeds to analyze the famous Greek black glaze, which has fascinated and baffled ceramists and scholars alike. He explains how the ancient vase-painters applied their colors, as well as the celebrated Attic relief line. These techniques are dramatically illustrated in a detailed series of demonstration photographs in which an ancient kylix (drinking cup) is re-created step by step. Mr. Noble concludes with a precise description of the firing of Attic pottery.



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