Creative Freedom A Perspective from Ancient Rome

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Glass perfume bottle, Ist century CE height: 9.2cm depth: 4.6cm (rim 1.6cm)
Metropolitan Museum, New York, 17.194.164







Hylke de Boer



Friederike Brunzema



Laura Burema



David Lettink



Aymon Cutileiro



FACERE





Roman Making and its Meanings: Representations of Manual Creation in the Literature and Art of Imperial Rome



An ancient poem about glassblowing



P. Oxy. L.3536



An ancient poem about glassblowing



... building for men ...

He first heated the very point (of the iron), then snatched from nearby an idle lump of (glass?), (which he) expertly laid inside the hollow furnace. As it tasted the strong fire, the crystal melted like wax under the blows of Hephaestus. And as he blew in the liquid air from his mouth, the man modulated its breath, as if trying out the pleasurable art of the pipe. The glass received ... arched (into a circle?) in front of him, taking the shape of a sphere. It would then receive another impulse of divine (breath?), for repeatedly he would blow air in, whirling it like a shepherd does with his crook ...





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Collaborating with (the god of) fire



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Glassblower as divine creator



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Glassblowing compared to flute-playing



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Terracotta oil lamp from Asseria (Dalmatia), ca. 70 CE. Archaeological Museum Split, Fc 1094-30





glassblower



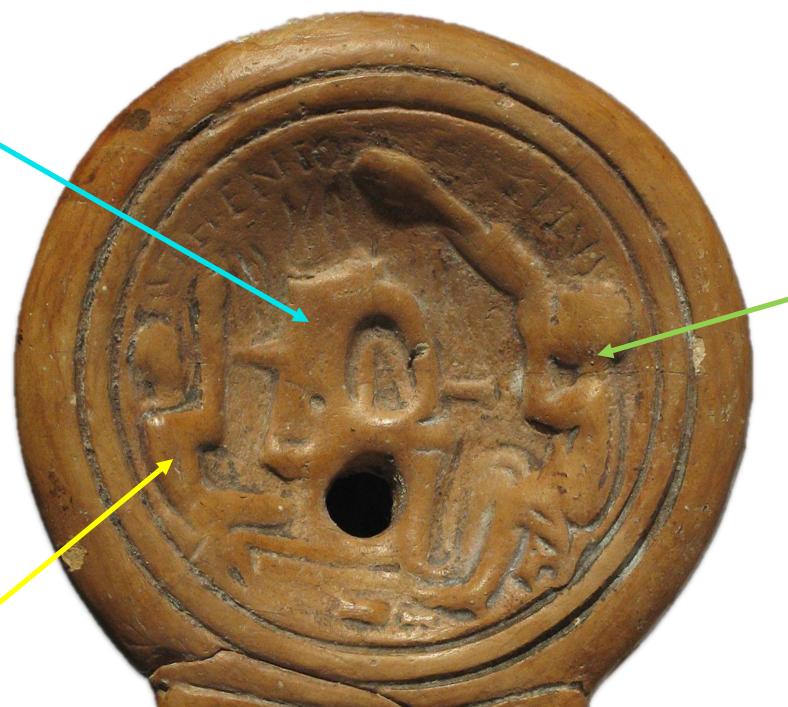
furnace



glassblower



furnace



glassblower

colleague (working the bellows?)



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