

	<p>Object: Nereid on Hippocamp</p> <p>Museum: Museum August Kestner Trammplatz 3 30159 Hannover (0511) 168-42730 museen- kulturgeschichte@hannover- stadt.de</p> <p>Collection: Ancient Cultures, Architectural terracottas</p> <p>Inventory number: 1367</p>
--	---

Description

Anyone who believes that the Little Mermaid from Hans-Christian Andersen's fairy tale of the same name is the first female hybrid creature to roam the seas in literary stories is mistaken. In Greek mythology, sea nymphs, the Nereids, were already cavorting in the waters of the Mediterranean. However, they rarely wear fish tails like the 'modern' mermaids, but they like to ride hippocamps, the sea horses.

The popularity and importance of the Nereids, who were often asked by seafarers for good conduct, is attested to by the many representations in various genres of ancient art, such as on this clay relief. The complete motif of this relief type shows two Nereids on sea horses, each accompanied by an Eros. A third, flying Eros with a parasol in his hand is in the space between the first two. (AVS)

Former Collection August Kestner, Rome

Detailed description

Nereide auf einem Seepferd (Hippocamp) nach rechts reitend. In der erhobenen rechten Hand hält sie über dem Kopf den aufgebauschten Schleier. Mit der linken Hand umfasst sie den Hals des Seepferds. Rechts davon entfliegt ein Erot, dessen Beine noch zu erkennen sind. - Oberer Abschluss: Flachband, Eierstab.

Basic data

Material/Technique:

Clay / from the mould

Measurements:

Height: 19.5 cm, width: 23.5 cm

Events

Created	When	1. century CE
	Who	
	Where	
Collected	When	
	Who	August Kestner (1777-1853)
	Where	Rome
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Mediterranean Sea
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	nereid
	Where	

Keywords

- Campana reliefs
- Mermaid

Literature

- Rohden, Hermann von - Winnefeld, Hermann (1911): Die antiken Terrakotten, Bd. 4,1. Architektonische römische Tonreliefs der Kaiserzeit. Berlin, 29 Taf. LXXXVIII,2
- Siebert, Anne Viola (2011): Geschichte(n) in Ton. Römische Architekturterrakotten. Regensburg, 99 Nr. 52 Abb. 132