

What the Greeks knew

Piero Scaruffi

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- **Part II: Athens**

What the Greeks knew

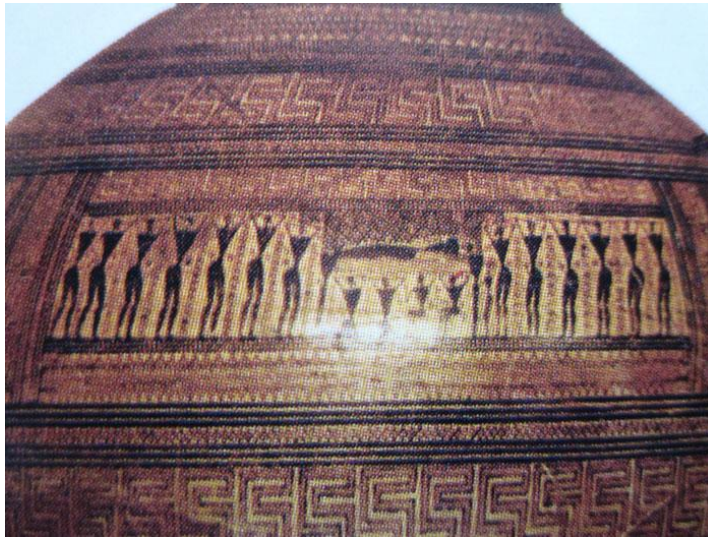
- **Burial customs**
 - **Prehistoric inhabitants of Greece: Inhumation**
 - **Hittites: Cremation**
 - **Acheans/Mycenae: Inhumation**
 - **Late Mycenae (1000 BC): Cremation**
 - **Greeks/Athens (till 8th c): Cremation**
 - **Athens (8th on): Inhumation**

What the Greeks knew

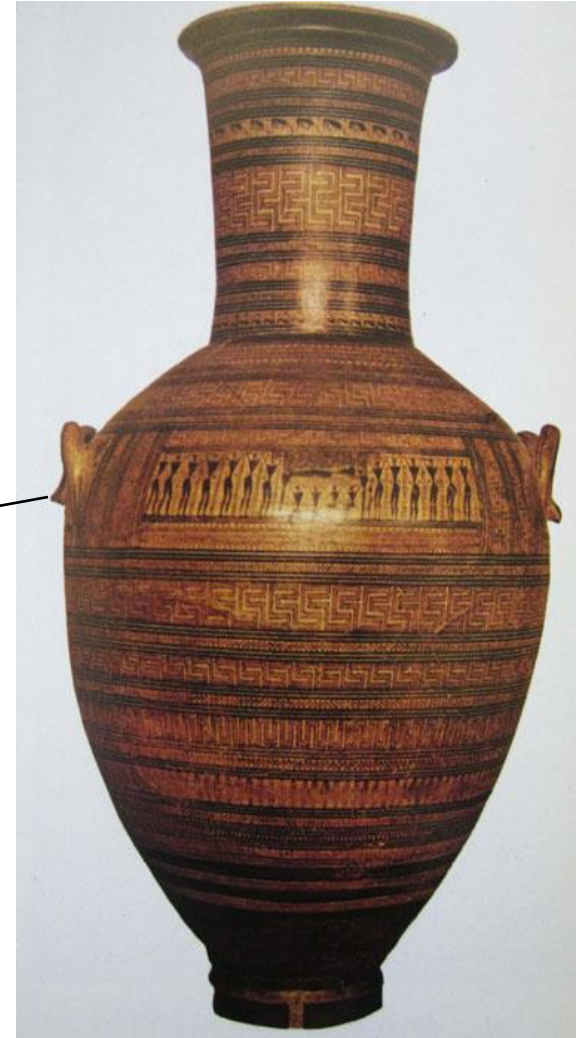
- **Painting**
 - Athens develops an artistic language
 - The geometric style (11th c BC)
 - The narrative style (7th c BC)
 - Mythology (inherited from Mycenae)
 - Homer's poems (that deal with Mycenaean history)
 - Horses are prominent
 - Painting predates sculpture by centuries

What the Greeks knew

- **Painting**
 - **The geometric style (11th c BC)**



Monumental geometric amphora
(8th c BC)
Athens National Museum





Horse and deer
720 BC
(Berlin Museum)

7th c BC - Herakles fighting
the centaur Nessos
(Metropolitan Museum)

Chariots 8th c BC
(Metropolitan Museum)

What the Greeks knew

- **Vases**



Geometric birds, 700 BC
(Getty Villa)



Geometric animals, 475 BC
(Getty Villa)

What the Greeks knew

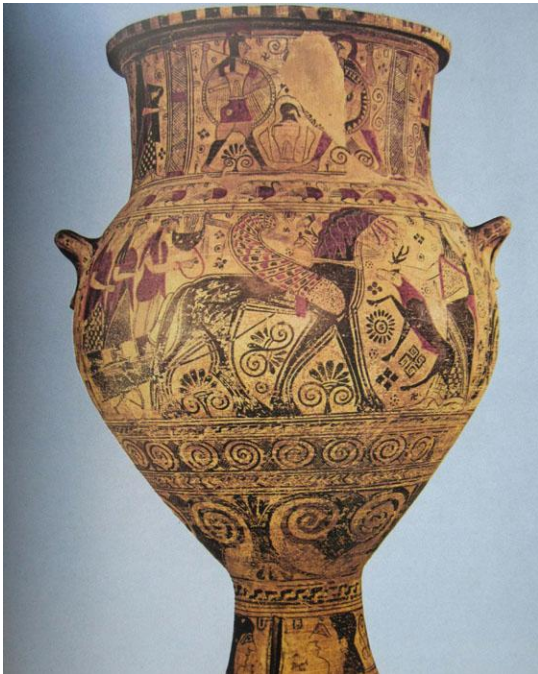
- **Painting**
 - **Orientalizing style (7th c BC)**



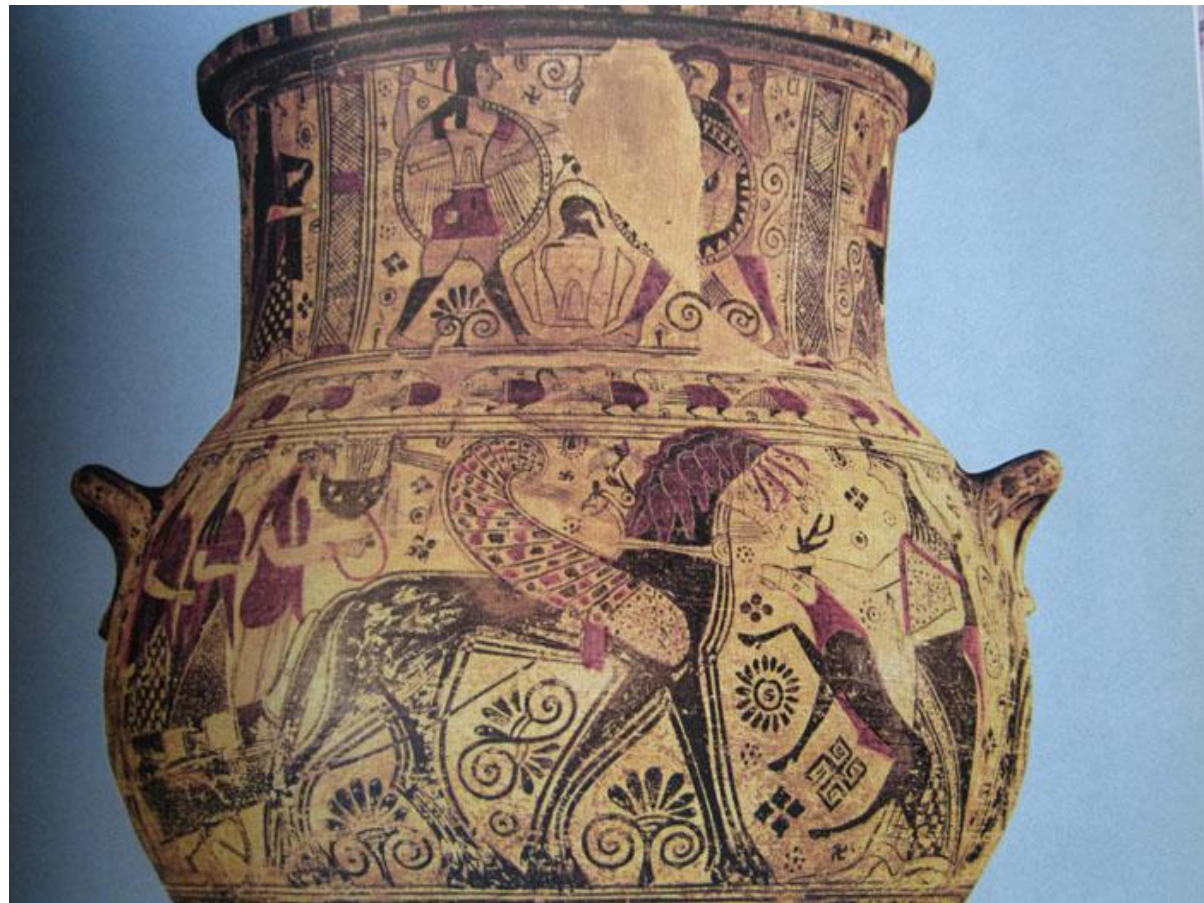
7th c BC, Louvre, Paris)

What the Greeks knew

- **Painting**
 - Narrative style (7th c BC)



Melian amphora (7th c BC)
(Athens National Museum)



What the Greeks knew

- **Painting**
 - “Chigi vase” (650 BC)



Phalanx

Horsemen

Lion hunt



(Villa Giulia, Roma)

What the Greeks knew

- **Painting**
 - **“Euphronios Krater” (Euphronios, 6th c BC)**



Hermes directing Sleep and Death as they transport Sarpedon, the dead son of Zeus, to Lycia for burial.

(Villa Giulia, Roma)

What the Greeks knew

- **Painting**

- **Kleitias: "Vase Francois" (570 BC)**



(Museo Archeologico, Firenze)

Hunt of Calydonian boar
Funeral games of Patroclus

Wedding of Peleus and
Thetis
Achilles pursuing Troilus.

Battle of pygmies and
cranes.

What the Greeks knew

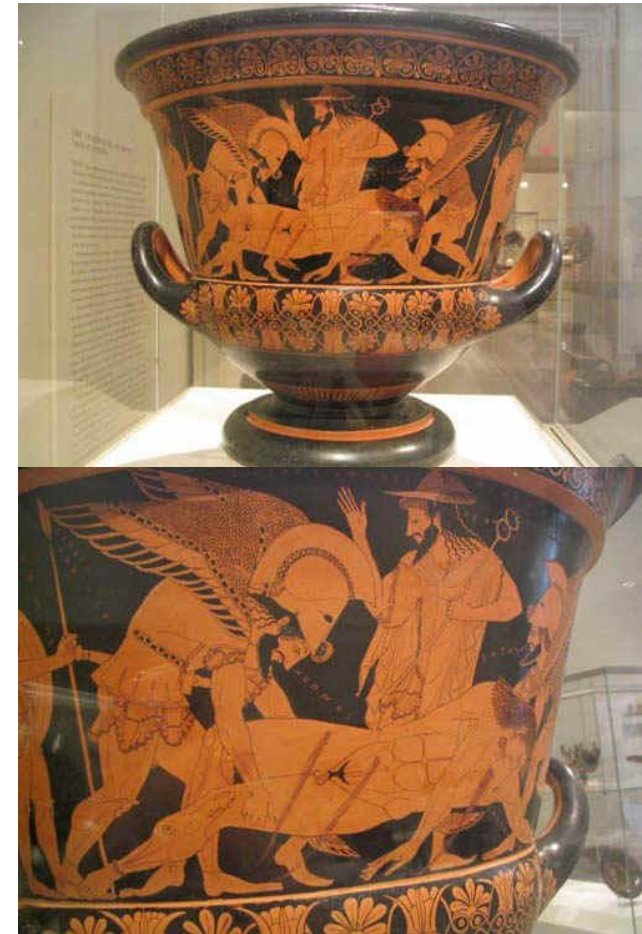
- **Painting**



Nakio runners (530 BC)
(Metropolitan Museum)



Andokides 530 BC
Red on black!
(Metropolitan Museum)



Euphronion 515 BC¹²
(Metropolitan Museum)

What the Greeks knew

- **Painting**



Women weaving
(530 BC, Metropolitan Museum)



What the Greeks knew



6th c BC vases
(Boston Museum of Fine Arts)

What the Greeks knew



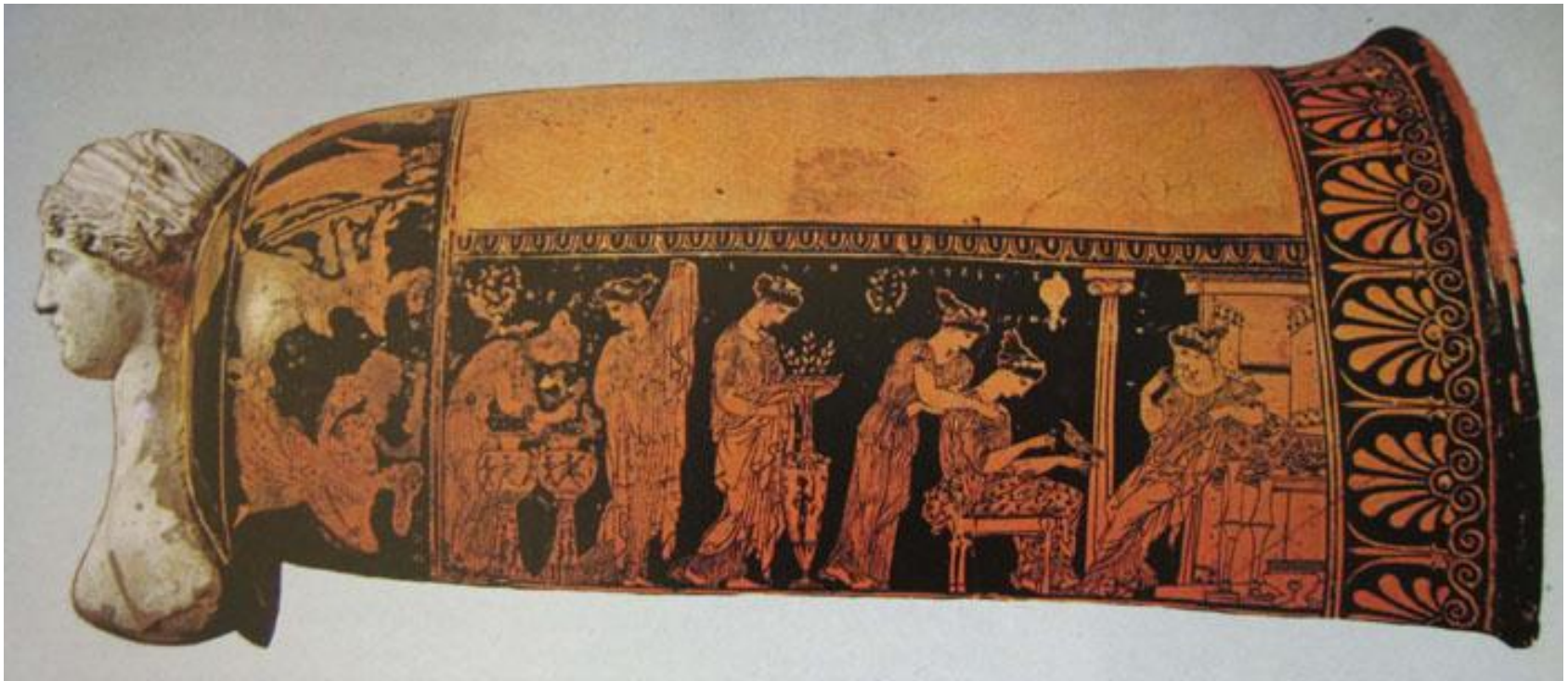
Athenian School – Duris Cup
(Royal Museum, Berlin)

What the Greeks knew



Kissing couple (highly unusual) on Greek vase of 460BC
(Art Institute of Chicago)

What the Greeks knew



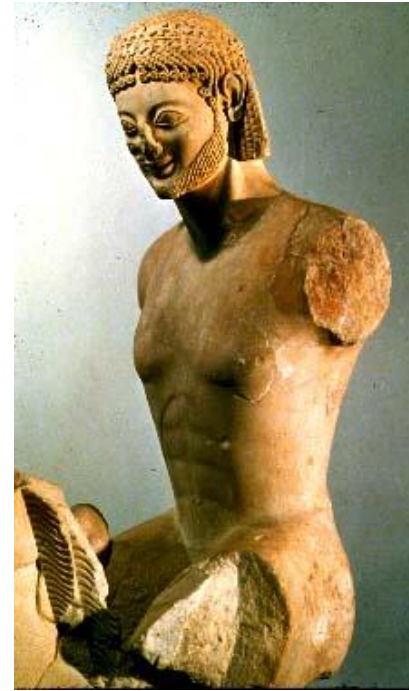
Eretria epinetron: scenes from the women's quarters (430 BC)
(Athens National Museum)

What the Greeks knew

- Archaic sculpture



Calf-bearer (590 BC)
Acropolis Museum, Athens



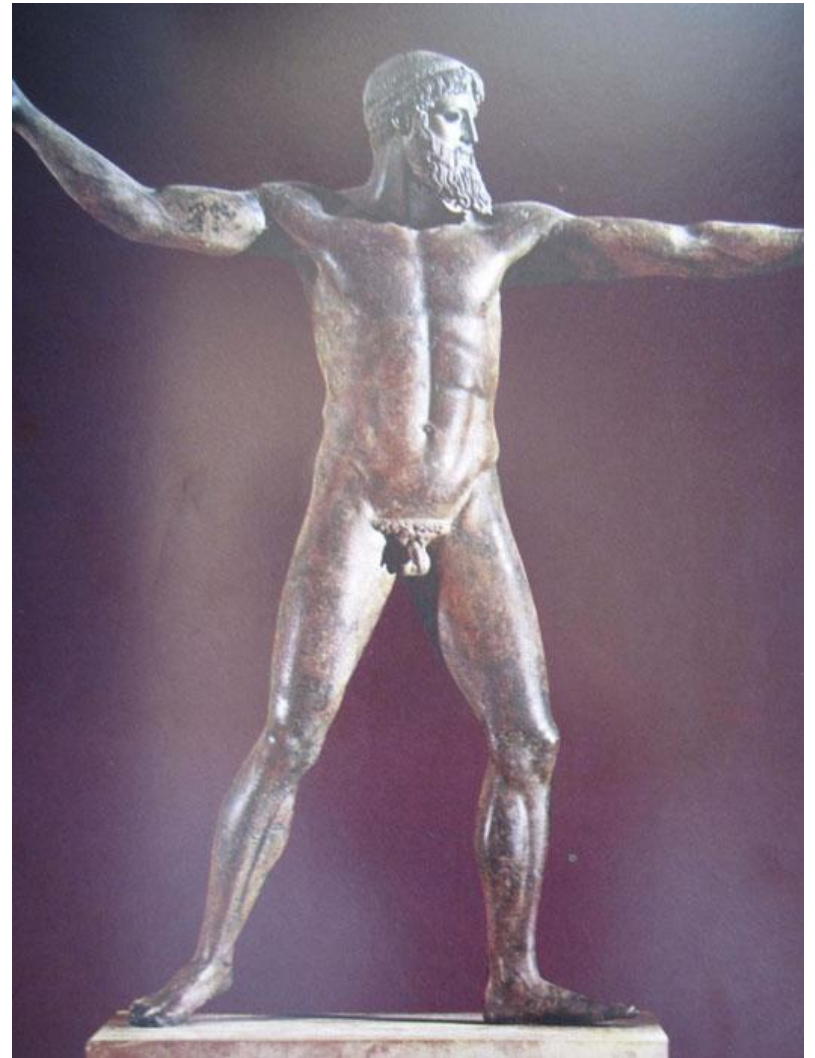
Rampin Horseman
(560 BC), oldest
equestrian statue

What the Greeks knew

- Archaic sculpture



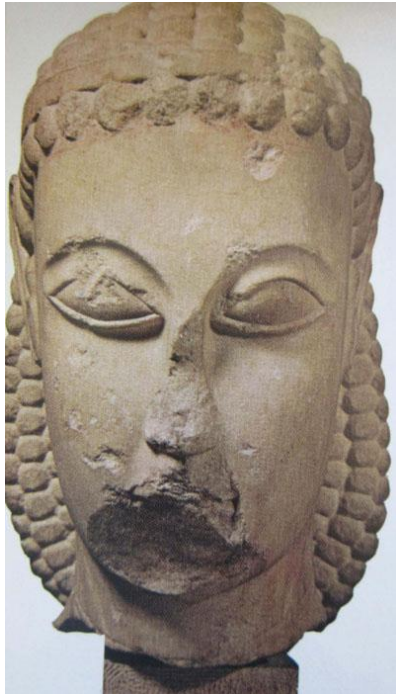
The Piraeus
Apollo, the oldest
known
bronze statue of
Greece (530 BC)
(National Museum,
Athens)



Poseidon of Artemision
(bronze of (5th c BC)
(National Museum, Athens)

What the Greeks knew

- **Kouros (nude statue): harmony, sublime**



Colossal kouros from the Dipylon, oldest known kouros (7th c BC) (National Museum, Athens)



590 BC (National Museum, Athens)



530 BC (Acropolis Museum, Athens)



600 BC (Metropolitan, New York) 20

What the Greeks knew

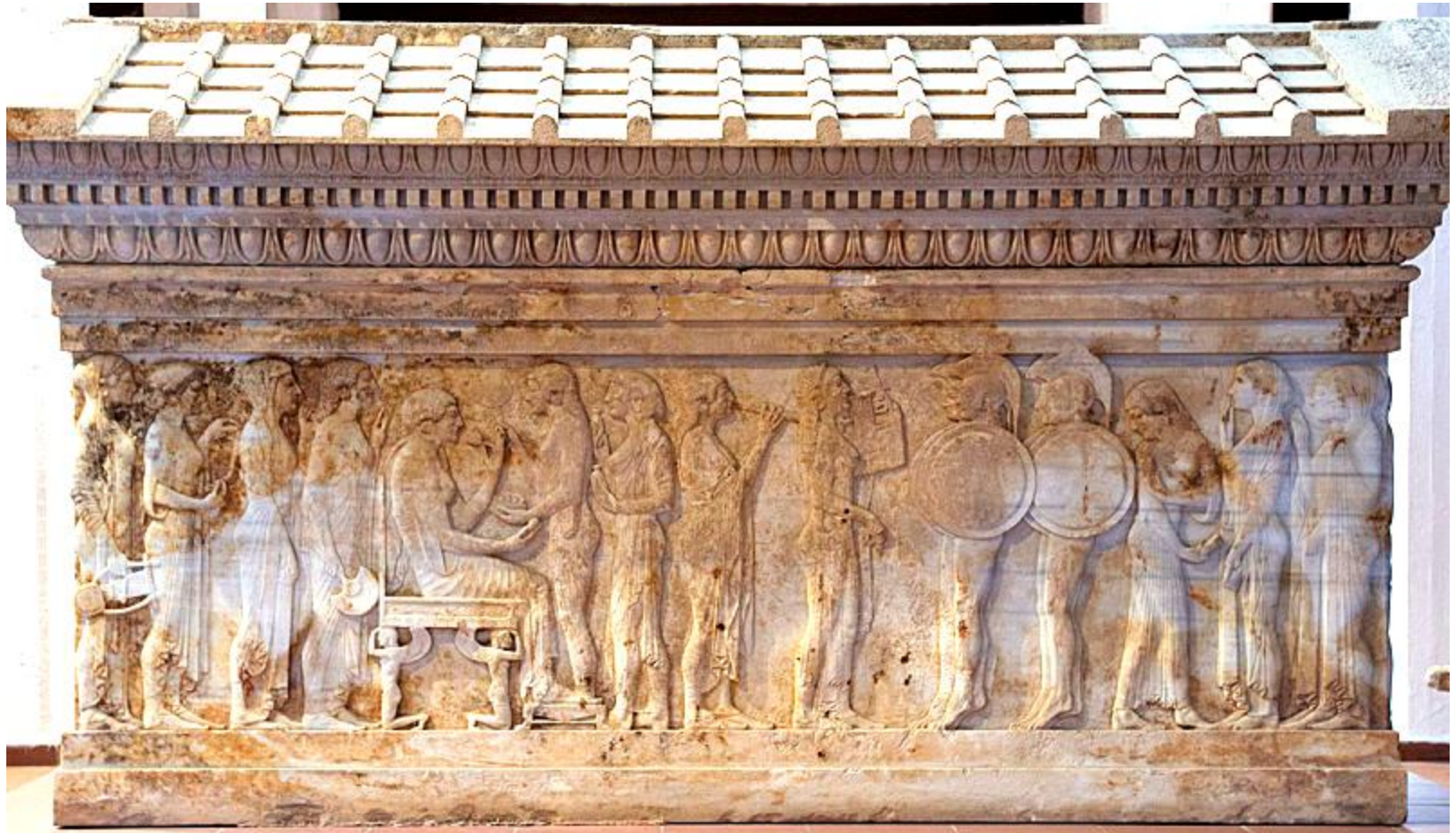
- **Base of a kouros**



Relief base from a kouros base: kids playing a game (490 BC) (National Museum, Athens)

What the Greeks knew

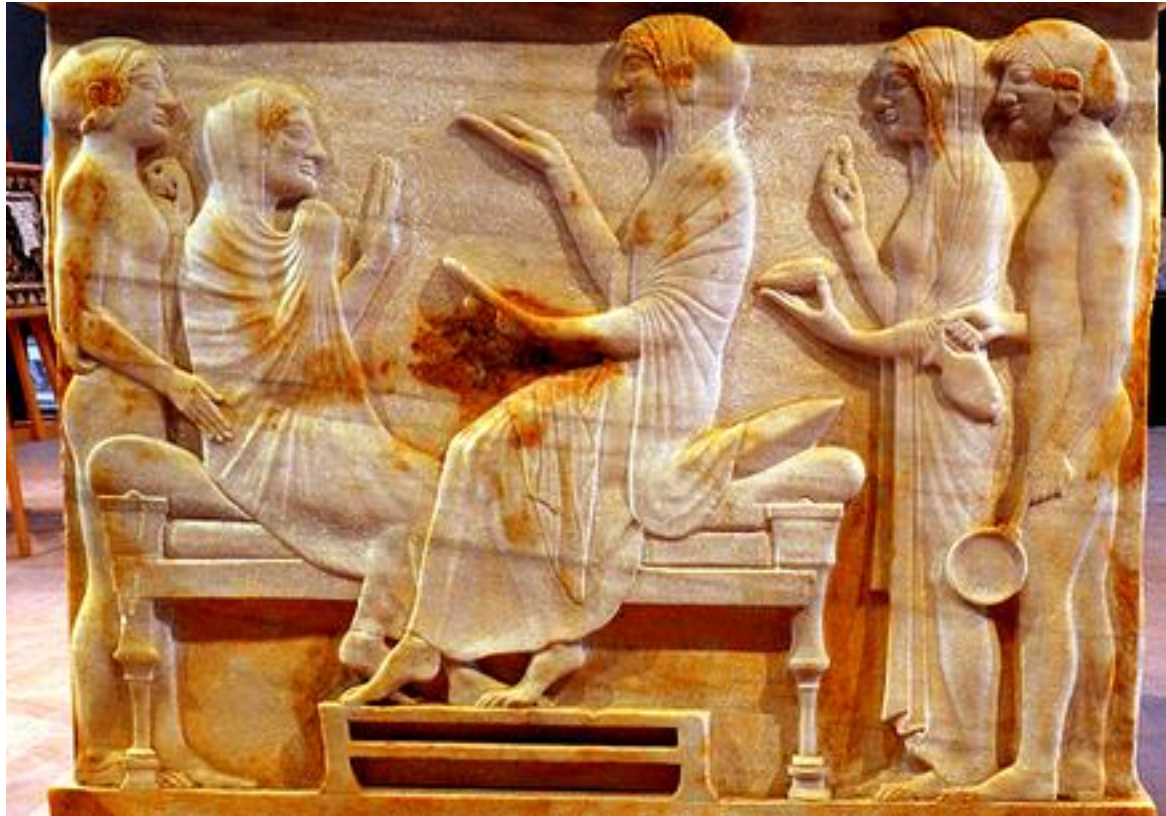
- Funerary monuments



Polyxena Sarcophagus (500 BC)
(Canakkale Archaeological Museum)

What the Greeks knew

- Funerary monuments



Polyxena Sarcophagus (500 BC)
(Canakkale Archaeological Museum)

What the Greeks knew

- **Funerary monuments**



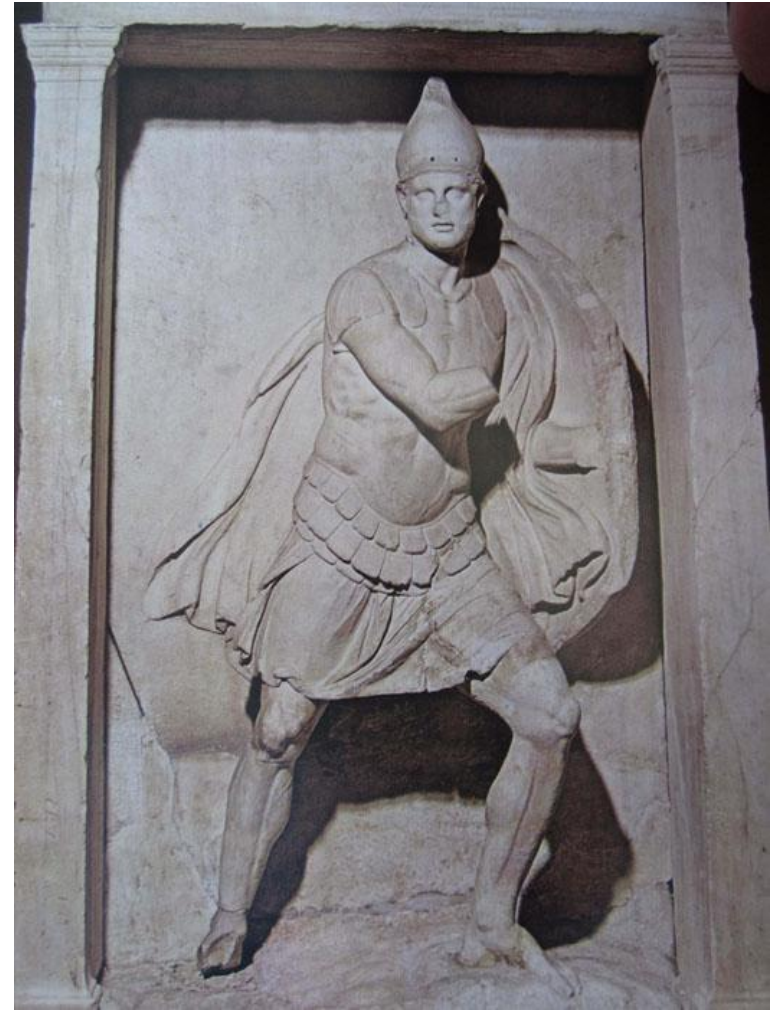
Funerary stele of Hegeso (410 BC)
(National Museum, Athens)



Funerary stele of the Ilisos (4th c BC)
(National Museum, Athens)

What the Greeks knew

- **Funerary monuments**



Funerary monument of Aristonoutes (4th c BC)
(National Museum, Athens)

What the Greeks knew

- **Temple**
 - **Not a meeting place but exclusively religious**
 - **Not a place of worship but the house of the deity**
 - **Deities receive daily offerings of food and drink**
 - **Deities receive a share of the harvest**
 - **Deities receive a share of the profits of war**
 - **Kouroi and korai dedicated to the deity as votive offerings**
 - **First use of an external (not internal) colonnade**

What the Greeks knew

- **Temple**
 - **Originally built of wood**
 - **The timber architecture is transferred to the stone architecture (gabled roof, architraves, etc)**
 - **The interior of the temple is reserved to the divinity**
 - **Decoration focused on the exterior, which is visible during worship**
 - **The column as an element of beauty**
 - **Oldest extant temples: Paestum and Agrigento**

What the Greeks knew

- **Temple**



Paestum

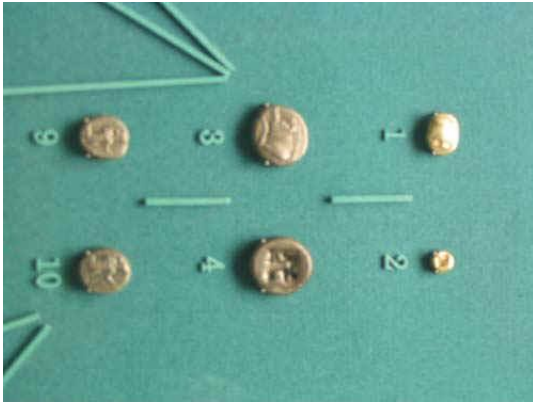


(Pixelle: http://trashformer.free.fr/spip/article.php3?id_article=6)

What the Greeks knew

- **Agora**
 - **The meeting place (same function as the temple in Mesopotamia, Palestine, Egypt)**

What the Greeks knew



Lydia's electrum coins 575 BC

Silver coins 500 BC

Achamaenid coins 500 BC



Greek drachmas



**Sicilian coins
(Syracuse, 400 BC)**

Greek Society

- **Athens 431 BC**
 - **Male citizens**
 - **Aristocracy (Eupatridae, descendants of first Greeks)**
 - **Political rights**
 - **Land ownership**
 - **Ran the polis**
 - **5-10% of population**
 - **Workers, traders, peasants, craftsmen**
 - **Enjoyed freedom never known before in history**
 - **But social and economic inequality**
 - **50,000 adult males**
 - **20-30% of the population**

Greek Society

- **Athens**
 - **493 BC: Themistocles: naval (not territorial) supremacy, trade (not war)**
 - **479 BC: Greece liberated from Persian occupation**
 - **461 BC: Pericles promotes the ideal of democracy and turns the state into a patron of the arts**

Greek Society

- **Athens 431 BC**
 - **Resident aliens (metoikoi: Thracians, Phrygians, Lydians, Syrians, Jews, Phoenicians, Egyptians, Arabians)**
 - **Free men**
 - **No political rights**
 - **No land ownership**
 - **Ran the economy**
 - **Paid taxes**
 - **25,000 (male) metics**
 - **15-20% of population**

Greek Society

- **Athens 431 BC**
 - **Slaves**
 - **Athens a slave-based society (from sex to domestic chores to labor)**
 - **Not free**
 - **No political rights**
 - **No land ownership**
 - **Not based on racial or ethnic grounds**
 - **Anyone could become a slave (even Plato)**
 - **Did not pay taxes**
 - **100,000 slaves**
 - **40-50% of population**

Greek Society

- Athens 431 BC
 - Women
 - No rights outside the household
 - Typical newlyweds: groom over 30 and bride under 16 (often 12-13)
 - Stereotype: women have strong emotions and weak minds, thus they need to be protected from themselves and men need to be protected from them
 - Every woman had a "kyrios" (guardian): nearest male relative or husband
 - Women could not own property
 - Female citizens could marry male citizens but still had no rights

Greek Society

- Athens 431 BC
 - Women
 - Only prostitutes, slaves and concubines are allowed to leave the house alone
 - Women can attend only special religious functions for women
 - Women cannot socialize with men
 - Women receive no education
 - Wives are assumed and expected to be dumb
 - Heteras (courtesans/ geishas) provide the (intellectual, social, sexual) entertainment
 - Men can also use prostitutes, concubines and female slaves

Greek Society

- Athens 431 BC
 - Sex
 - No Athenian law prohibits an adult male from having sex with a minor (boy or girl)
 - Sexual immorality: excess and passivity (but nothing to do with the gender or the age)
 - The man is liable for adultery (the woman is merely ridiculed)
 - Solon enacts a law that authorizes a father to sell an unchaste daughter into slavery

Greek Society

- Athens 431 BC
 - Homosexuality
 - Widespread and pederastic: older male to younger male, older woman to younger woman
 - Pedagogical function



Zephyros and
Hyakinthos
Tarquinia, circa
480 BCE.
Boston Museum
of Fine Arts.



Kylix by Douris (5th c BC)
Metropolitan Museum

Greek Society

- **Athens 431 BC**
 - **Athenian empire (478-404)**
 - **Evolution of the Delian League (478 BC), originally created to defend Greece from the Persians (the NATO of the Aegian Sea)**
 - **Athens dominates because of superior fleet**
 - **Athens controls Black Sea agriculture and the flow of grains through the Hellespont/Dardanelles straight**
 - **Athens imposes puppet democratic governments on other cities**
 - **Other cities pay tribute to Athens and make donations to goddess Athena**

Greek Society

- **Athens 431 BC**
 - **Athenian empire (478-404)**
 - **Goddess Athena (the temple) acquires land that it leases to Athenian citizens**
 - **Athenian fleet and Athenian garrisons protect the other cities**
 - **150 subject city/states**
 - **Brain-drain of metoiko from the other cities: commerce, banking, craft, culture (Herodotus)**
 - **No assimilation of conquered people**

Greek Society

- **Athenian empire (478-404)/ Decline**
 - **Arrogance of a tyrant**
 - **No interest in the West**
 - **Lengthy conflict with Sparta + Persia (460-404 BC)**
 - **Repercussions: Civil wars throughout the Greek world**
 - **Destruction of Athenian empire**
 - **New hegemonic power: Thebes (371 BC - 346 BC)**
 - **Macedonia (346 BC - 317 BC)**
 - **Battle of Chaeronea (338 BC): Philip II of Macedonia defeats Athens and Thebes**

Greek Society

- **Athenian empire**
 - **Between the Persian Wars and the defeat at Chaeronea, Athens was never at peace for more than a decade (at war two years out of three)**

Greek Society

- **Athenian empire: the USA of the Greek world**
 - **Strength: Fleet , Airforce**
 - **Nemesis: Sparta, Soviet Union**
 - **Allied against: Persia (Persian Wars), Germany/Japan (WW 2)**
 - **Postwar empire: Delian League, NATO**
 - **but...**
 - **...an alienated Persia supports Sparta, whereas Germany/Japan incorporated in the USA empire**
 - **Winner: Sparta, USA**

Greek Society

- **Syracuse**
 - **Wealth and culture to match Athens (480-400 BC)**
 - **480 BC: defeats Carthage**
 - **474 BC: defeats the Etruscans**
 - **415 BC: defeats Athens**

Greek Society

- **Greek Technology**
 - **Barely more advanced than neolithic technology:**
 - **Agriculture**
 - **Metallurgy**
 - **Pottery**
 - **Textile-making**
 - **No significant technological improvements**
 - **No significant improvement in manufacturing**

Greek Society

- **Greek warfare**
 - **Phalanx warfare (allows a smaller, disciplined force to defeat a larger mob force)**
 - **Triremes (sea formations) (from Phoenicians)**
 - **Iron weapons (from Celts)**
 - **Catapult (Dionysius the Elder of Syracuse, 400 BC)**
 - **Persians wars (499-479BC)**
 - **End of the Archaic era and beginning of the Classical era**

Greek Society

- **Greek warfare**
 - **The trireme allows Themistocles to defeat the Persians at Salamis in 480 BC and to establish Athens' naval power**
 - **It indirectly launches Athens' golden age**
 - **It also indirectly fosters Athens' democracy because poor oarsmen are vital to the naval triumphs of the trireme navy**

Greek Society

- **Colonization**
 - **Euboea: Pitheculae (Ischia), Cumae (th c BC)**
 - **Trading metal with the Etruscans (iron, copper, silver)**
 - **Chalcis: Messina**
 - **Corinth: Syracuse**
 - **Achaea: Sybaris**
 - **Phocaea: Massalia/Marseille (600 BC)**
 - **etc**

Greek Society

- **Colonization**
 - **A colony could be founded by more than one Greek city**
 - **The colony was largely independent**
 - **Colonies often at war with each other and with Carthage and Etruscans**
 - **Syracuse one of the most powerful Greek cities from 485BC to the second Punic War (218-201)**
 - **Second Punic War caused destruction of most Greek cities in Italy (Sicily became Rome's first overseas province)**

Greek Society

- **Colonization**
 - **Colonization caused by population explosion and limits of productive land in Greece**
 - **Colonization caused by lack of natural resources (wood, minerals, cereals)**
 - **Emigration of poor Greeks in search for usable land**
 - **Profit margin of Athenian trade as venture capital to invest in colonies**
 - **Eastern Mediterranean as a laboratory-experiment for capitalism and imperialism**

Greek Society

- **Exploitation of colonial cities**
 - Taxation to maintain army and to police the (Greek) world
 - Taxation on resident aliens
 - Taxation to support temple-building
 - Benefits to colonial cities: no need to invest in their own army, focus on economy and culture

Greek Society

- **Rest of the world**
 - **Phoenicians and Egyptians: the civilized world “is” the Mediterranean**
 - **Four great barbaric people: Persians, Celts, Scythians, Libyans**

Greek Society

- **Trade:**
 - **450BC: Piraeus largest port in the western world**
 - **Athens exported: arms, luxury articles, wine, olive oil, ceramics, art, books**
 - **Athens imported:**
 - **cereals (Egypt, Libya, Ukraine), fish, cheese, fruit**
 - **iron, copper, wood, wax, ivory, wool, papyrus**
 - **tiles (Corinth), furniture (Miletos), carpets (Persia), textiles (Egypt), perfumes (Arabia)**
 - **slaves**
 - **Trader (emporos) mostly from the poor classes**
 - **Sea trade as a low-class plebeian occupation**
 - **Largest trade till 15th century Italy**

Greek Society

- **Banks**
 - The polis temple as a bank to fund the city's ventures (lender at low interest rate)
 - 450 BC: first bank at Athens (Antisthenes & Archestratos)
 - Banking + trade = speculation
- **Athens**
 - Capitalistic/imperialistic capital of the Greeks --> Cultural capital of Greeks
 - (Athens as today's USA, Greece as today's western world, the Eastern Mediterranean as today's world)

Greek Society

- **The city state**
 - **Zeniths of civilization frequently rest upon the city state**
 - **Sumeria**
 - **Greece**
 - **Rinascimento in Italy**

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