Elżbieta Olechowska, "Entry on: Shattered Vase [Stłuczona czara] by Anna M. Komornicka", peer-reviewed by Katarzyna Marciniak. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1527. Entry version as of November 05, 2026.

Anna M. Komornicka

Shattered Vase [Stłuczona czara]

Poland (1972)

TAGS: Anagnorisis Ancient Slavery Athens Pottery / Vases



Cover of the 1975 edition, published by WSiP. Courtesy of the publisher.

General information	
Title of the work	Shattered Vase [Stłuczona czara]
Country of the First Edition	Poland
Country/countries of popularity	Poland
Original Language	Polish
First Edition Date	1972
First Edition Details	Anna M. Komornicka, *Stłuczona czara*, ill. Jerzy Treutler. Warszawa: Państwowe Zakłady Wydawnictw Szkolnych, 1972, 33 pp.
Genre	Short stories
Target Audience	Children
Author of the Entry	Elżbieta Olechowska, University of Warsaw, elzbieta.olechowska@gmail.com
Peer-reviewer of the Entry	Katarzyna Marciniak, University of Warsaw, kamar@al.uw.edu.pl

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Creators



Photograph courtesy of the Author.

Anna M. Komornicka , 1920 - 2018
(Author)

Classical philologist, specialized in Greek comedy and archaic lyric poetry; her research covered also texts of the Greek Fathers, reception of the Bible, genesis and evolution of concepts in ancient literature; translator of Greek and Roman, as well as contemporary literature into Polish; Editor-in-Chief of the classical journal "Meander"; author of books and radio-plays inspired by Antiquity for children and adolescents. Honorary Member of the Scientific Committee on Ancient Culture of the Polish Academy of Sciences (KNoKA PAN).

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Additional information

Summary

Based on: Katarzyna Marciniak, Elżbieta Olechowska, Joanna Kłos, Michał Kucharski (eds.), *Polish Literature for Children & Young Adults Inspired by Classical Antiquity: A Catalogue* (accessed: June 11, 2021), Faculty of "Artes Liberales", Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2013, 444 pp.

Athens during the times of Socrates. Potter Blepyros dreams that his son Leagros lost at sea fifteen years earlier asks him to make a vase decorated with a painted boy running after a hare, the same Leagros happened to break in the past. A ship arrives in the port of Piraeus carrying slaves, among them, Chryzos, a youth with golden hair. Kinesias, Blepyros younger son, visits the port with a friend; upon hearing the youth sing a Greek song, he stops and talks to him about the beautiful city of Athens. Someone wants to buy Chryzos to work in the mines but Kinesias with his friend convince his uncle Sophron met by chance to pay a bond to the slave merchant and take Chryzos on trial as an apprentice for Blepyros. On the way to Athens, the boys show interesting places and buildings to Chryzos. At the potter's, Chryzos recognizes the vase with the running hare he remembers from his childhood, the song he sang in the port turns out to be the same Kinesias' mother Kleonike sang to his first son lost fifteen years earlier. Chryzos proves to be Leagros, Kinesias' brother and Blepyros' son.

Analysis

The story, set in 5th century B.C. Athens, presents scenes from everyday life of this period: topography, arts, material culture (pottery, types and decorations), family life, social realities (slavery). The theme of recognition (*anagnorisis*) based on tokens, in this case the painting and the song.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts

Anagnorisis Ancient Slavery Athens Pottery / Vases

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Further Reading

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