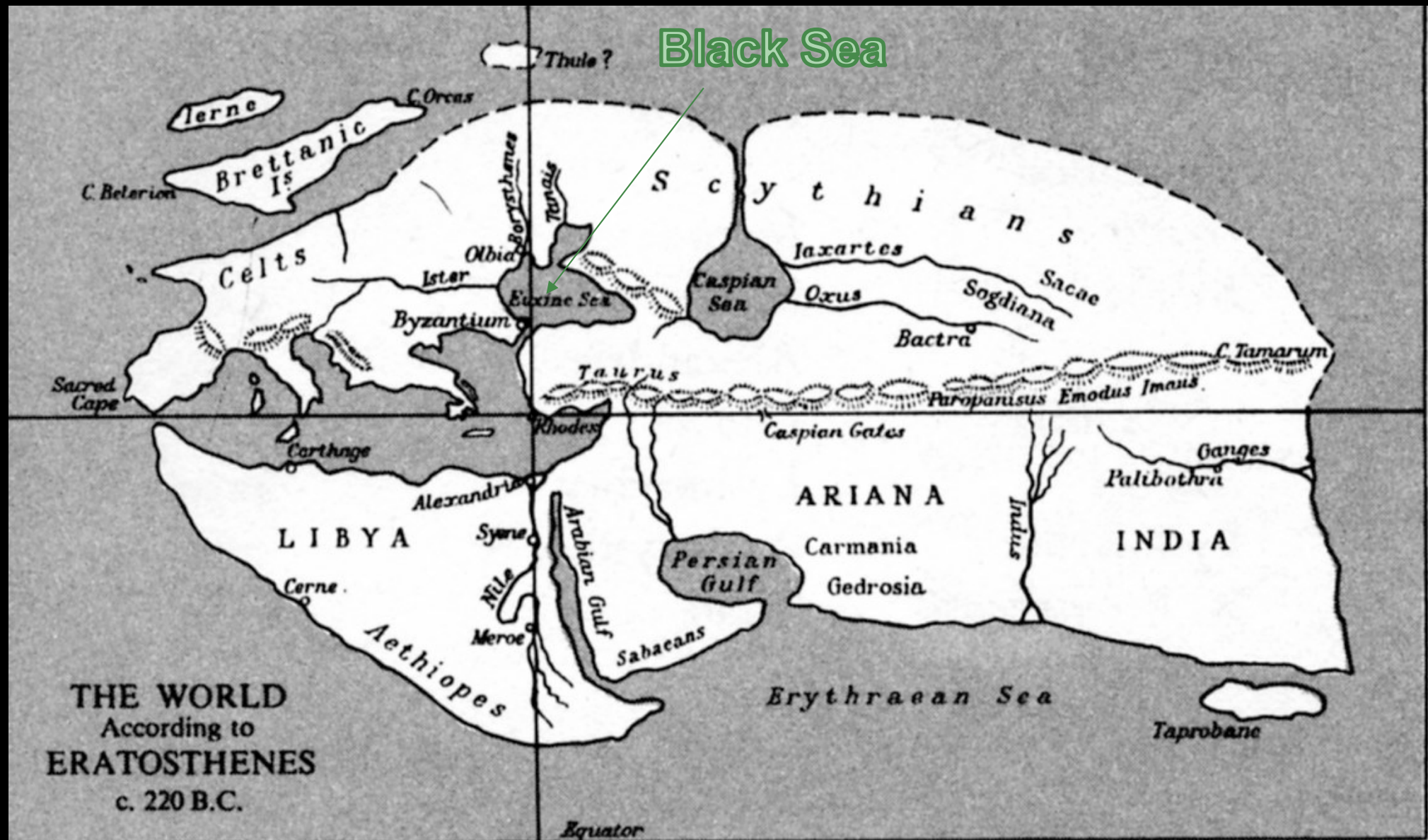


Text and Image: Narration; Reading Images

September 8, 2026

Today's Agenda

- Addition (Maps)
- Adopting an Approach
- Olympian Attributes and Identities
- Problems with 'Reading' Images
 - Goddess or Woman? (Wood's paper)
- Spaces for Figural Decoration, including Myths
- Time permitted, Citations continued



Simplified Reconstruction of Eratosthenes' Map of the oikumene.



Adopting an Approach

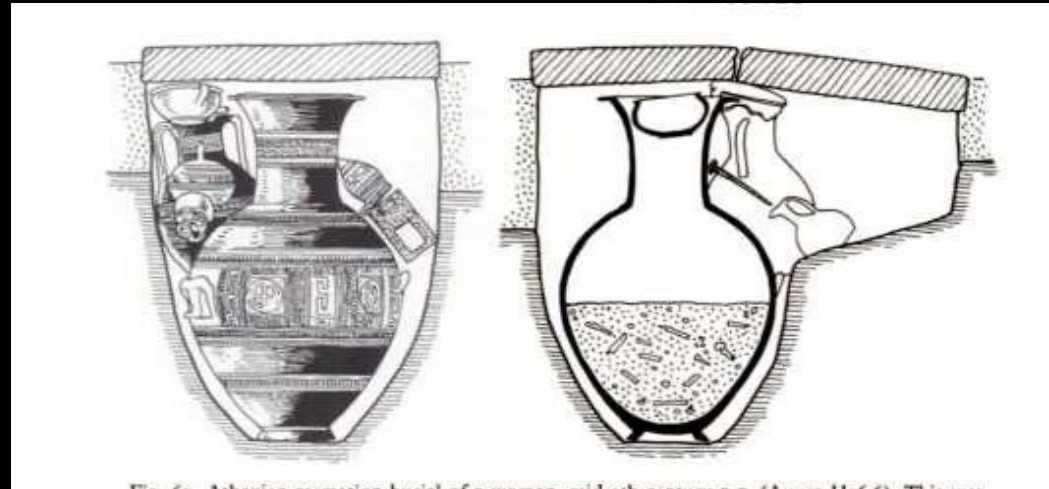
- Birth of Figural Image
- Identification
 - Naming
 - Unique and/or peculiar character
 - Strikingly unusual situation
 - Attributes
 - Context
- Iconography

The Birth of the Figural Image in the Geometric Period

(Proto-)Geometric Pottery: Combining Old and New Decorative Elements



Content of the Cremation Burial of the “Rich Lady*” (c. 850 BCE), Agora of Athens

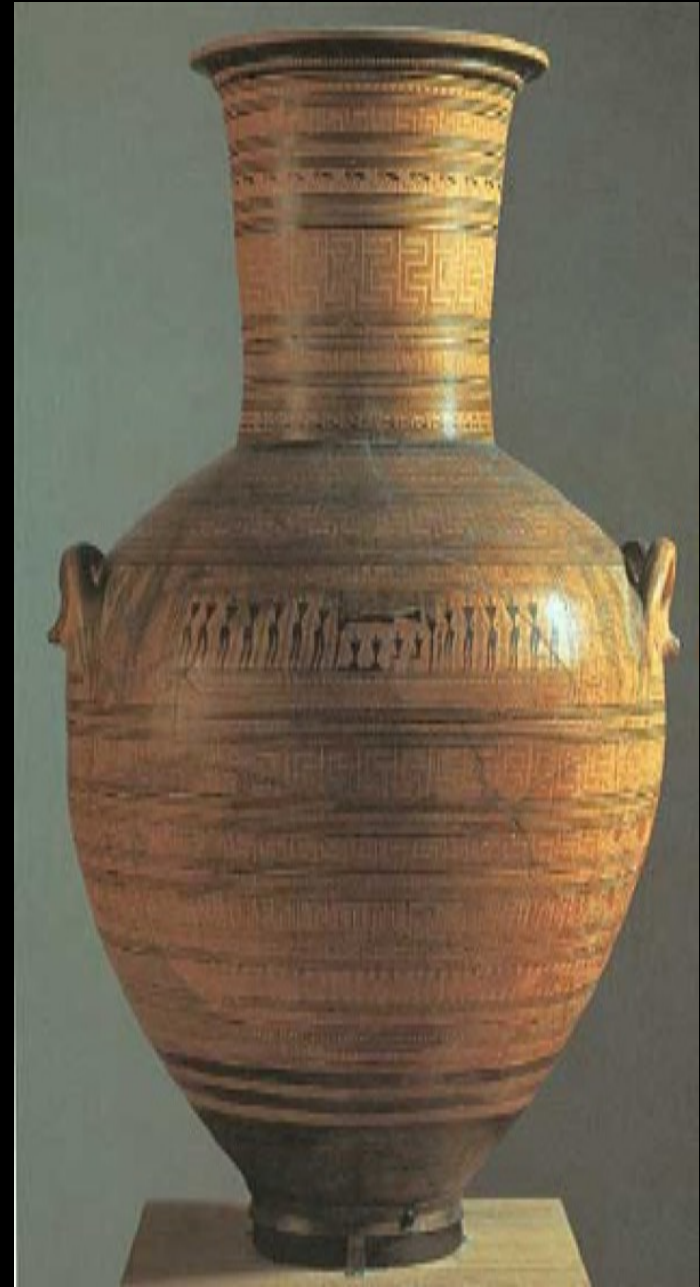
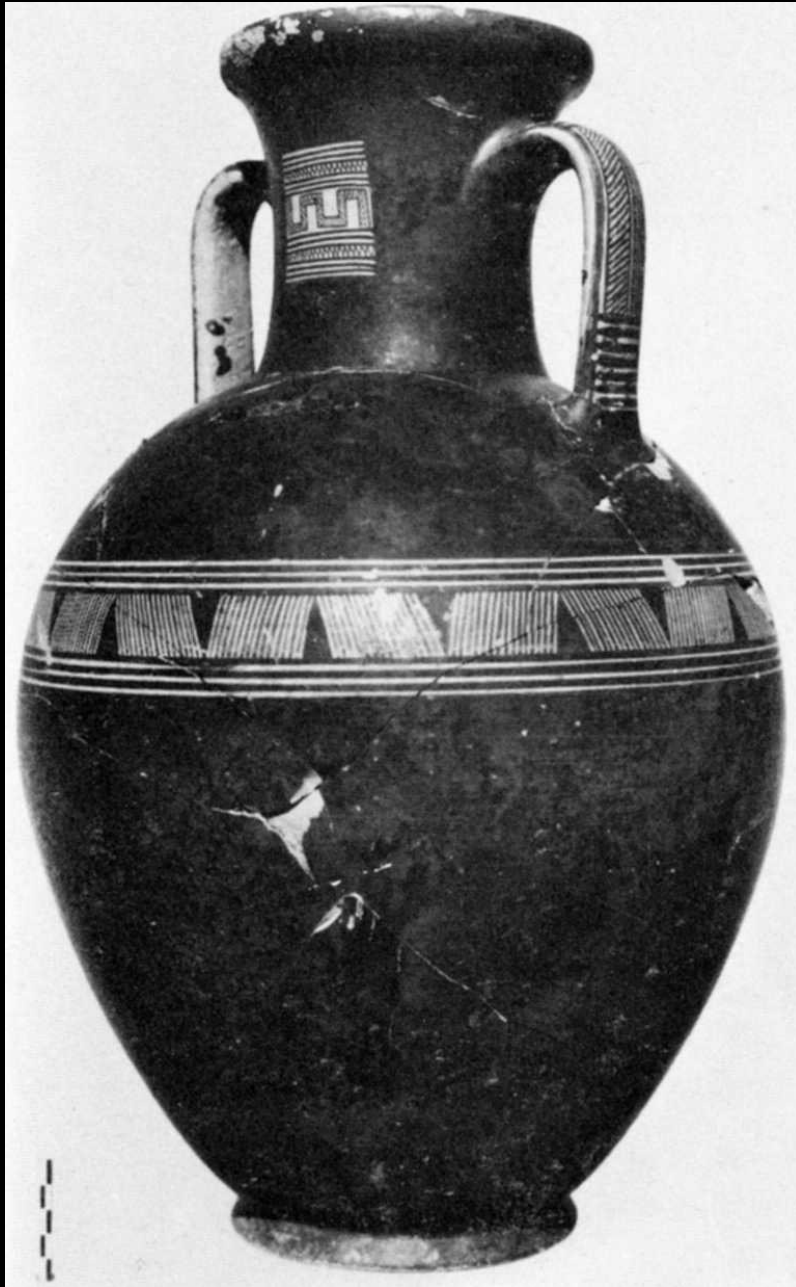


*Died during pregnancy and premature childbirth
Contained more than 80 items of jewellery and pottery, including model granaries

Corinthian Late Geometric Kotyle



Early Geometric- Late Geometric



Late Geometric (LG)

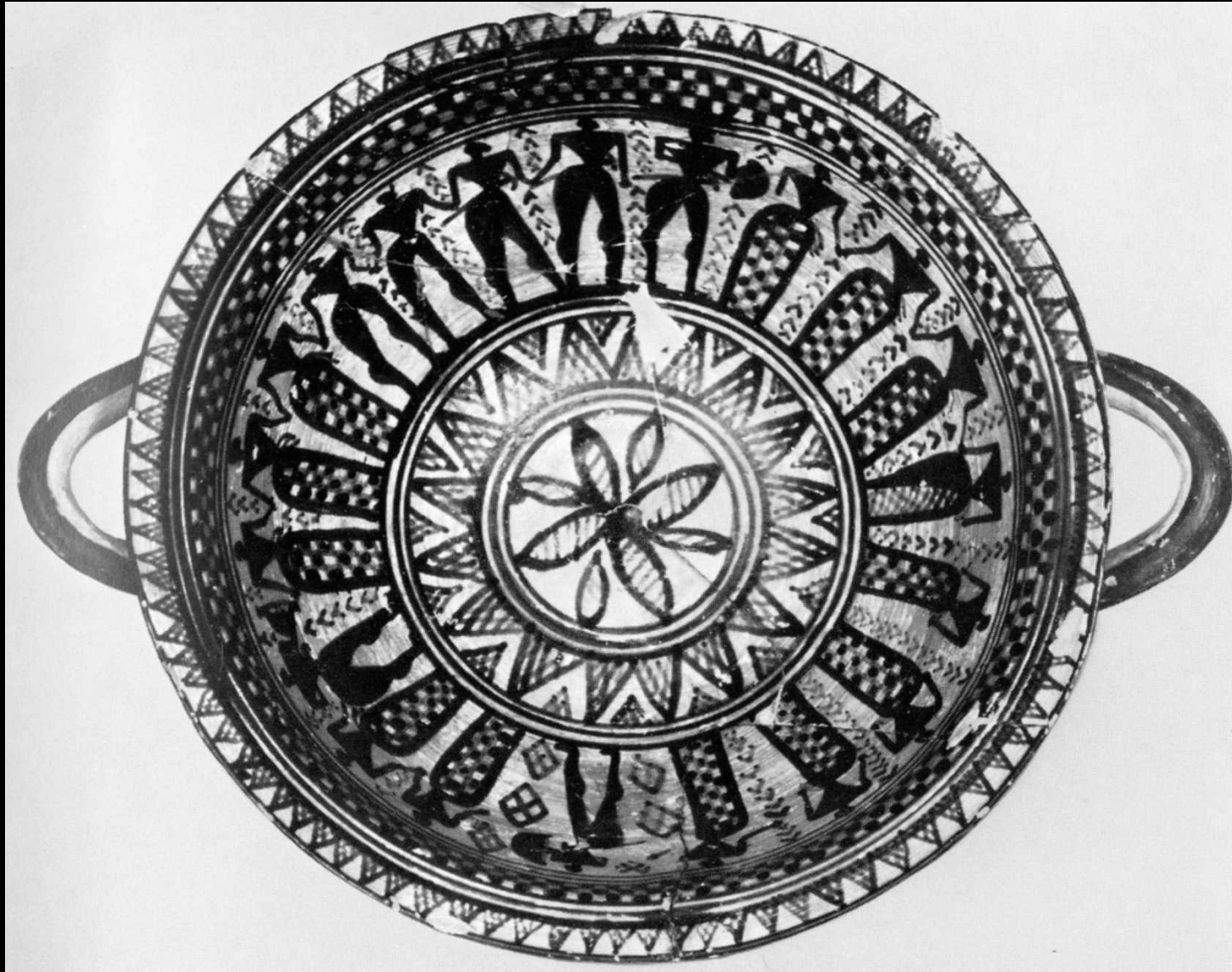


Argos, Museum. C209 ¹¹



Back left: Melian LG stand. Ht. 26. Back middle: Argive LG pyxis. Ht. 25.5. Back right: Rhodian LG flask. Ht. 24 cm.- Front, from left to right: Cretan LG lekythos. Ht: 11.5 cm. Boeotian LG kantharos. Ht. 13.4 cm. Euboean LG cup. Diam. 7 cm. Corinthian LG kyathos. Diam. 10.5 cm.

Late Geometric Cup



Athens, National Museum 874



Attic Geometric krater, c. 750 BCE. Paris, Musée du Louvre A 519



Spouted krater with a many-oared warship and Theseus and Ariadne (?). Made in Athens, 750-700 BCE. Ht. 30.9 cm.



Attic Late Geometric Wine Jug. ca. 740–720 BCE. Munich, Staatliche Antikensammlungen und Glyptothek, inv. no. 8696



Attic Late Geometric Wine Jug depicting the shipwreck of Odysseus?



Krater fragment from the Argive Heraion, 720-700 BCE, showing a pair of Siamese Twins (?) (Aktorione-Molione (?)). Athens, National Museum 29983.



Top: LG Oinochoe, so-called Agora Oinochoe (P 4885);
Twin: Snodgrass 1998. No twin: Dahm, M.K. 2007. "Not
Twins at all", *Hesperia* 76, pp. 717-730.

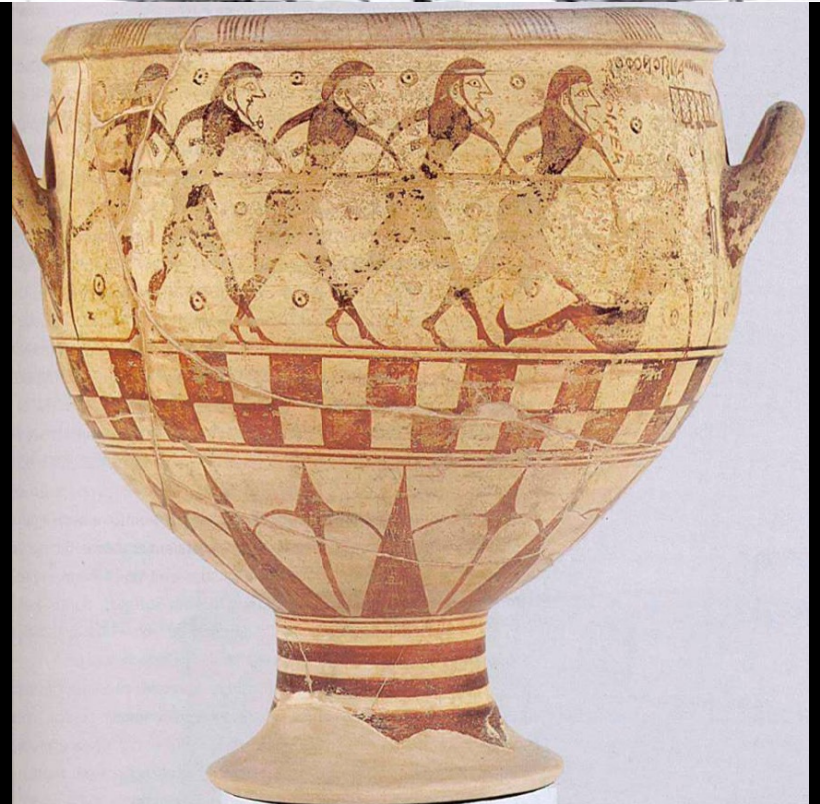
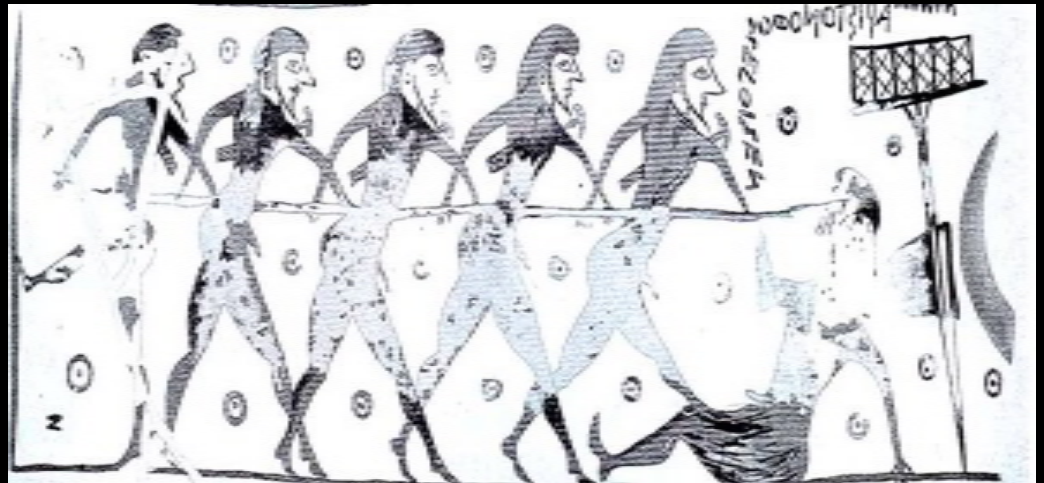


Orientalising Period



Left: Proto-attic amphora; Eleusis, Museum; c. 660 BCE; Ht. 1.42 m. - Right: Proto-corinthian aryballos (LPC) with lion's head ('Macmillan' aryballos); British Museum, c. 640 BCE; Ht. 6,8 cm.

Polyphemus, c. 670 BCE



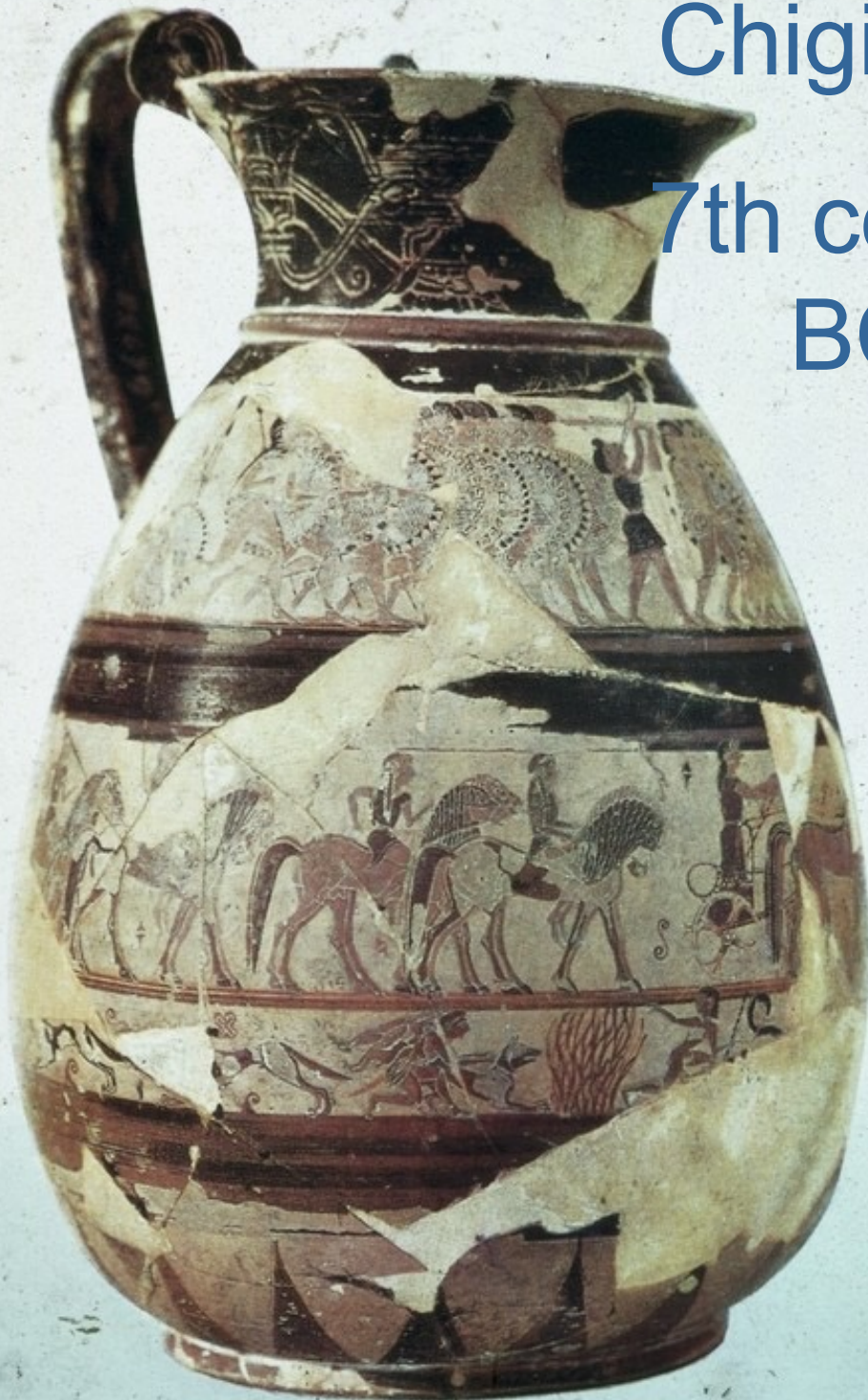
Top left: Eleusis/Attica. Bottom left: Argos. Right: West Greek, signed by Aristonothos. Rome, Conservation Palace. Ht. 36 cm.



Centaur of Lefkandi (Euboea, Greece), c. 900 BCE

Chigi Vase

7th century
BCE





Naming

Achilles



Aias

Attic black-figure (bf) krater, so-called François Vase (detail of second zone of the handle), c. 570/560 BCE. Florence 4209

Herakles



Netos
(Nessos)

Amphora. Nettos Painter (name vase).

Labelling Inscription?



Menelas Stand by the Polyphemos Painter. Made in Athens, found on island of Aigina. Labelling inscription (?), 7th century BCE. Berlin, Antikensammlung

East Greek Plate with Menelaos and Hektor fighting over the body of Euphorbos

Menelaos



Hektor

Found on Rhodes, c. 600 BCE. Diam. 38 cm. London, BM 1860.4-4.²⁸₁.

Unique and/or peculiar mythological character



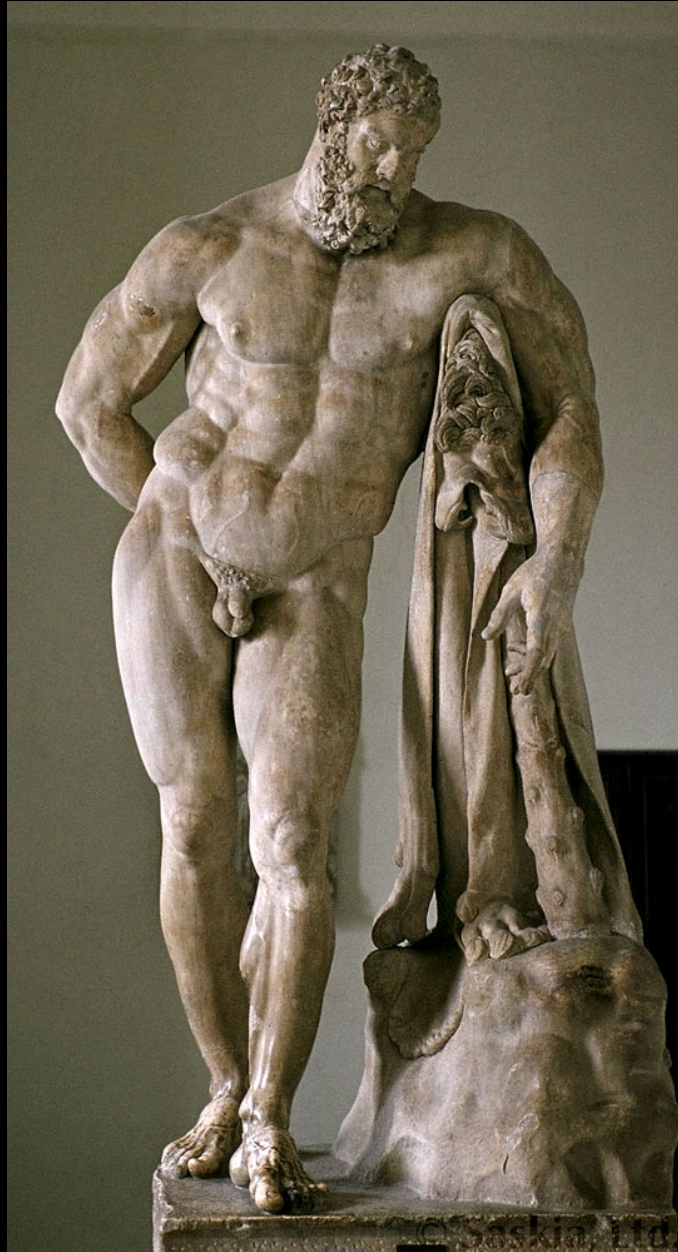
Red-figure vase with Athena and Theseus

Strikingly Unusual Situation



'Ram Jug'. Aigina, Museum 566. Name vase of the Ram Jug Painter. c. 650 BCE.

Attributes



Farnese Hercules, Roman copy signed by Glykon of Athens, CE 200-220, Museum of Naples, Ht. 3.25 m.



Herakles and the Nemean Lion, red-figure vase



Herakles wrestling with Triton. Tondo of Black-figure vase.



Herakles (?)

Context



Deeds of Theseus, Attic red-figure (rf) cup, 440/30 BCE. British Museum 35

Olympian Attributes and Identities

The “Older Olympians”

- are the children of Rhea and Cronus, namely
 - Zeus
 - Hera
 - Hades
 - Poseidon
 - Demeter
 - Hestia

Aphrodite

the embodiment of love, beauty, and erotic desire.

She came into being after the castration of Uranus according to **Hesiod's *Theogony*** and prior to the birth of Zeus or any other Olympian god. This suggests the love goddess's primacy, both in time and in universal significance. She does not have a mother (according to Hesiod).

According to **Homer** she was the daughter of Zeus and Dione.

The “Younger Olympians”

- The Children of Zeus
 - Aphrodite (according to Homer)
 - Athena
 - Hephaestus
 - Apollo and Artemis
 - Hermes
 - Dionysus
 - Ares

Aphrodite

- Parents: Zeus and Dione (Homer)
- Attributes: Dove, Sparrow
- Favorite Places: Cyprus and Cythera



Ludovisi Throne. Birth of Aphrodite, c. 470-460 BCE.



Aphrodite of the type Venus Genetrix. Late 1st /early 2nd CBC. Roman copy of a 5th century BCE Greek original. Louvre.



"Aphrodite of Milos" or "Venus de Milo". From the Island of Melos, Cyclades. c. 100 BCE. Louvre₄₂

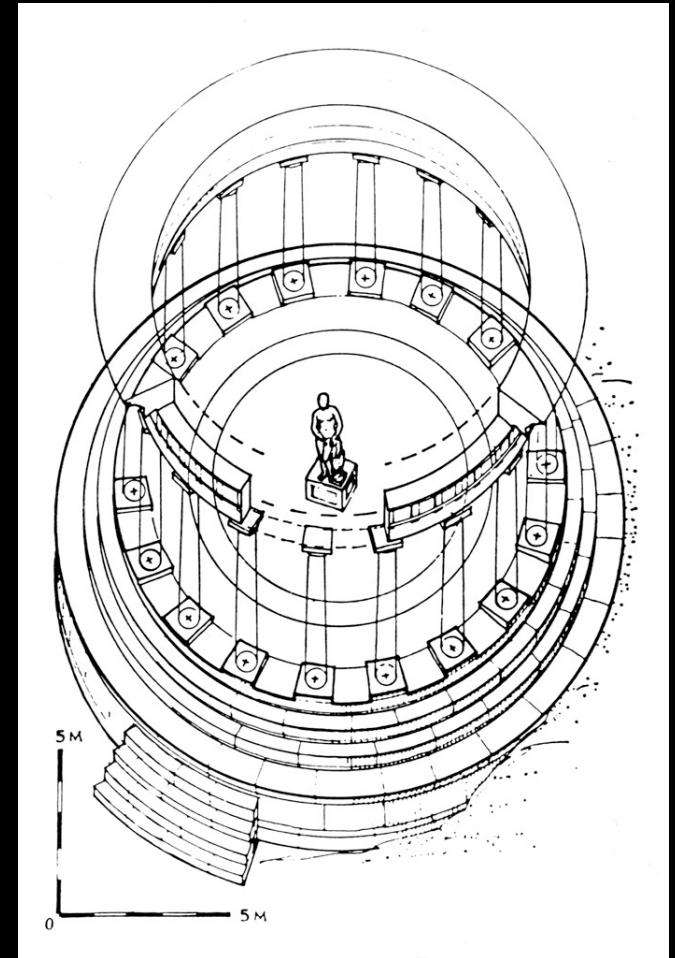


Aphrodite Anadyomene



Knidian Aphrodite

Aphrodite of Knidos (The Knidia)



Roman marble copy of statue of Aphrodite of Knidos made by Praxiteles (c. 350/340 BCE). Ht. 6 feet and 8 inches. Rome, Vatican Museum.

Naked Aphrodites

- Some statues in the later fifth century had made attempts to represent her erotic aspect through clinging drapery.
- The Knidian Aphrodite of Praxiteles was an astonishing novelty. Pliny (*NH* 36.20), for example, has a story that the island of Kos, which had commissioned this cult statue, found it unacceptable and bought a draped version instead. The rejected nude was then bought by Knidos.



Crouching Aphrodite (Roman copy of original created by ⁴⁶Doidalsas), c. 250/40 BCE. Ht. 0.92 cm



Aphrodite, Pan and Eros (winged figure). 100 BCE. From Delos. Athens, Archaeological Museum



Red-figure pelike, showing Peleus and Thetis (crouching) (note that the motif of bathing related to beauty and seduction is not limited to Aphrodite) Eros (Love) approaches Peleus , 360/50 BCE. Attributed to the Marsyas Painter. Ht. 0.43 m. British Museum Cat. Vases E424



The NW slope of the Acropolis of Athens is known as the “Long Rocks”.⁴⁹



Athena

- Parents: Zeus and Metis
- Attributes: Helmet, spear and shield; aegis; owl; olive tree
- Favorite Place: Athens

Coins of Athens



Athena in Athens



Hephaestus

- Parents: born by Hera alone as a response to Athena according to Hesiod; other authors state that he was a son of Zeus and Hera
- Attributes: Axe, forging tongs and anvil
- Favorite Place: Lemnos

Hephaestus' Expulsion from Mt. Olympus

Homer tells us that he was lame and that this was the reason why Hera flung him from Mt. Olympus. He fell for a full day and landed in the arms of the sea-goddess Thetis. She and Eurynome adopted him and raised him for nine years in an underwater cave.

After his return he was said to have sided with his mother in a dispute, and, thus, Zeus threw him down; he landed on Lemnos.

Athena and Hephaestus





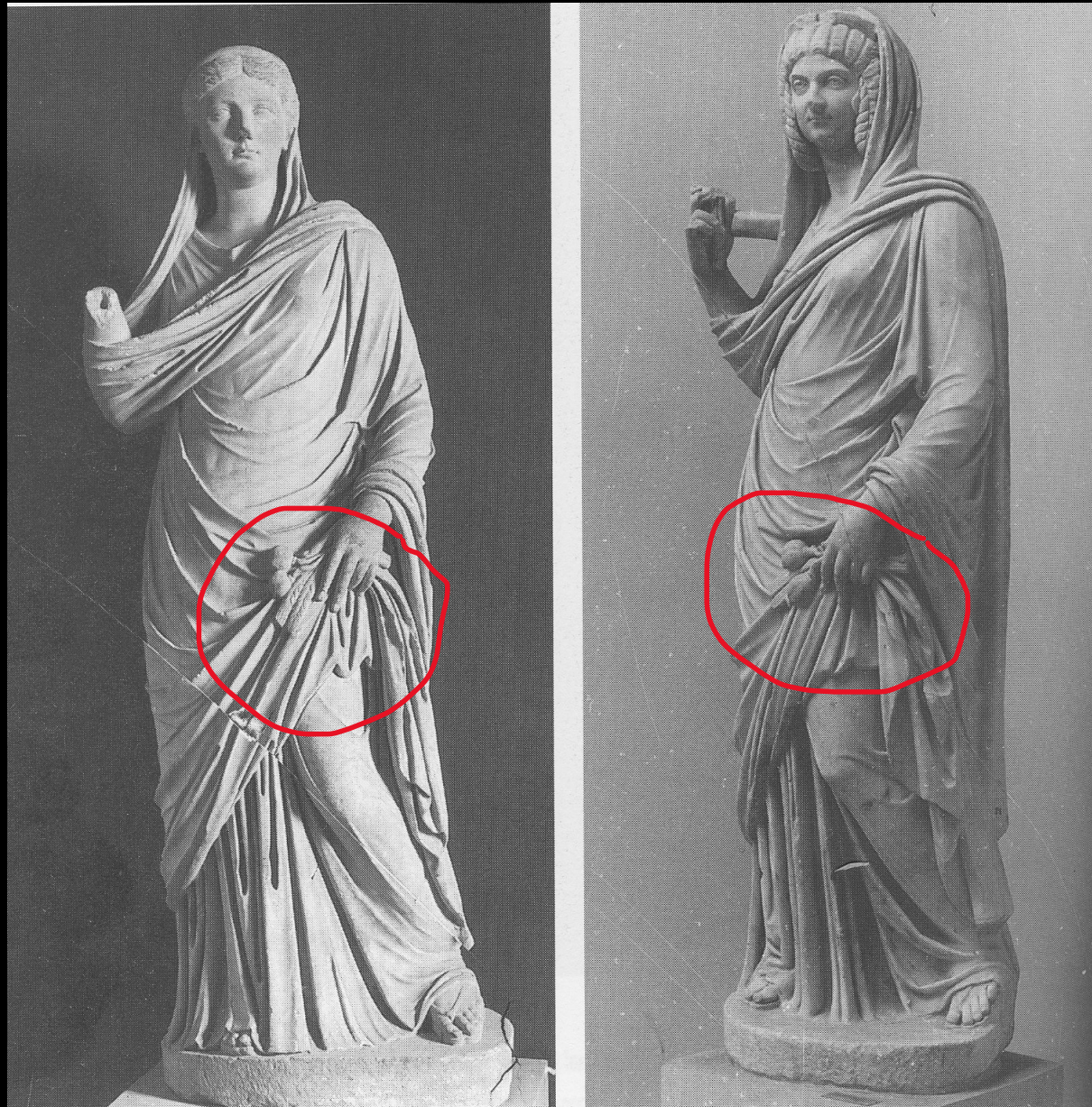
Red-figure cup (kylix) showing Hephaestus handing over₅₇ armor to Thetis for her son Achilles. C. 480 BC

Problems with Reading Mythological Images

Problems due to

- Confusing attributes
e.g., human figures and divine or heroic attributes

Confusing Attributes: Human Figures and Divine Attributes



Left: Empress Sabina (married to Roman Emperor Hadrian) in the guise of Ceres, 2nd century CE. - Right: Empress Julia Domna (married to Roman Emperor Septimius Severus) as Ceres, 3rd century CE.

Problems due to

- Confusing attributes
e.g. human figures and divine or heroic attributes
- Missing attributes

Artemision Bronze or The God from the Sea



- Early Classical (ca. 460 BCE), large scale (Greek) bronze statue (one of only a handful of Greek bronze statues of the Classical period)
- Found at the bottom of the sea near Cape Artemision Greece (en route to Italy?)
- Athens, National Archaeological Museum X 15161
- Suggested Divine Identities: Poseidon or Zeus (see, for instance, <https://smarthistory.org/artemision-zeus-or-poseidon/>)











Eye Inlays of Riace Warriors



Left: Original. – Right: Reconstructions. ⁶⁸

Wood 1999

Spaces for Figural Decorations, including Myths

Spaces for Figural Decoration



Attic black-figure Eye Cup, c. 510 BCE. Middlebury, Museum of Arts 2012.001.

Spaces for Figural Decoration



Birth of Athena (showing Zeus with lightning bolt, Hephaistos with axe); Athena is the daughter of Zeus and Metis; inscription reads "Hail and drink me, yes"

Ht. of figures 4 cm (1 ½ inches) on this Attic black-figure lip cup, c. 560 BCE in the British Museum Cat. Vases B 424.

Spaces for Figural Decoration



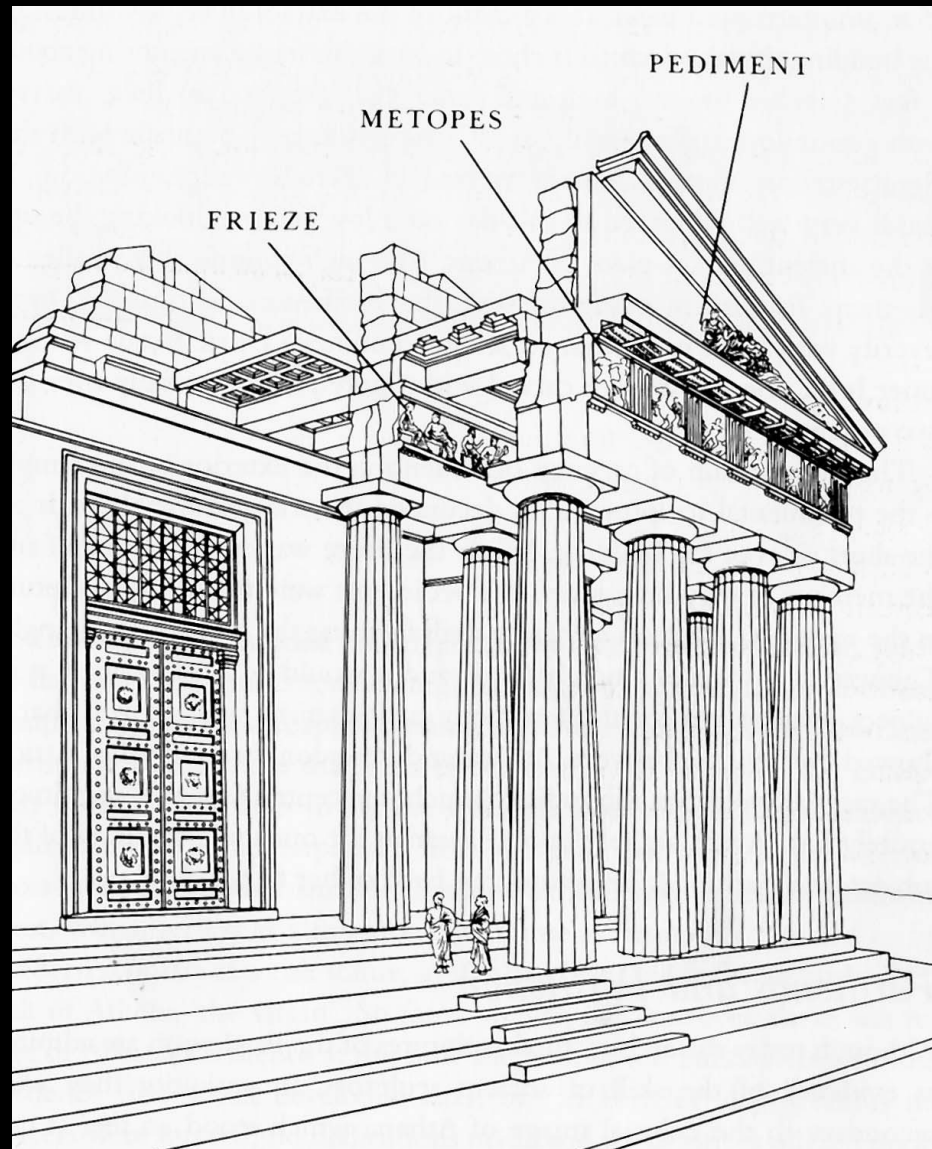
Attic black-figure Amphora, c. 520/10 BCE. Middlebury, Museum of Arts 1991.002.

Spaces for Figural Decoration



Attic black-figure Kalpis, c. 520/10 BCE. Middlebury, Museum of Arts 2005.023.

Architectural Decoration



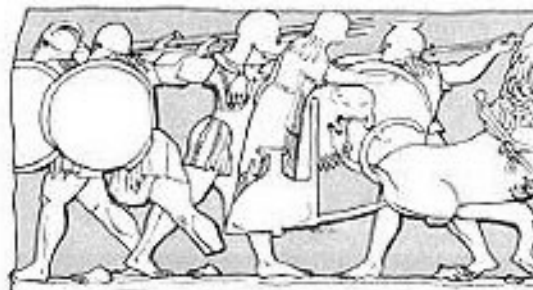


Treasury of the Siphnians at Delphi, North Frieze (left figure is Ares), ca. 525 BCE. Parian Marble.

Note: This treasury was dedicated by the people living on the island of Siphnos (Aegean Sea)



Hephaistos



Dionysos Themis



Apollo Artemis



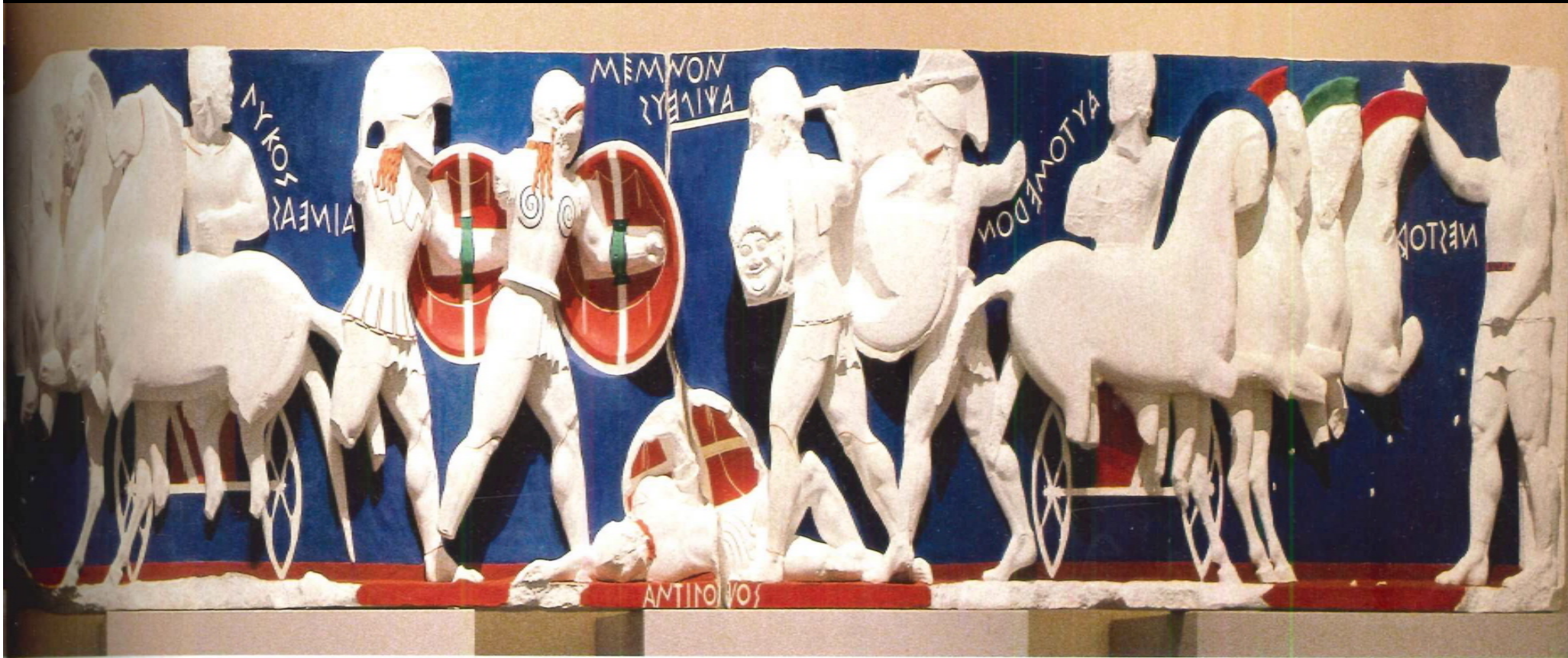
Hera Athena

Ares

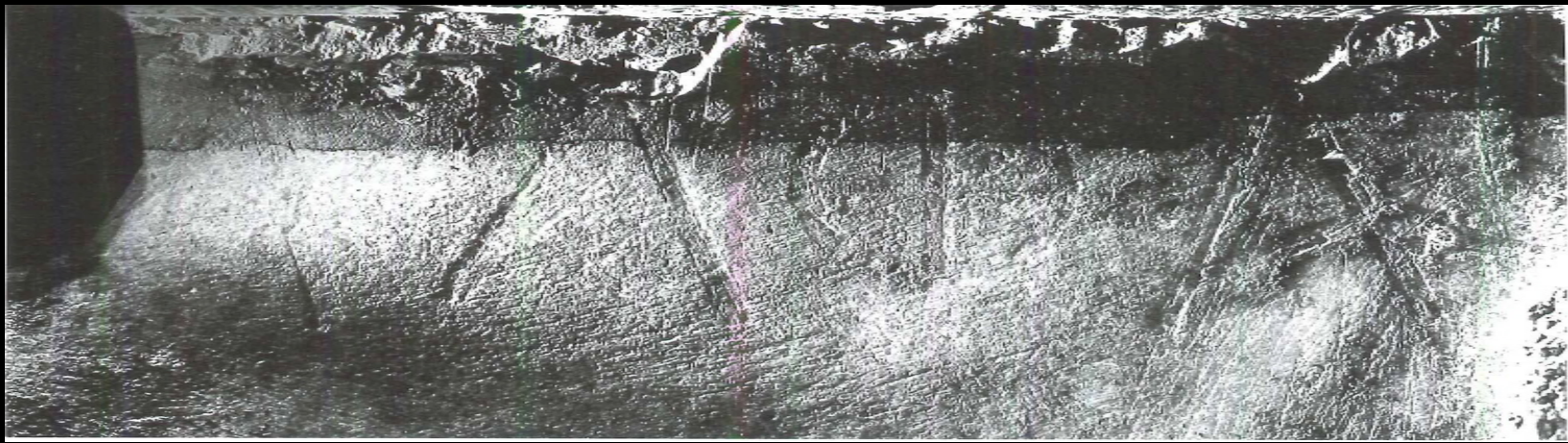




North Frieze of Siphnian Treasury, Thetis' Lion Chariot, ca. 525 BCE. Delphi.



Reconstruction of East Frieze of Siphnian Treasury, detail showing Achilles challenging Memnon to avenge the death of his friend Antilochus ca. 525 BCE. Delphi.



Top: Name inscription for “Athena” under raking light. East Frieze of Siphnian Treasury, ca. 525 BCE. Delphi. – Bottom: Traces of red and blue pigment on East Frieze.



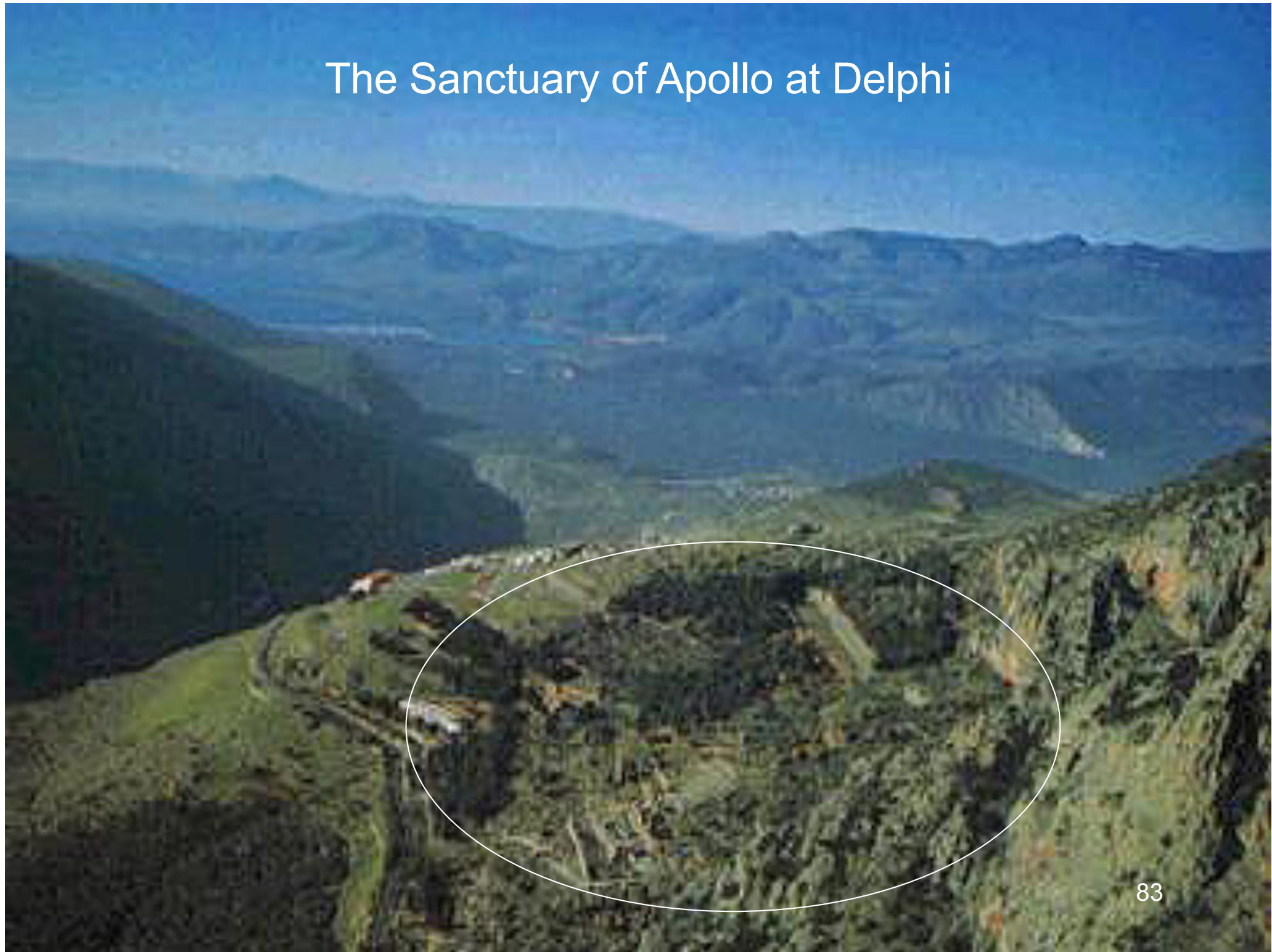
Reconstructions of the Siphnian Treasury, ca. 525 BCE. Delphi.

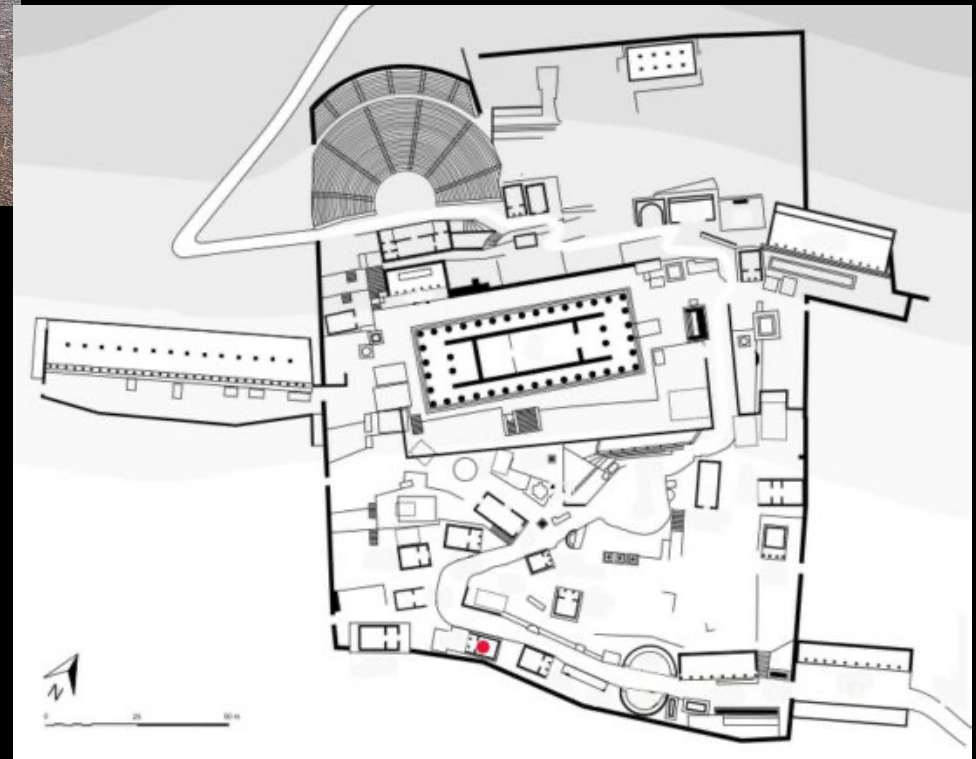


Caryatid (replacing column), Siphnian Treasury, ca. 525 BCE. Delphi.



The Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi



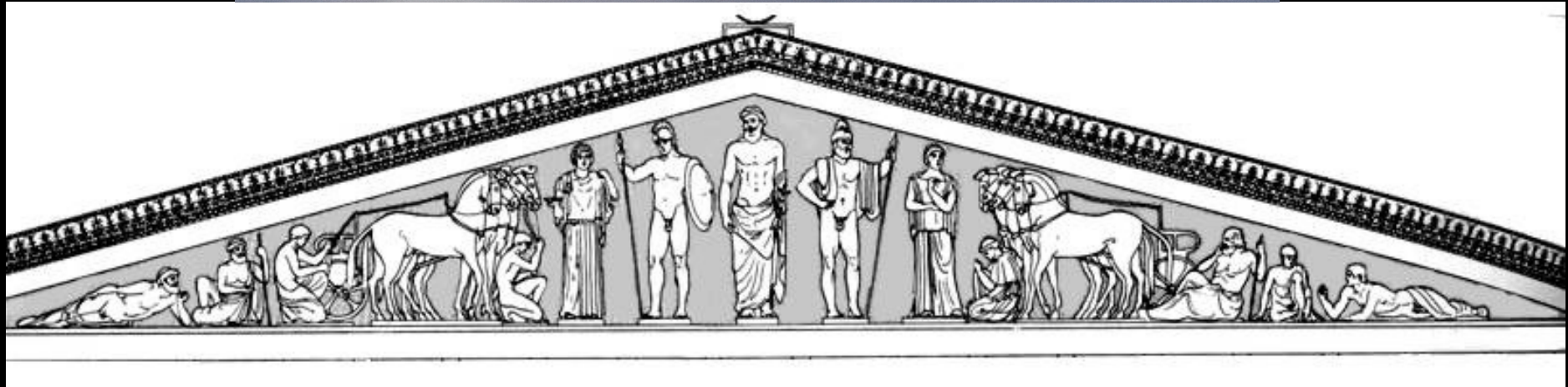
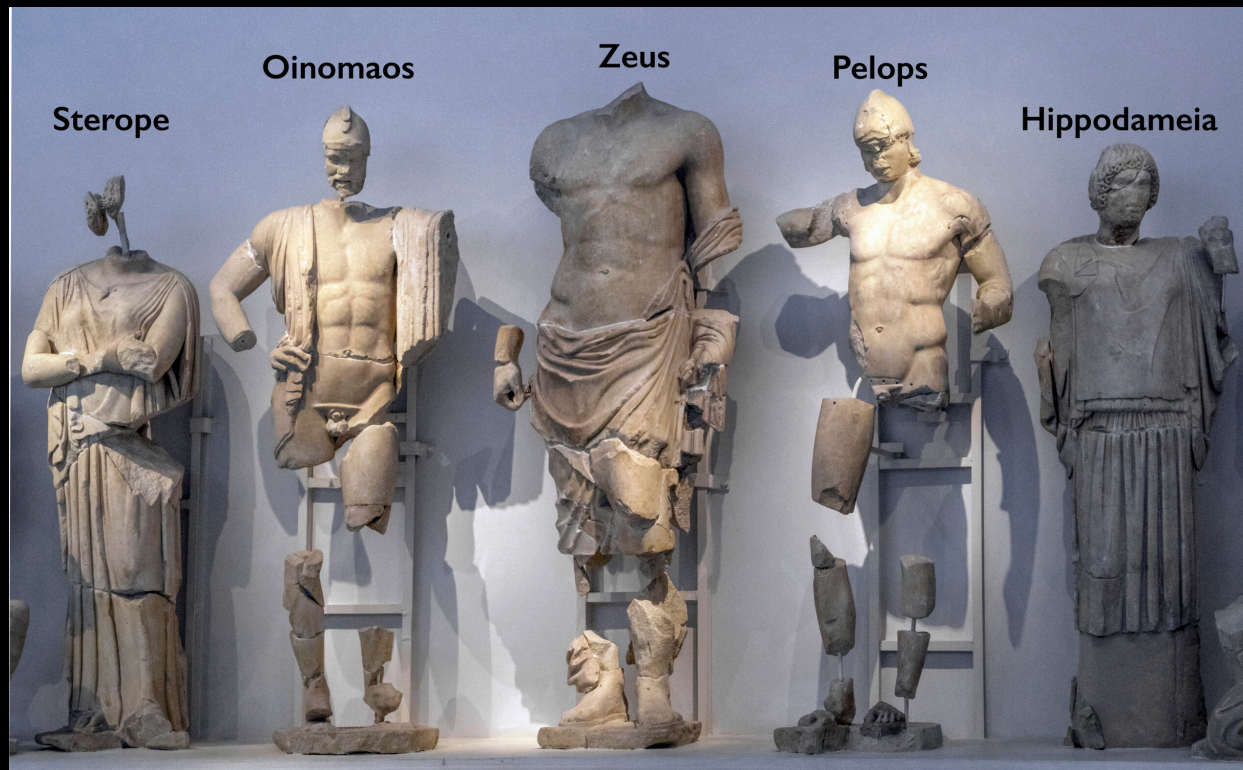


Foundation of the Siphnian Treasury, ca. 525 BCE. Delphi.

Friezes (and Pediments)

- are good for expansive narratives





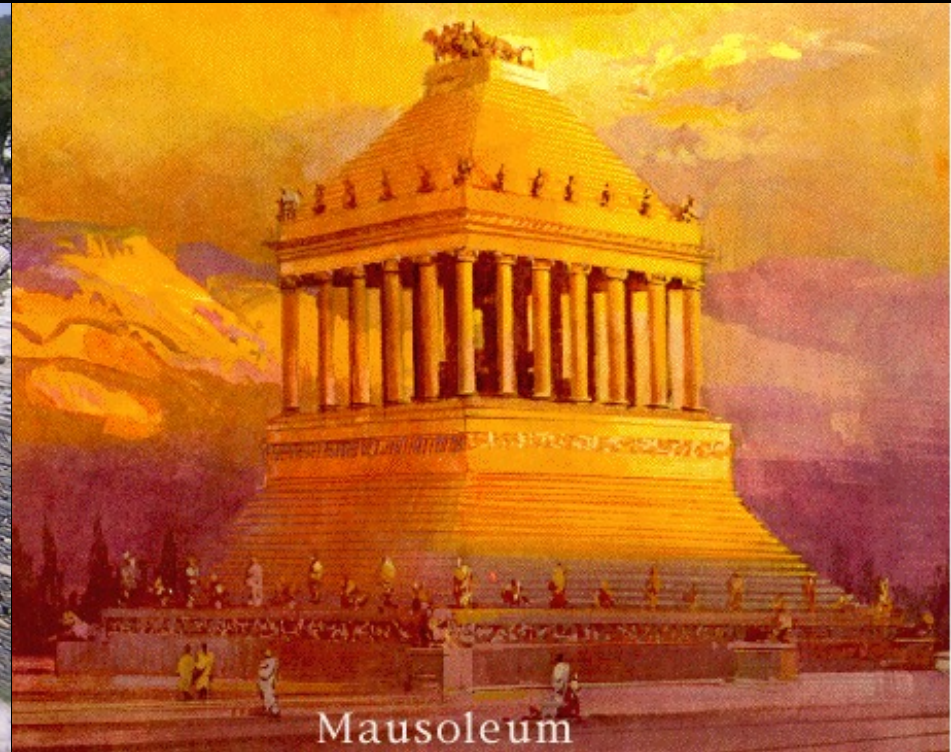
Temple of Zeus, Olympia. c. 470-457/6 BCE; East pediment with five central figures (Hippodameia and Pelops, Zeus, Oinomaos and Sterope)

Note: The local river gods Alpheios and Kladeos; also: Zeus in the center between main characters.



Temple of Zeus, Olympia. c. 470-457/6 BCE; East pediment with five central figures (Hippodameia and Pelops, Zeus, Oinomaos and Sterope)

Note: The local river gods Alpheios and Kladeos; also: Zeus in the center between main characters.



Mausoleum of Halicarnassus (in Asia Minor): excavation (left) and hypothetical reconstruction (right)

The Wounded Amazon

- Pliny, *Natural History* XXXIV.53:
 - Competition of the best artists/craftsmen to create a statue of an Amazon (in bronze)
 - All Amazons were to be dedicated to Artemis in Ephesos
 - First prize for Polycleitus, second prize for Pheidias, third prize for Cresilas, fourth for Cydon and fifth for Phradmon.



Plaster casts of a Roman copy of the Mattei type (Phidias), the Capitoline type (Cresilas), and the Berlin type (Polycleitus).