

A History of Knowledge

Oldest Knowledge

What the Sumerians knew

What the Babylonians knew

What the Hittites knew

What the Persians knew

What the Egyptians knew

What the Indians knew

What the Chinese knew

What the Greeks knew

What the Phoenicians knew

What the Romans knew

What the Barbarians knew

What the Jews knew

What the Christians knew

Tang & Sung China

What the Japanese knew

What the Muslims knew

The Middle Ages

Ming & Manchu China

The Renaissance

The Industrial Age

The Victorian Age

The Modern World

What the Greeks knew

Piero Scaruffi

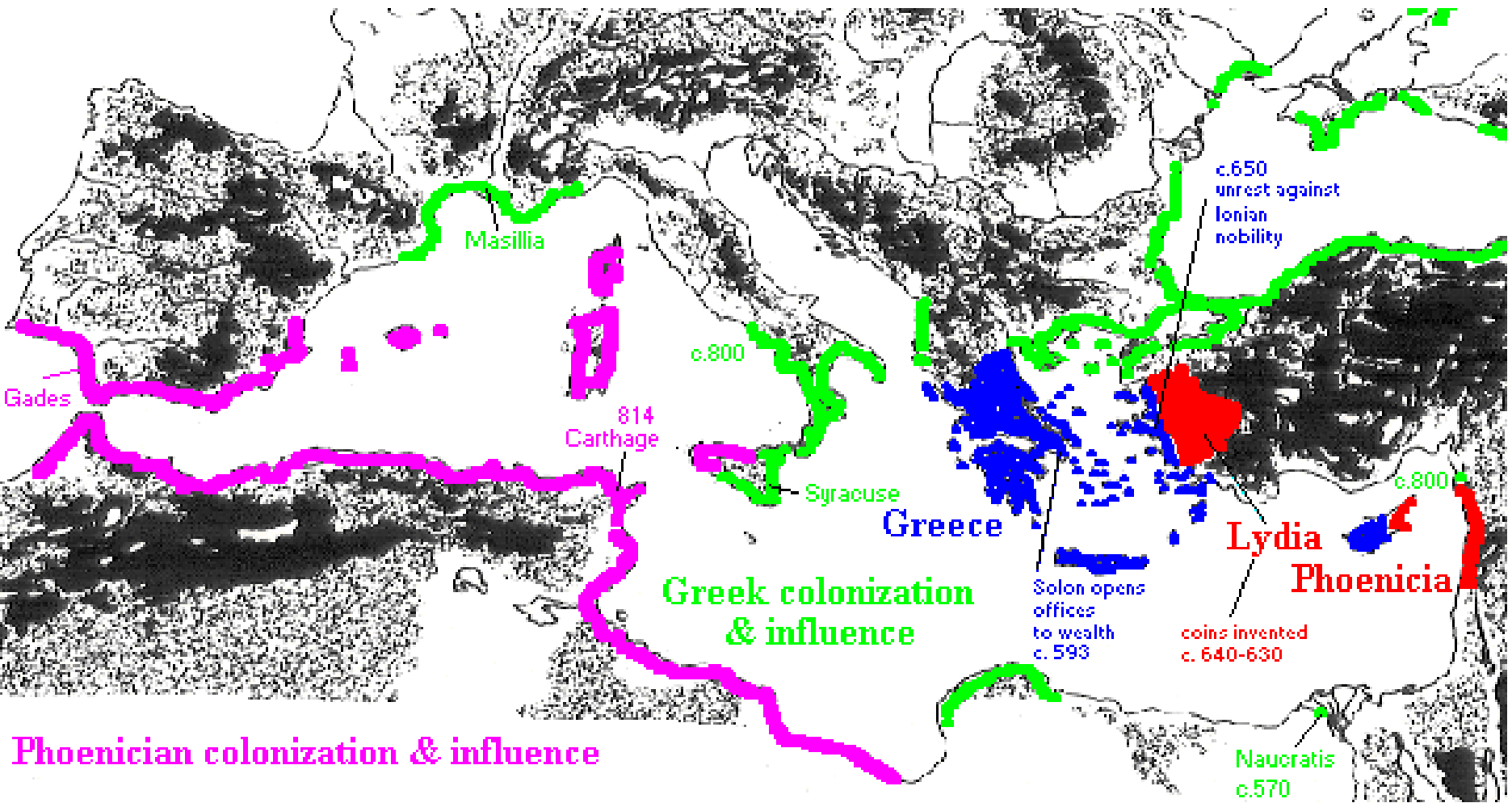
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What the Greeks knew

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Phoenicians and Greeks





Greece

- 2800 BC: Minoan civilization in Crete (domed tombs)
- 2200 BC: Indo-European people (Achaeans) invade Greece creating the Greek language and founding Mycenae
- 1900 BC: palace of Knossos in Crete
- 1900 BC: earliest writing in Crete
- 1628 BC: a volcanic eruption in Thera causes destruction in Crete (legend of Atlantis)
- 1600 BC: royal tombs of Mycenae
- 1450 BC: the Minoan civilization is destroyed by the Myceneans
- 1250 BC: walls and palaces of Mycenae
- 1184 BC: Troy falls to Mycenae
- 1100 BC: Mycenae is destroyed by Dorian invaders who have iron weapons

Phaistos Disc

The earliest printed document in the world (characters punched into clay by stamps)
And probably the first alphabet

What language is this?
Who were these people?



Southern Crete, 1700 BC (Heraklion Museum, Crete)

Greece

1000 BC: Greeks (Hellenes) colonize the eastern coasts of the Aegean Sea

950 BC: Greeks found Miletus in Ionia (Anatolia, Turkey)

900 BC: origin of the Homeric poems

800 BC: city-states or "polis" (Athens, Thebes, Megara, Corinth, Sparta)

800 BC: Greeks adopt the alphabet from the Phoenicians

776 BC: the first Olympic Games

760 BC: Euboea founds the colony of Cumae in Italy

750 BC: first inscriptions in the Hellenic Greek alphabet

725 BC: the poet Hesiod writes the Theogony

640 BC: Sparta adopts a militaristic form of government

632 BC: Athens abolishes the monarchy in favor of an oligarchy



<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/GREECE/CITYMAP.HTM>

Greece

630 BC: Lydian cities introduce coins

610 BC: Miletus founds a trading post in Egypt

594 BC: Solon founds the Athenian democracy

585 BC: philosopher Thales in Miletus

575 BC: poetess Sappho

570 BC: the first coins are minted by Athens

530 BC: Pythagoras founds Mathematics

525 BC: tragedy (Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides)

499-79 BC: Persian wars (Greece defeats Persia, most Greek cities become democracies)

461 BC: Pericles promotes the ideals of democracy and peace

461 BC: first Peloponnesian War between Athenians and Spartans

Greece



Greece

450 BC: sculptor and architect Pheidias

450 BC: Herodotus writes a non-theological history

450 BC: Hippocrates founds Medicine

438 BC: the Parthenon is inaugurated in Athens

404 BC: Sparta wins the Peloponnesian Wars

399 BC: Socrates is tried and commits suicide

388 BC: Plato, a pupil of Socrates, founds his philosophical Academy, the first university

367 BC: Aristotle enters the Academia of Plato

362 BC: Thebes terminates Sparta's supremacy

332 BC: Alexander conquers Egypt

331 BC: Alexander conquers Persia and destroys Persepolis

324 BC: Alexander invades the Punjab in India

323 BC: Alexander dies, the empire rapidly collapses



The Hellenistic world (3rd c BC)



Greece

149 BC: the Romans annex Macedonia as a province

86 BC: Roman general Sulla burns Athens

30 BC: the Romans conquer all of Greece

49 AD: Paul preaches Christianity in Greece

393: Roman emperor Theodosius forbids the Olympic Games because pagans and shuts down the temple of Zeus at Olympia

529: Roman emperor Justinian shuts down the Academia of Plato

What the Greeks knew

- The Mediterranean
 - Boundaries
 - Steppes + Urals
 - Alps + Forests
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Sahara + Gobi deserts
 - Peninsulas with long shores
 - Greece
 - Iberia
 - Italy
 - Asia Minor
 - Islands
 - Hilly fertile plains of rivers

What the Greeks knew

- The Mediterranean
 - Contrast between centralized river civilizations (Egypt, Mesopotamia, China) and decentralized seafaring civilizations (Minoan, Phoenician, Greek)
 - Relationship between “democracy” and seafaring culture
 - Relationship between free market and seafaring culture

Cyclades

- **Cyclades (3000-1550BC)**



Statuette of a woman (2700 BC)
Metropolitan Museum



Statuette of a woman (2300 BC)
Metropolitan Museum



Statuette of a seated harp player (2800-2700 BC)
Metropolitan Museum

Cyclades

- Cyclades (3000-1550BC)



(Getty Villa)

What the Greeks knew

- Minoans (2500-1400BC)
 - Not Indo-Europeans (Egyptians?)
 - Minos = king/pharaoh
 - Road system
 - Urban planning
 - No fortification, no depiction of warriors
 - Belief in the afterlife (dead buried with objects)
 - Human sacrifice
 - Hieroglyphic script and Linear A script (1700 BC)

What the Greeks knew

- Minoans (2500-1400BC)
 - Matriarchal
 - Mother goddess (the only important deity) is the source of both good and evil: everything emanates from her
 - Female priests to administer rites
 - Mass production of goods
 - Factories for pottery, textiles, metalwork
 - Trade
 - Luxury goods from Egypt, metals from Italy, amber from the Baltics

What the Greeks knew

- Minoans (2500-1400BC)
 - Palace society
 - Emphasis not on tombs, temples or fortresses, but on comfort and luxury for the minos
 - Main art: painting (influenced by Egyptian painting)

Knossos, Crete (Minoan)



What the Greeks knew

- Minoans
 - Frescoes (1500 BC)
 - Men in red and women in yellow (like in Egypt)
 - Rhythmic patterns of people (like in Egypt)
 - Flat background (like in Egypt)



Herakleion Museum



What the Greeks knew

- Minoans
 - Burial chest (1300 BC)
 - for wealthy people only
 - replica of Minoan roof



(Boston Museum of Fine Arts)

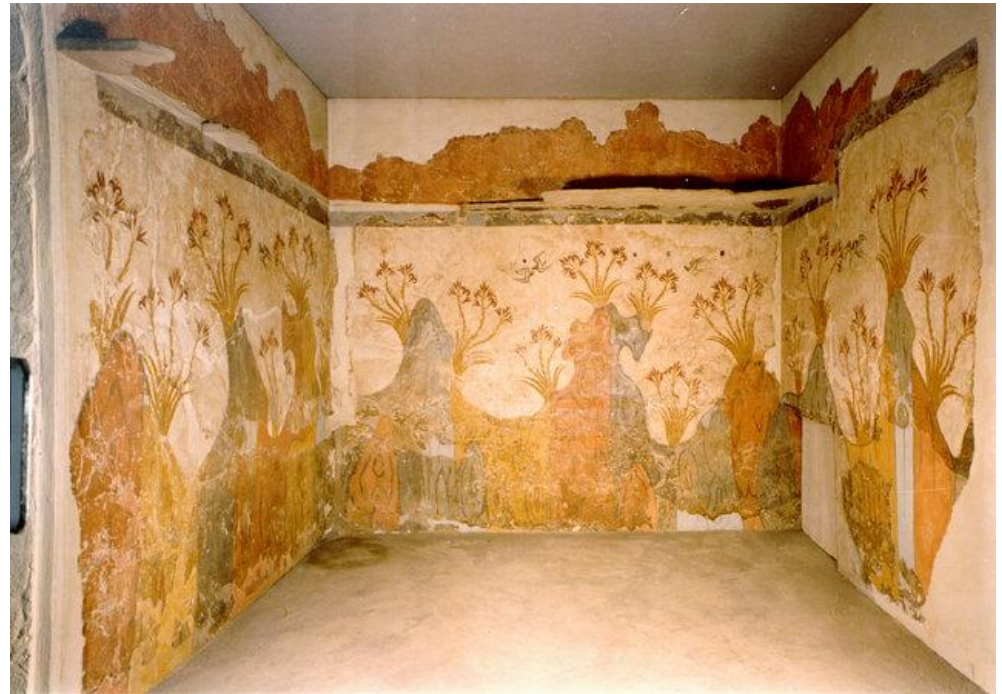
What the Greeks knew

- Minoans
 - Giants protecting the city



What the Greeks knew

- Thera



Spring fresco
(Complex D at Akrotiri, Thera, 16th century B.C)

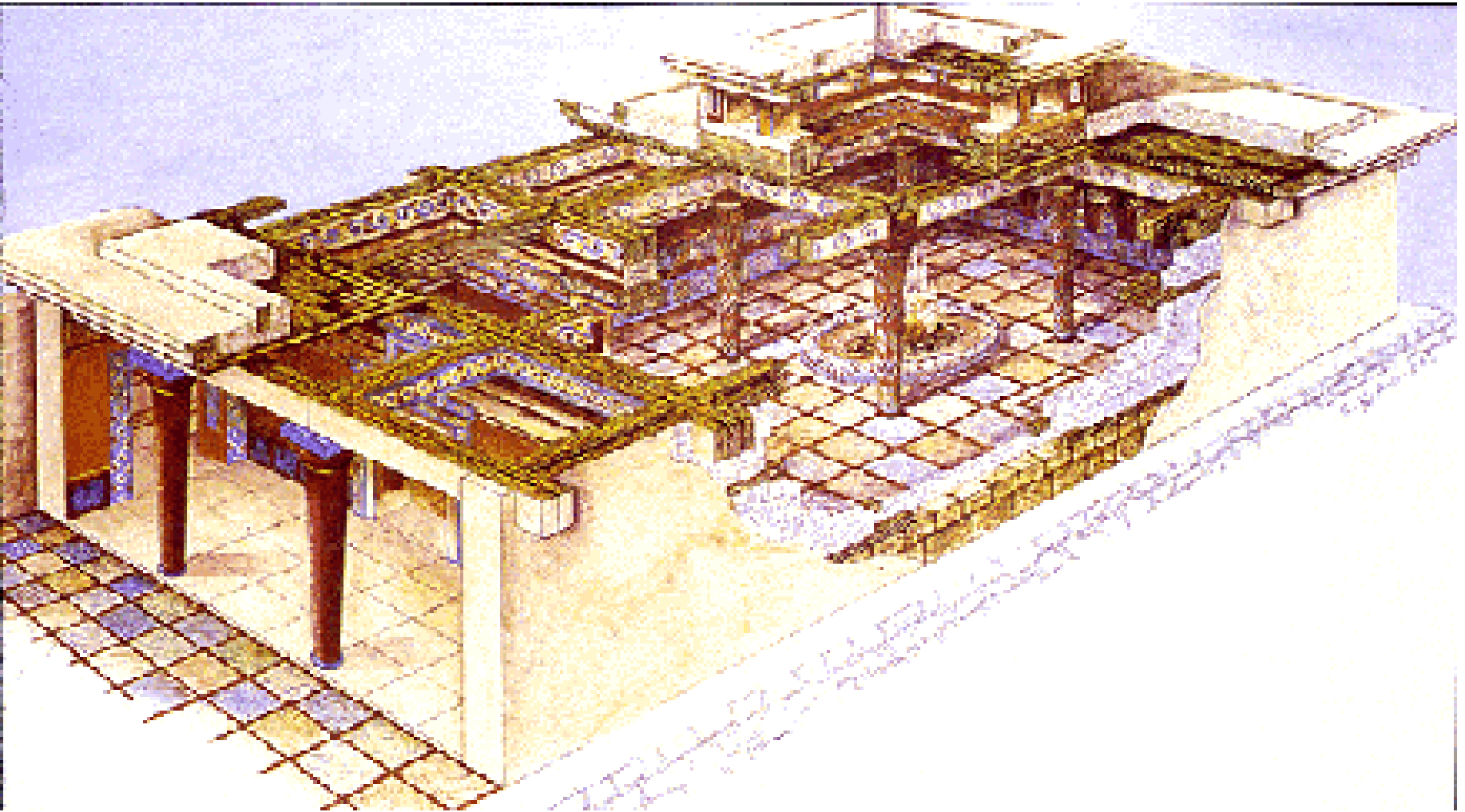
What the Greeks knew

- Achaeans/ Mycenae (1600-1100BC)
 - Indo-Europeans (Hellenes)
 - Warrior civilization
 - Probably from Asia Minor (Hittite area)
 - Beehive shaped tombs (“tholoi”)
 - Fortified palaces
 - Linear B, adapting Linear A to the Greek language
 - Trade with Italy

Mycenae, Peloponnesos (Achaean)

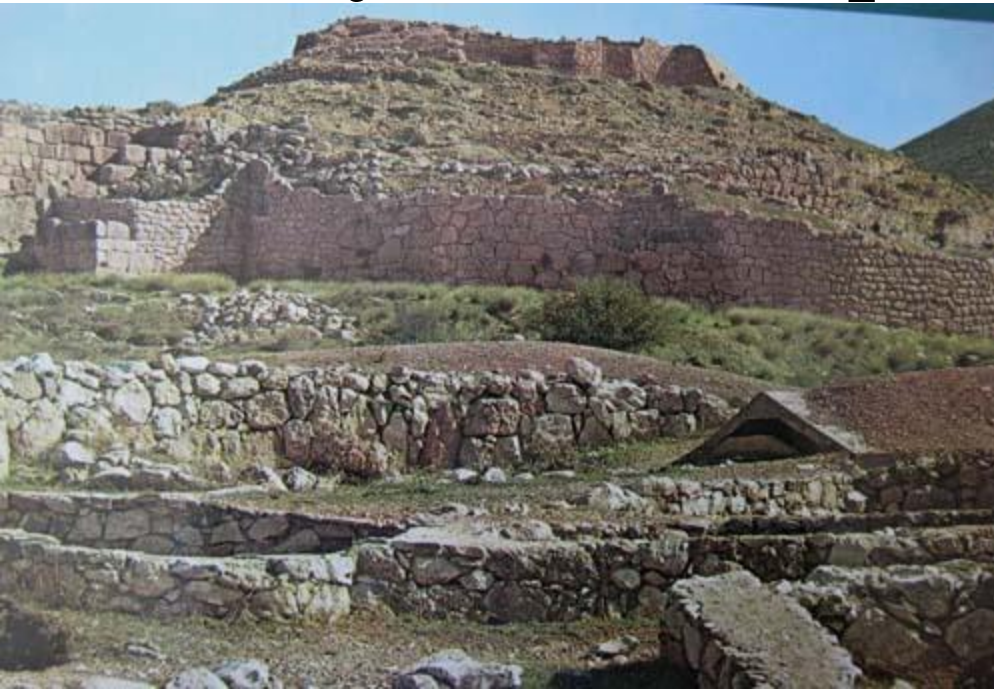


Mycenae, Peloponnesos (Achaean)



Reconstruction of the Palace
<http://www.ou.edu>

Mycenae, Peloponnesos (Achaean)



Largest tomb (Treasury of Atreus)

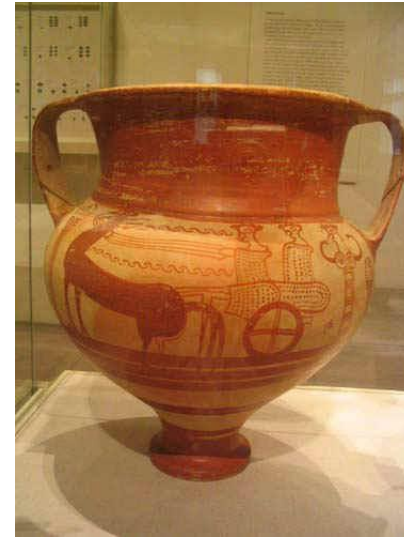


Lion gate

Mycenae, Peloponnesos (Achaean)

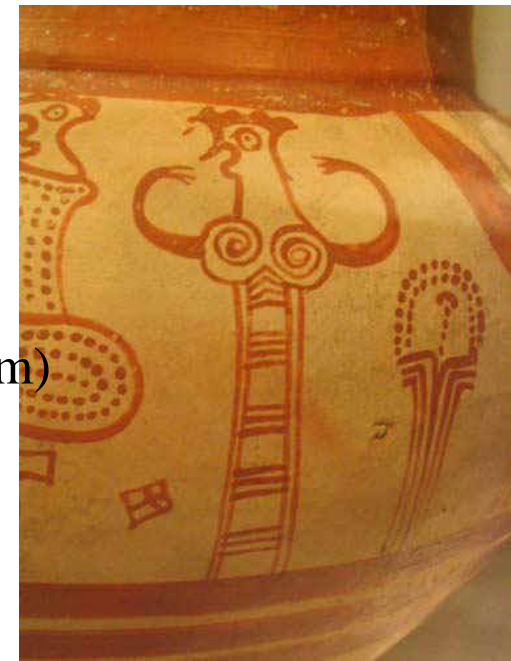


Stone stele with chariot warrior, Mycenae, 17th c. BC

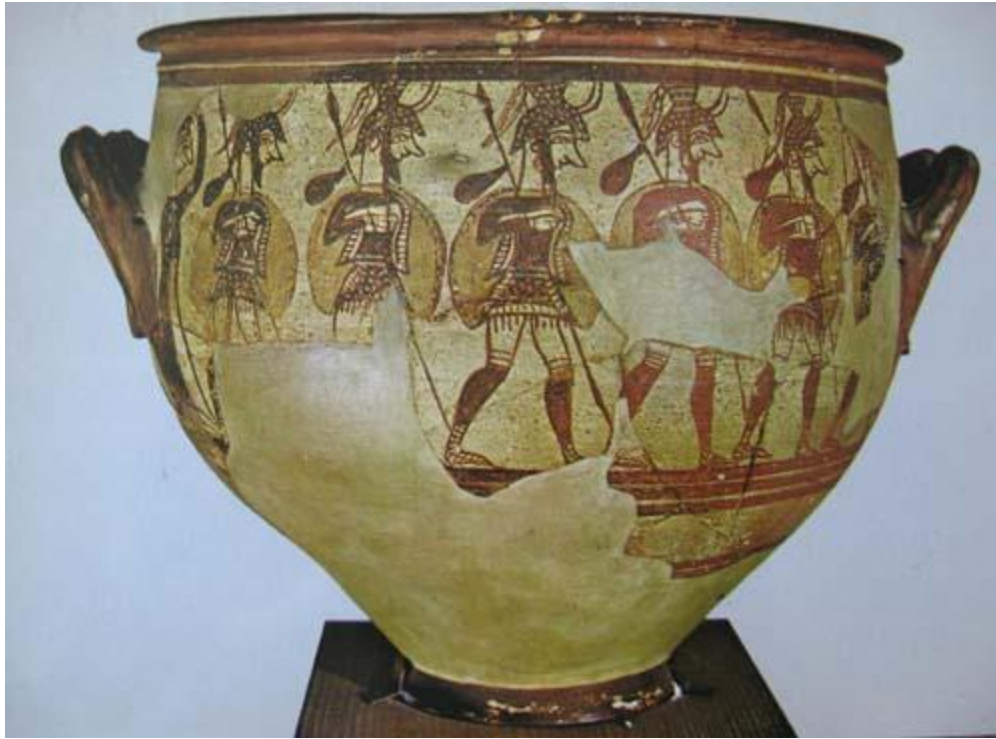


Gold funerary mask, Circle A Tomb IV,
Mycenae, 16th c. BC
(National Archaeological Museum, Athens)

Mycenae 13th c BC
(Metropolitan Museum)



Mycenae, Peloponnesos (Achaean)



“The Warrior Krater”

Mycenae 13th c BC
(Athens Museum)



Mycenae 15th c BC
(Athens Museum)

Mycenae, Peloponnesos (Achaean)



Gold cup of Mycenae
(Athens Museum)



Fresco of lady
Mycenae
(Athens Museum)

Tiryns, Peloponnesos (Achaean)



13th c BC



<http://classics.unc.edu/courses/clar049/TirRec.jpg>

What the Greeks knew

- The Dark Age (1174-961 BC)
 - Arrival of Iron
 - Collapse of Hittite empire
 - Collapse of Achaean kingdoms
 - Sea trade:
 - Etruscans (metalwork)
 - Euboeans (precious metals, slaves and wood from Thracia)
 - Phoenicians (luxury goods of eastern empires for raw materials of western barbarians)
 - Not just trade but protected settlement:
emporium + sanctuary

What the Greeks knew

- The Dark Age (1174-700 BC)
 - Disappearance of architecture and writing
 - Urban decline
 - Decline of gold and jewelry
 - Iron
 - A society of farmers and herdsman
 - Warfare based on the heavily-armed mounted aristocrats who engage in duels
 - The wealthy urban civilizations of the bronze age become a legendary memory, originating **myths**

What the Greeks knew

- Trojan War
 - Early 12th century BC
 - Troy (Anatolia, Turkey)
 - Commercial control of the Dardanelles
 - Paris, son of King Priam of Troy, obtains from Aphrodites the love of Helen of Troy, wife of Menelaus, the king of Sparta
 - Greeks form a coalition led by Agamemnon, Achaean king of Mycenae
 - War decided by Greek heroes (Achilles, Patroclus, the two Ajaxes, Teucer, Nestor, Odysseus, Diomedes)
 - Ten-year siege
 - City of Troy captured with large wooden horse

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Homeros/Homer
 - A Greek from Ionia (Asia Minor), perhaps from the island of Chios
 - Lived between 850 BC and 750 BC.
 - Blind wandering minstrel reciting poems from a very old oral tradition
 - Homer used material of 200 or 300 years before an alphabet reached Greece in the 9th or 8th century BC
 - Homer lived in the Iron Age but told his stories about the Bronze Age
 - Homer was Greek but sang about the Mycenaean court

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Iliad
 - Poem of 15,693 verses in dactylic hexameter (as in “Canada Canada”)
 - Earliest extant copy of Iliad: 400 BC
 - Tenth year of the war between the Achaeans and Troy
 - Achilles’ wrath (withdraws from battle because of his anger at Agamemnon, returns to avenge the death of his friend Patroklos, kills Trojan hero Hector)
 - Odysseus of Ithaca reluctantly joins the Greeks in the siege of Troy

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Iliad
 - Gods, oracles and heroes drive the action
 - Gods witness, root, plot and participate
 - Zeus also foresees the events and makes sure that Fate is respected
 - Two sagas in one: the saga of the gods and the parallel saga of the human heroes
 - Ends with the funerals of the opposing heroes, Hector and Patroklos

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Odyssey
 - Odysseus/Ulysses' adventures and ultimate return home ten years after the fall of Troy
 - Cyclopes, nymphae, witches, sirens, monsters
 - Ulysses recovers his kingdom
 - Fantasy not chronicle



What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Odyssey
 - The poem begins with Odysseus/Ulysses' refusal of immortality (the opposite of the Gilgamesh, which begins with a quest for immortality)
 - Paradise is a prison: Ulysses does not want immortality with the goddess Calypso; the immortality granted to him by Calypso prevents him from fulfilling his duty
 - Ulysses travels to Hades (the underworld/afterlife) and meets famous deceased (including Achilles)
 - Dead Achilles envies the living

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Odyssey
 - Ulysses is not an adventurer but simply a victim who wants to go home
 - Travel brings him misfortune, home means happiness

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Penelope
 - She is defined by contrast with Clytemnestra (cheater and traitor), Helen (weak), Calypso, Nausicaa (immature), Circe, Arete
 - Her fidelity is the ideal complement to Ulysses' courage: the perfect household
 - Ulysses' sex with other women proves that all alternatives are wrong (even Calypso's offer of immortality, even Circe's drugs, even Nausicaa's virginal youth and royal status)

What the Greeks knew

- Hera
 - She tricks Zeus to help the Greeks against the Trojans when Zeus is helping the Trojans, the only time that someone prevails over Zeus

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Heroic virtues
 - Fate (the best do not always win)
 - Life as a continuous titanic struggle
 - Gods are capable of evil
 - Separation of art and religion (the poet as a vehicle for the gods but not as a priest)
 - Dactylic hexameter (as in “Canada Canada”)
 - Unity of design

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - No unity of soul: psyche (vital spirit?), thymos (consciousness?), nous (intellect?)
 - At death, psyche wanders in Hades, thymos leaves the body
 - Funeral rites for heroes: cremation of the corpse, sacrifice of prisoners and animals, offerings of honey and oil, banquet, athletic tournament, tomb

What the Greeks knew

- The Homeric poems (1000BC-800BC)
 - Retelling of familiar stories, no suspense no surprises
 - Meant to be recited, not read (not a solitary reader but a collective experience)
 - The Greeks regarded Homer as the first historian (history = epic poetry)

What the Greeks knew

- Other epics
 - Achilles' victories over Penthesilea, queen of the Amazons, and Memnon, king of Ethiopia,
 - Death of Achilles at the hands of Paris
 - Aeneas escaped the massacre and led the Trojan survivors to Italy

What the Greeks knew

- Greek afterlife
 - Indifferent to afterlife
 - Hades: not punishment or reward, simply a place (underworld) where the dead go
 - Very detailed geography and bureaucracy of Hades, but no description of the heavens
 - Immortality via
 - Heroism
 - Family

What the Greeks knew

- Atlantis
 - Described by Plato (Timaeus and Critias)
 - Larger than Asia Minor and Libya combined
 - Flourishing civilization
 - Conquered all the Mediterranean peoples except Athens
 - 12,000 ships
 - Chariots
 - Bronze weapons
 - Concentric waterways
 - Destroyed

What the Greeks knew

- Thera
 - Minoan civilization
 - 1628 BC: volcanic eruption
- Troj
 - 12,000 ships
 - Chariots
 - Bronze weapons
 - Concentric waterways
 - Destroyed

What the Greeks knew

- The Greeks (700 BC)
 - Rapid (seven fold?) population increase in the 8th c BC
 - Trade replaces food production as leading activity
 - Tribal society replaced by polis
 - Warfare based on the phalanx (discipline infantrymen) that engages in battles
 - Adoption of Phoenician alphabet (but left to right writing)
 - Writing used by individuals, not only by the bureaucracy
 - Papyrus for scribes (and later parchment), wax tablets for casual writing
 - Stone temple (700 BC)
 - Beautiful, well-proportionate structures
 - Static World

What the Greeks knew

- The Greeks (700 BC)
 - The 24 letters of the alphabet (plus three more) used for number symbols
 - Earliest example of Greek alphabet: 740 BC (a line of poetry about dancing: writing used for artistic purposes, not just for accounting)
 - Greek was originally written right-to-left, then boustrophedon, and finally (5th c) left-to-right

What the Greeks knew

- The Greeks (700 BC)
 - Decimal system: nine letters for the units, nine for the tens, and nine for the hundreds
 - The thousands (1000 to 9000) represented by placing an apostrophe ' before a unit
 - M used to represent numbers from 10,000 on up (myriad = 10,000)

What the Greeks knew

- The Greeks (700 BC)
 - The Greek alphabet is fully abstract and prompts the writer and the reader to think abstract

What the Greeks knew

- The Greeks (700 BC)

Letter →

Number →

Α Α	Β Β	Γ Γ	Δ Δ	Ε Ε	Ζ Ζ	Η Η	Θ Θ
Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	Epsilon	Zeta	Eta	Theta
30-30	29-28	28-27	27-26	26-25	24-24	23-23	22-22
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
Ι Ι	Κ Κ	Λ Λ	Μ Μ	Ν Ν	Ξ Ξ	Ο Ο	Π Π
Iota	Kappa	Lambda	Mu	Nu	Xi	Omicron	Pi
21-21	20-20	19-19	18-18	17-17	16-16	15-15	14-14
10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Ρ Ρ	Σ Σ	Τ Τ	Υ Υ	Φ Φ	Χ Χ	Ψ Ψ	Ω Ω
Rho	Sigma	Tau	Upsilon	Phi	Chi	Psi	Omega
12-13	11-12	10-11	9-10	8-9	7-8	6-7	5-5
100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800

What the Greeks knew

- Poleis (city-states)
 - Mainland: Athens, Thebes
 - Peloponnesus: Sparta, Corinth
 - Asia Minor: Miletus

What the Greeks knew

- **Poleis (city-states)**

Century	Ruling class	Emerging class	New rulers
7th c BC	Monarchy	Land owners	Oligarchs
6th c BC	Oligarchs	Merchants	Tyrants
5th c BC	Tyrants	Commoners	Democrats

What the Greeks knew

- Sparta (650-330 BC)
 - Warrior society (Sparta did not lose a single war between 800 and 371BC)
 - The state comes before the family
 - Military agrarian state (never underwent the urban revolution)
 - The state is run by a council of 28 elders who must be at least 60 years old
 - Social classes
 - free citizens: gymnastics and warfare
 - perioeci (free non-citizens): commerce
 - helots (serfs): agriculture

What the Greeks knew

- Sparta
 - Weak newborns left to die
 - Education provided by the state starting at the age of 7 until 30
 - Education = harsh discipline, martial arts, murder of serfs (collective education run by the state)
 - Secret police
 - Enforced lifestyle of austere living, luxuries forbidden, accumulation of wealth forbidden
 - Intellectual activities discouraged
 - A war-minded state but actually reluctant to engage in wars (fear of revolts by perioeci and helots)

What the Greeks knew

- Sparta
 - Egalitarian society (even gender equality)
 - Women train and live just like men (and own 2/5th of the land according to Aristotle)
 - The land of a family is distributed equally to sons and daughters

What the Greeks knew

- Sparta
 - Sparta's strength: army
 - Sparta's weakness: no assimilation of conquered people

What the Greeks knew

- Athens
 - Solon's reforms 594 BC
 - A tyrant chosen by the people
 - Membership in the assembly (ekklesia) extended to merchants, not only landowners
 - The assembly's power increases dramatically

What the Greeks knew

- Athens
 - Democracy: Cleisthenes' constitution 507 BC
 - Pericles (461 BC-429 BC): the assembly includes every free adult male
 - Checks in place to prevent individuals from acquiring too much power (even heroes were sent into exile)
 - Economic empire
 - Administration of justice based on politics and rhetoric (art of persuasion)
 - Demagogues (wealthy aristocrats) run the city life
 - Athens' military strength: the fleet
 - Education: private schools paid by the families of the children (reading, writing, arithmetic, poetry, music, gymnastics)

What the Greeks knew

- Colonization (750BC)



What the Greeks knew

- Hesiod (750BC)
- Collapse of mythopoetic thought
- Lyric poem
 - Archilochus (650 BC)
 - Sappho (600 BC)
 - Pindar (b 518BC)
- Poetry for the symposium (drinking party of the elite)
- Emergence of the poet as an individual, not a collective bard: the soul of the individual not the soul of the community
- Music and Dance

What the Greeks knew

*Poikilo' Thron' Athanat' Aphrodita
Pai Dios Doloploka, Lissomai Se
Me M'asaisi Med' Oniaisi Damna
Potnia Thumon.*

*Alla Tuid' Elth' Ai Pota Katerota
Tas Emas Audos Aioisa Peloi
Eklues, Patros De Domon Lipoisa
Chrusion Elthes*

*Arm' Updeuxaisa. Kaloi De S'agon
Okees Strouthoi Peri Gas Melainas
Pukna Dinnentes Pter' Ap Oranothe
-Ros Dia Messo*

*Aipsa D'exikonto, Su De O Makaira
Meidiaisas' Athanato Prosopoi
Ere' Otti Deute Popontha Kotti
Deute Kalemmi*

*Kotti Moi Malista Thelo Genesthai
Mainolai Thumoi. Tina Deute Peitho
.....Agen Es San Philotata? Tis S' O
Psapph' Adikeei?
Kai Gar Ai Pheugei, Taxeos Dioxei
Ai De Dora Me Deket', Alla Dosei
Ai De Me Philei, Tacheos Philesei
Kouk Etheloisa.*

*Elthe Moi Kai Nun, Chalepon De Luson
Ek Merimnan, Ossa De Moi Telessai
Thumos Imerrei, Teleson, Su D'auta
Summachos Esso.*

What the Greeks knew

The Greek world (7th c. BC)



Phoenician

Greek

What the Greeks knew

The Greek world (7th c. BC)



What the Greeks knew

- The Greek Age (Circa 500 BC)
 - Masters of sea trade:
 - Western Mediterranean: Carthage
 - Central Mediterranean: Syracuse
 - Eastern Mediterranean: Athens
 - Same trade routes of the Phoenicians, Etruscans, Euboeans

What the Greeks knew

- The Greek Age (Circa 500 BC)
 - Classical Greece: hoplite warfare, no aristocracy, the citizen at the center
 - Hoplites are citizens, the poor excluded from warfare
 - Persian Wars (499-479 BC): the Greeks win
 - Greeks: long spear and large shield
 - Persians: bow and horse
 - Peloponnesian Wars (461-404 BC): Sparta wins
 - Mercenary and noncitizens admitted in the army
 - Theban Wars (371-362 BC): Thebes wins, end of Sparta's supremacy
 - Thebes: cavalry
 - Macedonia: aristocracy-cavalry at the top

What the Greeks knew

- Synthesis of civilizations
 - Sculpture: Egyptian
 - Alphabet: Phoenician
 - Architecture: Asia Minor
 - Religion: Indo-European
 - Mythology: Minoan
 - Science: Mesopotamia
 - Geometry: Egyptian

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - Homeric warfare: aristocratic chariot-riding warriors
 - Post-Homeric warfare: war is the privilege of the property-owning citizen
 - State violence is both a privilege and a duty of the Greek citizen
 - Therefore Greek armies are typically small
 - Soldiers have to provide their equipment
 - Military duties are proportional to wealth: the richest supply the navy

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - Little or no use for the chariot (mostly used in games after the 6th c BC)
 - Little or no use for cavalry: the terrain is not friendly to horses, and the Greeks don't have adequate saddles, horseshoes and stirrups
 - The Greek army (from 6th c until Alexander) mostly relies on the foot soldier armed with helmet, shield, sword and spear: the hoplite
 - No greater disgrace than losing one's shield in battle
 - The hoplite army is the army of the Greek middle class (mostly farmers)
 - The Greek soldier is heavy and slow

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - War is not very rational
 - All declarations of war and battle decisions depend on the will of the deities
 - Sparta arrives late at Marathon because of a religious festival
 - 10% of the booty is reserved for offerings to the deities
 - Post-war treaties are guaranteed by deities

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - Battle of Marathon (490 BC)
 - Persian army: cavalry, archers, no adequate shield/helmet, cosmopolitan (more than 40 ethnic groups), mercenaries, very fast, designed for imperial mobility not safety - at least 18,000 soldiers
 - Greek soldiers are not professionals, but farmers and citizens with other occupations
 - Athenian army: 10,000 hoplites, no archers, no cavalry
 - Spartan army arrives late because of religious festival

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - Second invasion (Thermopylae and Salamis, 480 BC; Plataea, 479 BC)
 - Persians dig the Atke canal (3 years work) and build a bridge on the Dardanelles/Hellespont strait
 - The largest army yet seen by the world: 200,000 foot soldiers and 75,000 horsemen, 1200 ships (including Phoenicians, Lydians, Cypriots)
 - Greeks: 7,000 hoplites at Thermopylae (only 300 from Sparta because of another religious festival, zero from Athens)

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - Second invasion (Thermopylae and Salamis, 480 BC; Plataea, 479 BC)
 - Athens provides most of the 400 ships of the Greek navy (only 16 from Sparta)
 - Athens (faster trireme boats) wins the naval battle at Salamis
 - Plataea: more than 100,000 Greek soldiers (40,000 Spartans, 8,000 Athenians) vs 90,000 Persians (30,000 horsemen)

What the Greeks knew

- The Persian Wars
 - The Persian Wars defined Greek ethos
 - Fight for freedom against oppressors
 - Glorify both victories and defeats
 - It is a citizen's duty to sacrifice his life for the city
 - But no peace among the Greek cities, just a common ethos
 - End of the hoplite age
 - Philip II of Macedonia: aristocratic hierarchy of the army, emphasis on the cavalry (Persian model, not Greek model)

What the Greeks knew

- Greek religion
 - Gods as vehicles of the force
 - Gods did not create the world, they only conquered it thanks to their powers
 - Powerful but not omnipotent gods
 - Problem of evil: gods are indifferent to humans and gods are not omnipotent, therefore evil just happens
 - Religion is worship and sacrifice
 - Euhemerus (3rd c BC): Great rulers and heroes become gods, gods are deified humans

What the Greeks knew

- Greek religion
 - Oracles (persons through which the gods respond with advice/prophecy when consulted, often via enigmatic allegories)
 - Dreams are about the future, not the past
 - Sybils (female prophets) and Bakides (male prophets) interpreted by “exegetai”
 - Sanctuaries: Delphi (Apollo), Olympia (Zeus), etc
 - Apollo (god of all knowledge) is the highest religious and moral authority

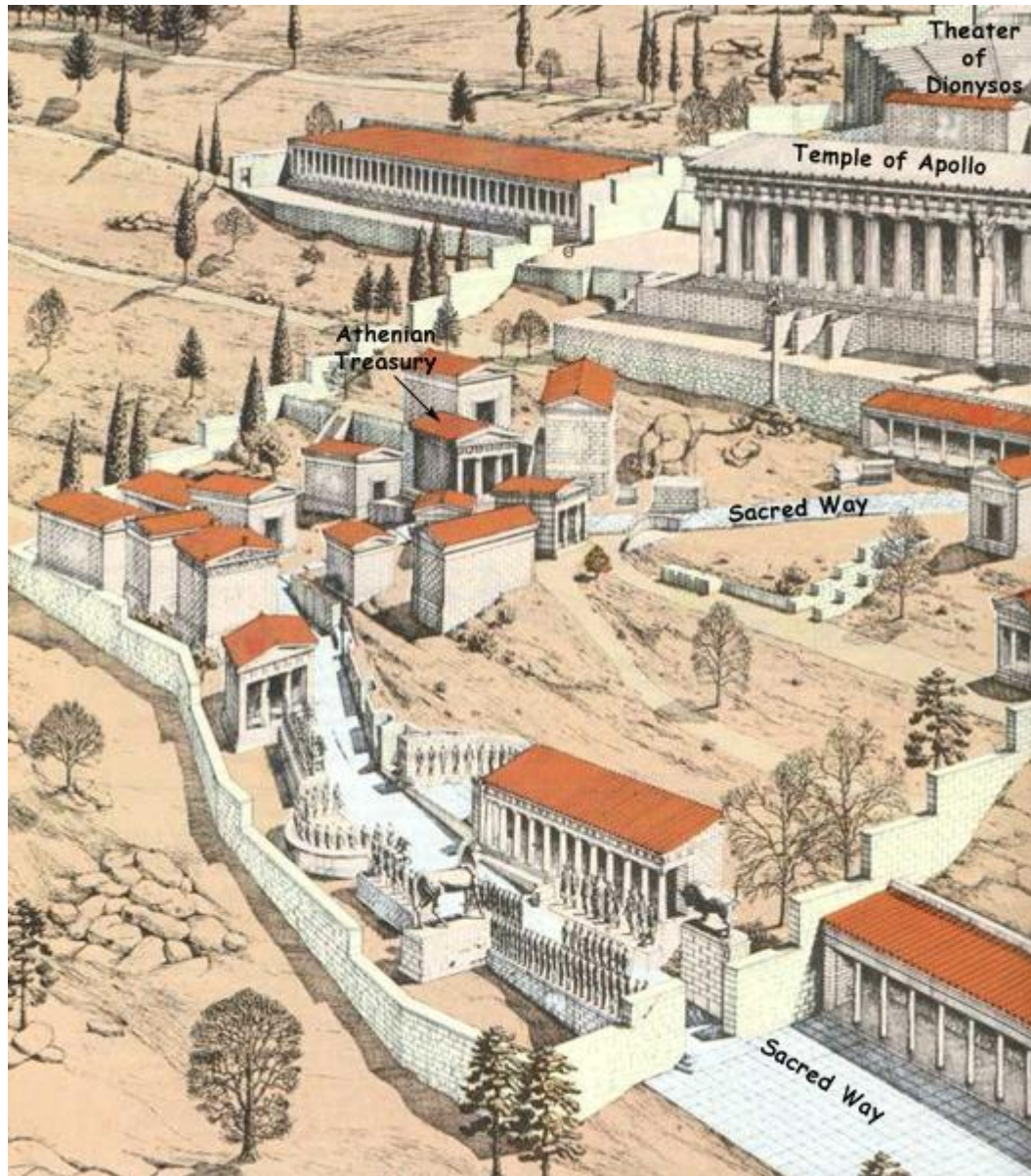
Delphi



Delphi



(Ecole des Beaux Arts)



(<http://mkatz.web.wesleyan.edu>)

What the Greeks knew

- Religion as rational superstition
 - The gods are exempt from aging and death
 - The gods are powerful
 - The gods control natural phenomena and human destiny
 - Gods are capricious and there is nothing humans can do about it (Problem of evil)
 - The head of all gods (Zeus) was not one of the earliest and did not create the universe
 - Gods have no effect on the working of the universe.
 - Gods have feelings

What the Greeks knew

- Religion as rational superstition
 - The Titans, who ruled the Earth before the Olympians overthrew them and banished them to Tartarus
 - Kronos (dethroned by his son Zeus)
 - Gaea, Uranus, Rhea, Oceanus, Tethys, Hyperion, Mnemosyne, Iapetus, Coeus, Crius, Phoebe, Thea, Epimetheus, Atlas, Metis, Dione (all sided with Cronus)
 - Themis and Prometheus (only ones to side with Zeus)
 - Some are male, some are female

What the Greeks knew

- Religion as rational superstition
 - The Olympians: 12 chief gods 12 gods who ruled after the overthrow of the Titans:
 - Zeus, his wife Hera,
 - Hephaestus (fire),
 - Athena (wisdom),
 - Apollo (poetry/music),
 - Artemis (wildlife),
 - Ares (war),
 - Aphrodite (love),
 - Hestia (hearth),
 - Hermes (messenger),
 - Demeter (agriculture),
 - Poseidon (see)

What the Greeks knew

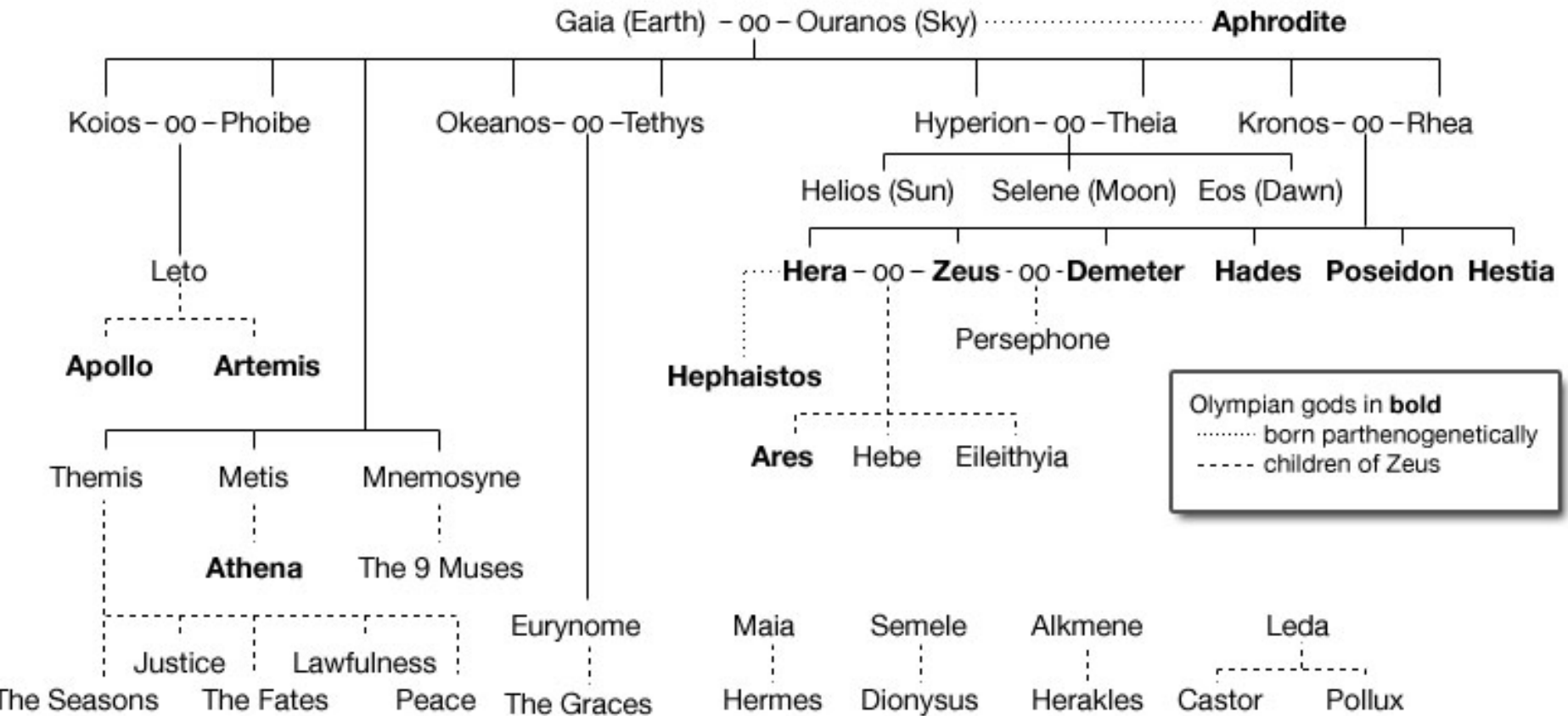
- Religion as rational superstition
 - Lesser gods:
 - Asclepius
 - Persephone
 - Dionysus
 - Eros
 - Thanatos
 - Pan
 - Nemesis
 - Helios, Hebe, Eris

What the Greeks knew

- Religion as rational superstition
 - 12 chief gods (the Olympians):
 - Zeus, his wife Hera,
 - Hephaestus (fire),
 - Athena (wisdom),
 - Apollo (poetry/music),
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 - Poseidon (see)

What the Greeks knew

- **Genealogy**



What the Greeks knew

- **Religion as rational superstition**
 - **Underworld**
 - **Hades ruler of the underworld**
 - **Hades' wife Persephone**
 - **Dark place located at the center of the Earth**
 - **Populated by the souls of dead people**
 - **Elysium (Elysian Fields): a perfect land located at the westernmost edge of the world where dead heroes lived forever**

What the Greeks knew

- **Religion as rational superstition**
 - **Gods have no effect on the working of the universe.**
 - **Thus Science and Religion never contradict each other**
- **No organized church**
 - **Priests (oracles) are mere interpreters between gods and humans**
 - **No theocracy: powerless “priests”**
 - **Priestly duties were duties of every good citizen, just like many other duties**

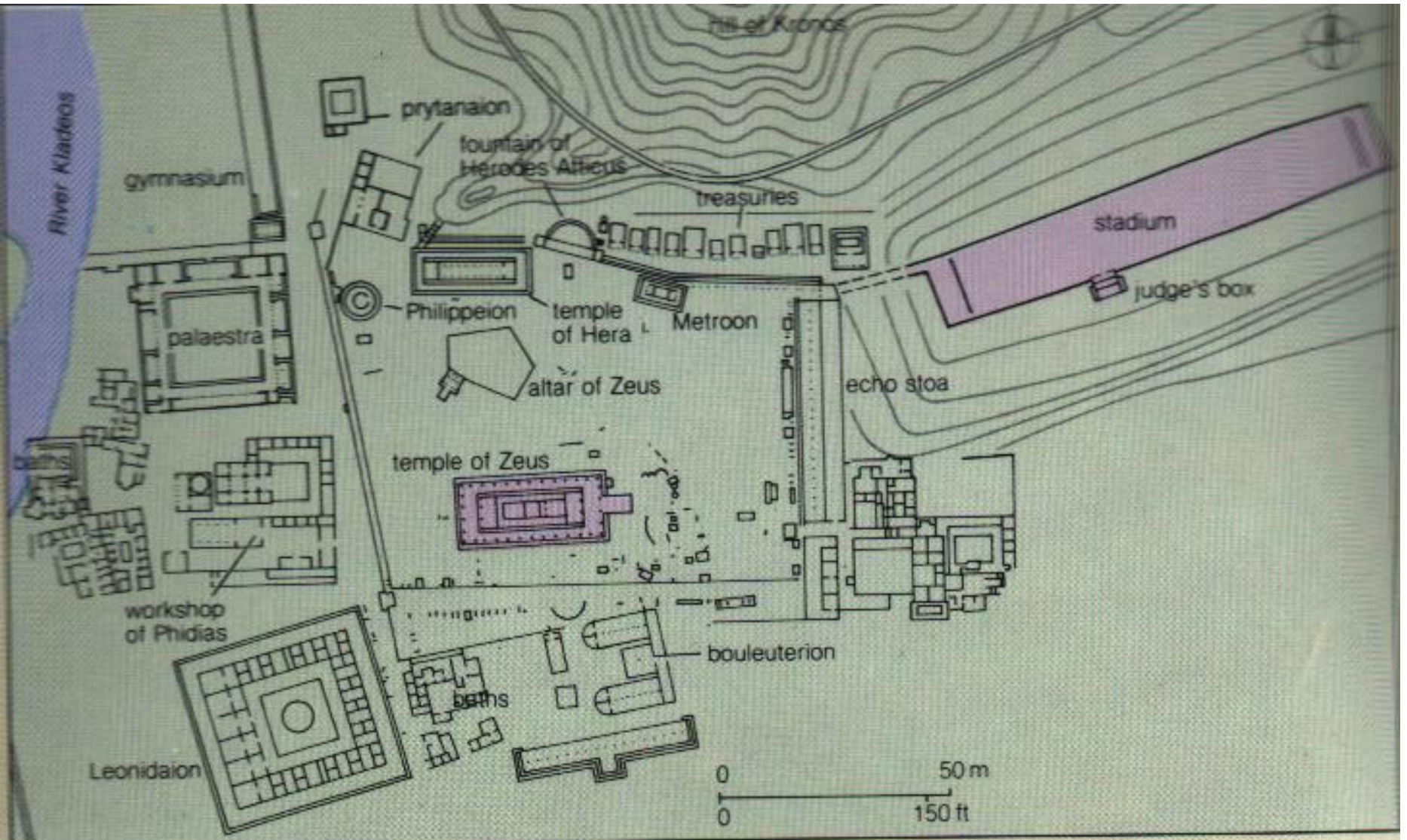
What the Greeks knew

- **Heroism**
 - Humans are halfway between beasts and gods
 - In virtue of their achievements, heroes are more godly than beastly (heroism is an everlasting quality just like the powers of the gods)
 - Heroes struggle against human destiny
 - Heroism is a titanic struggle to become more divine than human
 - Value system based on competition ("agon")

What the Greeks knew

- **Olympic games (776BC): festival of Zeus**
 - affirmation of the pan-hellenic identity
 - athletes, dramatists, poets
 - agon (competition)
- **582 BC: the Pythian games are established in Delphi and the Isthmian games are established in Corinth**
- **Games pervasive for all sorts of activities and cults**
- **Foreigners, slaves, convicts are not allowed (it's a religious "game")**
- **Victory depends on destiny (divine favor) not on skills**
- **Prize: a simple garland of olive**

Olympia



What the Greeks knew

- **Calendar**
 - **432 BC: Hellenic luni-solar calendar**
 - **264 BC: "Attikos Hemerologia"**
 - **First year: Olympic Games of 776 BC**
 - **Luni-solar calendar of 12 months of 29 and 30 days**
 - **First day of the year: Summer Solstice**
 - **First day of the month: Noumenia**
 - **3 "decads" (ten days) per month**

What the Greeks knew

- **Festivals**
- **Hekatombaion (roughly beginning of summer)**
 - **7th: Hekatombaia (Apollo, offerings of "hekatombs" or large sacrifices)**
 - **Olympic Games (every four years)**
 - **12th: Kronia (Kronos, end of harvest)**
 - **28th: Panathenaia (Athena's birthday, procession depicted on the frieze of the Parthenon)**
- **Metageitnion**
- **Boedromion**
 - **5h: Genesia (festival to honor the dead)**
 - **15th: Eleusinian Mysteries (Demeter, nine-day festival every five years)**
 - **17th: Epidauria (Asklepios)**

What the Greeks knew

- Pyanopsion
 - 6th: Proerosia (Demeter, agrarian festival before the plowing)
 - 7th: Pyanopsia (Apollon)
 - 8th: Theseia (Theseus)
 - 8th: Oskhophoria (Dionysos, festival of the vintage)
 - 11th: Thesmophoria (three-day secret festival of Demeter, women's only festival, mystery)
 - 19th: Apatouria (three-day festival of boys and girls who are becoming free citizens)
 - 30th: Khalkeia (Athena as goddess of technology, and Hephaistos, god of the smiths)
- Maimakterion
 - 15th: Pompaia (Zeus Meilikhios)
 - 20th: Maimakteria (Zeus Maimaktos)
- Poseideon (end of fall, beginning of winter)
 - 26th: Haloa (Dionysos and Demeter, fertility festival, procession from Athens to Eleusis)

What the Greeks knew

- Gamelion
 - 27th: Theogamia/Gamelia (sacred marriage between Hera and Zeus)
- Anthesterion
 - 11th: Anthesteria (three-day festival of Dionysos, new wine is tasted and offered, banning of the evil spirits)
 - 23rd: Diasia (Zeus Meilikhios, spring festival)
- Elaphebolion
 - 10th: Dionysia (five-day festival of Dionysos, procession with phalli, dramatic performances)
- Mounikhion
 - 6th: Delphinia (Apollon Delphinio)
 - 16th: Mounikhia (Artemis)
 - 19th: Olympieia (Olympian Zeus)

What the Greeks knew

- Thargelion
 - 6th: Thargelia (Artemis's birthday, Athens)
 - 7th: Thargelia (Apollon's birthday, Athens)
 - 24th: Kallynteria (spring-cleaning of the temple of Athena)
 - 25th: Plynteria (washing of images of Athena)
- Skirophorion
 - 12th: Skira (Demeter, mainly women's festival, procession to Skiron)
 - 14th: Bouphonia/Dipolieia (Zeus Polieos at protector of Athens)
 - 22nd: Arrephoria (Athena)

What the Greeks knew

- Funerary art



Gravestone, 320 BC
(Getty Villa)

What the Greeks knew

- **Cults of immortality outside mainstream religion**
 - **Eleusinian mysteries**
 - **Dionysian mysteries**
 - **Orphic mysteries**

What the Greeks knew

- **Eleusinian mysteries**
 - **Eleusis' sanctuary built in 15th c BC**
 - **Initiatory religion**
 - **Most important religious festivals**
 - **Lasted for 2,000 years**
 - **Four stages in the revelation of the mysteries**
 - **Demeter's search through the underworld for her daughter Persephone, abducted by Hades**
 - **Demeter as the bringer of immortality to humankind**



Persephone rescued from the underworld

What the Greeks knew

- **Eleusinian mysteries**
 - **Hymn to Demeter (7th c BC)**
 - **Demeter and her daughter Persephone were separated when Hades kidnapped Persephone in his chariot as she was gathering flowers, and took her with him into the underworld**
 - **The disconsolate Demeter searches all over the world for her in vain.**
 - **Hekate and Helios tell her what happened, and that it was approved in advance by Zeus himself**
 - **In protest, Demeter abandons her divine form and, disguised as an old woman from Crete, reaches Eleusis and finds employment as a nurse for a child**
 - **Demeter is about to turn the child into an immortal being through some secret rites when the child's mother interrupts her**
 - **Moved by Demeter's stubbornness, Zeus forces Hades to free Persephone**

What the Greeks knew

- **Nine days of the Eleusinian mysteries**
 - **Candidates for initiation to the mysteries of life gather in Eleusis**
 - **Candidates are purified in the sea**
 - **Candidates fast**
 - **Sacrifices and mystical dances**
 - **Candidates entered inside Demeter's temple in Athens**
 - **Procession from Athens to Eleusis with the statue of the boy-god Iakchos**
 - **Secret initiation inside the Adyton (3 days)**

What the Greeks knew

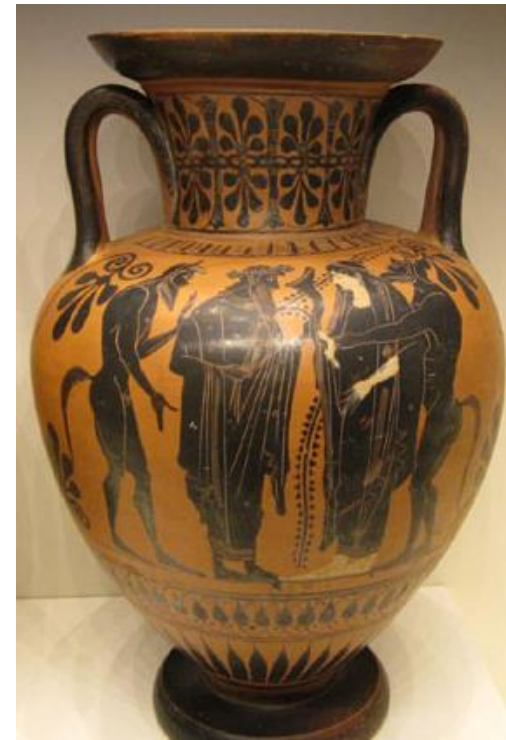
- Cult of Dionysus/Bacchus (mysticism)
 - God of frenzy (pleasure, wine)
 - Remnant of an earlier religion
 - Dionysus, god of wine and pleasure
 - Accompanied by satyrs, centaurs, nymphs
 - Dionysus died each winter and was reborn in the spring
 - Dionysia involved dramatic performances
 - Female devotees (mainades/maenads) worship him in frenzied savagery, tearing children and animals limb from limb
 - During the orgy the human soul becomes one with the god
 - Tomb of Dionysus in Delphi

What the Greeks knew

- **Cult of Dionysus/Bacchus (mysticism)**
 - **5th c:** Thebes is the main center of the cult of Dionysus
 - **2nd c BC:** the cult spreads in the Roman empire (forbidden by the senate)
 - **Dithyramb:** song of Dionysus



(Basel Museum)



(Getty Villa)

What the Greeks knew

- **Dionysian Festival**



Floor mosaic in the 'House of Good Fortune', 432-348 BC, Olynthos.

What the Greeks knew

- **Dionysian Festival**



Sarcophagus of 220 AD with Bacchus scenes (Getty Villa)

What the Greeks knew

- **Orphic mysteries (mysticism)**
 - **Founder of the mysteries: poet and musician Orpheus (first mentioned in the 6th c BC), who almost succeeded in bringing back his dead wife Eurydice from the underworld (“katabasis”)**
 - **devoted to Apollo**
 - **killed by Dionysus**
 - **Zeus resurrected his (Zeus’) son Dionysus (born of a god and a mortal woman) and created the human race from the ashes of his assassins, the Titans**
 - **Dionysus himself rescued his mother from Hades**
 - **Dionysus has both a divine and a human nature**
 - **His death and resurrection saves humans**

What the Greeks knew

- **Orphic mysteries**
 - **Mystery: humans have a dual nature: the earthly body (which comes from the Titans and feels pain) and the divine soul (which comes from Dionysus and leads to ecstasy)**
 - **The heavenly component increases with rites of purification (“katharsis”) and ascetism (which get rid of the evil Titanic elements)**
 - **After death, people who lived in evil will be punished, while the souls of people who lived in holiness will be completely liberated from Titanic elements and reunited with Dionysus**

What the Greeks knew

- **Orphic mysteries**
 - **Earthly life determines if the soul will be happy or unhappy for eternity**
 - **The damned shall suffer for eternity (proto-concept of hell)**
 - **Ultimate goal of Orphism: permanent (not only temporary) union of the soul with the divinity**
 - **Immortality of the soul**
 - **Orphism vs Bacchism: purification instead of orgy, permanent instead of temporary union of soul and god, immortality instead of mortality**
 - **Orphism very similar to Pythagorean practices**
 - **Prestige of Orphism declined after Persian wars**

What the Greeks knew

- **Orphic mysteries**
 - **As the soul arrives thirsty in Hades, it is tempted to drink from the spring of Lethe**
 - **But one drink from the spring of Lethe erases all the memories**

What the Greeks knew

- Artemis
 - Illegitimate daughter of Zeus and Leto, twin sister of Apollo
 - Virgin goddess
 - Principal deity of Asia Minor (e.g., Ephesos)
 - Festivals: Brauronia, held in Brauron, and Orthia at Sparta

What the Greeks knew

- Prometheus
 - Prometheus shaped man out of mud, and Athena breathed life into his clay
 - Prometheus created humankind, made humans superior to animals, gave them the gift of fire (stolen from the gods) and gave them the flesh of sacrifices (leaving the bones for the gods)
 - Zeus, angry, punished Prometheus by chaining him to a rock.
 - Prometheus was freed by Hercules
 - This first sacrifice became the norm for humans (Greeks offered animal bones to the gods, keeping the flesh for themselves)
 - Prometheus = “Foresight”, Epimetheus= “Hindsight”⁹

What the Greeks knew

- Prometheus



Prometheus making the first man
(Etruscan gems, 2nd c BC)

What the Greeks knew

- Daedalus
 - Daedalus builds the Labyrinth to imprison the Minotaur of Crete
 - Daedalus reveals the secret of the Labyrinth to Ariadne
 - Ariadne tells her lover Theseus who kills the Minotaur
 - Ariadne and Theseus flee
 - The king of Crete puts Daedalus himself as well as his son Icarus in the Labyrinth so he cannot escape
 - Daedalus makes wings of wax that allow the two prisoners to fly out of the Labyrinth
 - Icarus flies too near the Sun and his wings melt, killing him
 - Daedalus flies to Sicily

What the Greeks knew

- Pyrrha and Deucalion
 - Zeus decided to cause a great deluge
 - Deucalion and his wife Pyrrha were the only survivors
 - The stones thrown by Pyrrha became women; those thrown by Deucalion became men
 - The Greek race comes from stones!
 - (And the Greeks will be the only ones in the world to make lifesize realistic stone statues)



What the Greeks knew

- Theseus



Theseus and the Minotaur (550 BC)
(Getty Villa)

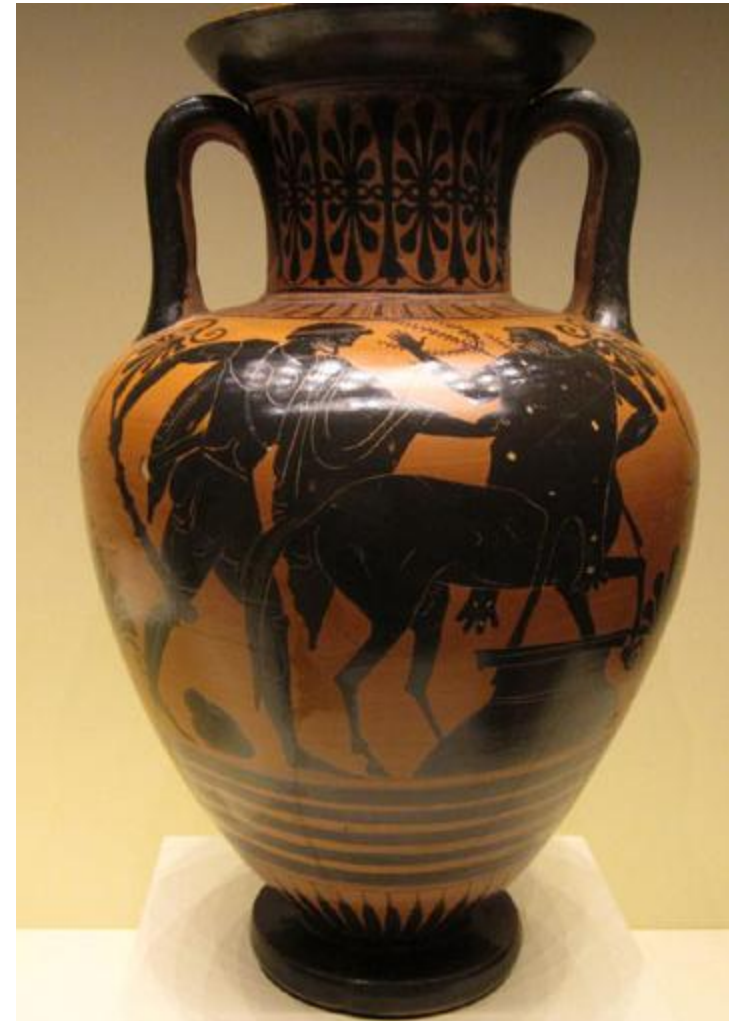
What the Greeks knew

- Herakles

Herakles and the Centaur (460 BC)
Getty Villa



Herakles carrying the Kerkopes
(Getty Villa)



What the Greeks knew

- Talos



Etruscan Bronze mirror



Vase painting
(400 BC)



Phaistos coins (300 BC)



What the Greeks knew

- Talos



Jason uses tool
to remove bolt
on talos's ankle (440 BC)

What the Greeks knew

- Greek myths are not consistent
 - E.g., Ariadne:
 - abandoned by Theseus, she commits suicide
 - abandoned by Theseus, she dies in childbirth
 - killed by Artemis
 - turned to stone by Perseus
 - marries Dionysus and becomes a constellation

What the Greeks knew

- Heroes: Heracles, Theseus, Jason, Perseus, Oedipus
- Cosmogony:
 - Cronus originates the gods (father of Zeus)
 - Oceanus originates the rivers and the seas
 - Gods, geography and living beings are co-protagonists of the cosmic story

What the Greeks knew

- Greek superstition (“religion”?)
 - The gods (Zeus, Apollo, etc)
 - The mysteries
 - The heroes
- Because it is so chaotic and contradictory, Greek religion is quite tolerant of other philosophical, scientific) ideas

What the Greeks knew

- Aphrodite
 - Semitic goddesses of war and love: Inanna, Ishtar/Astarte
 - Homer and Hesiod discard the “war” component
 - Hesiod:
 - Aphrodite born in Cyprus out of the testicles of Uranus (castrated by his son Cronus, urged in turn by his mother Gaea)(Uranus’ castration story comes from the Enuma Elish)
 - Older than the other Olympians because
 - She has the power to deceive Zeus in person
 - Eros (desire) and Himeros (yearning) are her assistants

What the Greeks knew

- Aphrodite
 - Homer and Hesiod discard the “war” component
 - Homer:
 - Aphrodite is Zeus’ daughter (from Dione)
 - She causes the war by helping Paris (son of Priam, king of Troy) to seduce Helen (queen of Mycenaean Sparta) and abduct her to Troy
 - She makes sure that the war is not ended by the duel between Paris and Menelaus by spiriting Paris away
 - Aphrodite commits adultery with the war-god Ares (and her husband Hephaestus is ridiculed by the gods)
 - Aphrodite fails to rescue her son Aeneas (she is no longer a war goddess)

What the Greeks knew

- Aphrodite
 - Homeric Hymn to Aphrodite (7th c BC)
 - Aphrodite drives gods to mate with mortals
 - Aphrodite herself has sex with a young mortal, Anchises, and their son Aeneas guides the survivors of the Trojan War to Italy
 - Inanna and her mortal lover Dumuzi, Ishtar and her mortal lover Tammuz
 - Wolves, lions, bears and leopards follow her (like Cybele in Phrygia, the goddess of the wild beasts)
 - Popular myth
 - Aphrodite has sex with a young mortal, Adonis

What the Greeks knew

- Pandora
 - The first woman: before Pandora human beings are exclusively male
 - Pandora is sent by Zeus as punishment in retaliation for Prometheus' theft of fire (“the mind of a bitch and a thieving nature”)
 - Zeus commands Hephaestus to make the seductive android Pandora to punish men
 - Pandora opens the mysterious jar that Zeus has given her, and its content (suffering) scatters all over the human world and still plagues men

What the Greeks knew

- Pandora
 - An artificial being



What the Greeks knew

- Hephaestus creates
 - Brazen bulls
 - Giant eagle to torment Prometheus each day
 - Golden servants
 - Pandora for Zeus



Zeus admires Pandora (500 BC)



Jason yoking the Fire-Breathing
Brazen Bulls forged by Hephaestus

What the Greeks knew

- Eros
 - Eros is a threat to society
 - Aphrodite: destructive power of sex (she causes the carnage of the Trojan war)
 - Pandora: symbol of female evil
 - Circe: symbol of how woman can enslave even the greatest of men
 - Medea: symbol of female power (protofeminist speech about the condition of women)
 - Diotima: desexualizes sex (origin of “Platonic love”)

What the Greeks knew

- Eros
 - Hesiod's Eros is a male god with no parents (like Gaea/ Earth and Tartarus/Underworld, all originated by the primordial Chaos)
 - Eros induces Gaea to generate her own husband Uranus/Sky, and that begins biological sex, with a female and a male joining to give birth to other gods
 - After Aphrodite is born out of Uranus' tentacles, Eros becomes a mere assistant to Aphrodite
 - Homer's eros is not a god but simply a common noun meaning sexual desire)

What the Greeks knew

- Homosexuality
 - Not mentioned by either Homer (Achilles and Patroclus are comrades, not lovers) or Hesiod
 - Prevalent in lyric poems of the 7th-6th c BC
 - Aeschylus and Plato treat Achilles as gay
 - Common in the age of Sparta and Athens but only as pederasty
 - Pythagoras condemns it
 - Aristotle has an unsympathetic view of it (“Ethics”)
 - Plato condemns it in the “Laws”
 - Aristophanes condemns it

What the Greeks knew

- Prostitution
 - Pornai (ordinary prostitutes)
 - Hetairai/hetaerae (the Greek equivalent of geishas, cultured and sometimes rich companion)
 - Aspasia (5th c. BC) is the mistress of Pericles and hangs out with Phidias and Socrates - most famous woman of ancient Greece
 - Lais of Corinth (5th c BC) served distinguished men and charged exorbitant fees
 - Only hetaerae are known by name (respectable women are known as the daughter/wife/mother of a man)

What the Greeks knew

- Prostitution
 - Corinth's sacred prostitutes (women offered as sacrifice by families and individuals to the goddess Aphrodite)
 - Pederasty widely debated but prostitution rarely mentioned in classical Athens (like heterosexuality in general)
 - Hetairai appear in two Aristophanes plays ("Assemblywomen", 392 BC; "Wealth")
 - 390 BC - 320 BC: Several plays bear the name of a hetaera
 - Epicrates of Ambracia's "Antilais" (4th c BC) attacks and mocks Lais

What the Greeks knew

- Sex in pottery
 - Relatively few: 150 out of more than tens of thousands of extant vases (less than 1% of all pottery)
 - 575-450 BC: Erotic and explicitly sexual scenes are common, but figures are stylized (not realistic), and portrayals of sex are often grotesque and/or obscene
 - 550 BC: Height of popularity of homoerotic scenes (mostly between adults, but the age of the erastes keeps declining)
 - 525 BC: The red-figure method replaces the black-figure method, portrayals of sex become more refined

What the Greeks knew

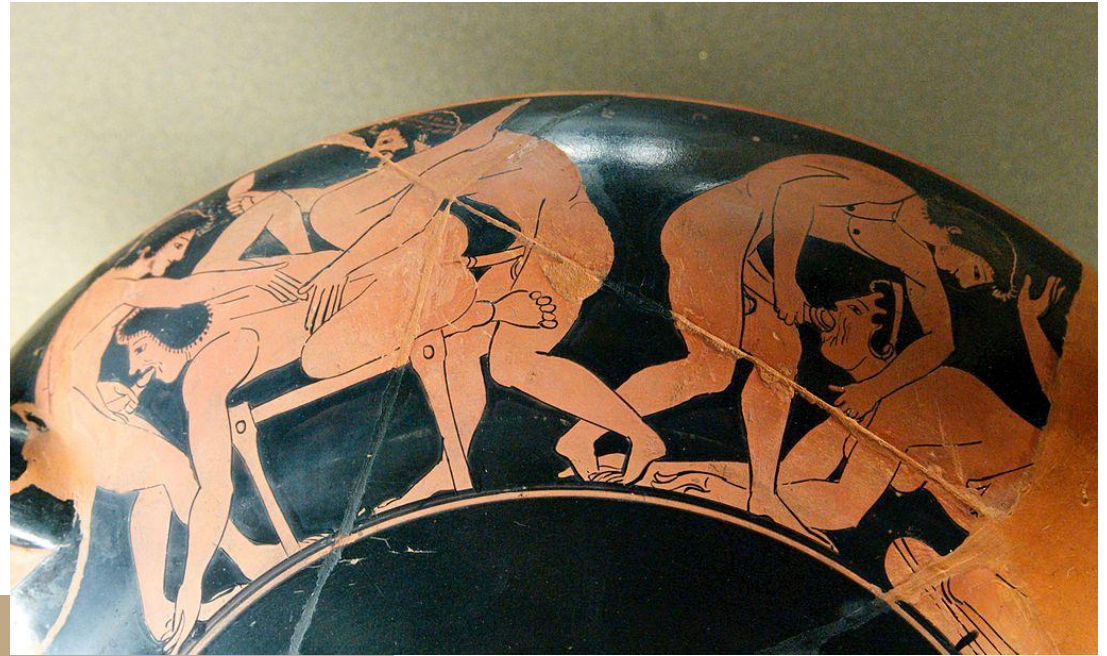
- Sex in pottery
 - Customers of the erotic vases: Etruria (where most of them were found) and the symposion (private drinking party of the aristocratic elite, the same place where erotic poetry is sung)
 - All women depicted on vases are either slaves or prostitutes: the customer does not buy these vases for his wife but for his symposion
 - Vases are made mostly by slaves (just like many of the women they depict) and they are made at the Ceramicus (which is also Athens' prostitution district)

What the Greeks knew

- Sex in pottery
 - Athenian democracy (490-338 BC)
 - 500 BC: In homoerotic scenes the erastes is often a teenager
 - 470 BC: Peak of love scenes with hetaeras
 - 450 BC and later: the Etrurian market has collapsed, erotic scenes are rare, respectable housewives in domestic settings become more common and figures are realistic
 - The peak of Athenian democracy is an age of sexual restraint and of family values

What the Greeks knew

- Sex in pottery



Kylix by the Pedieus Painter
(500 BC) (Louvre)
Middle-aged slave women
used by young men



Kylix by the Nikosthenes Painter (500 BC)

What the Greeks knew

- See also logos4 for women in Greece

What the Greeks knew

Piero Scaruffi

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- **Continues on Part II**