



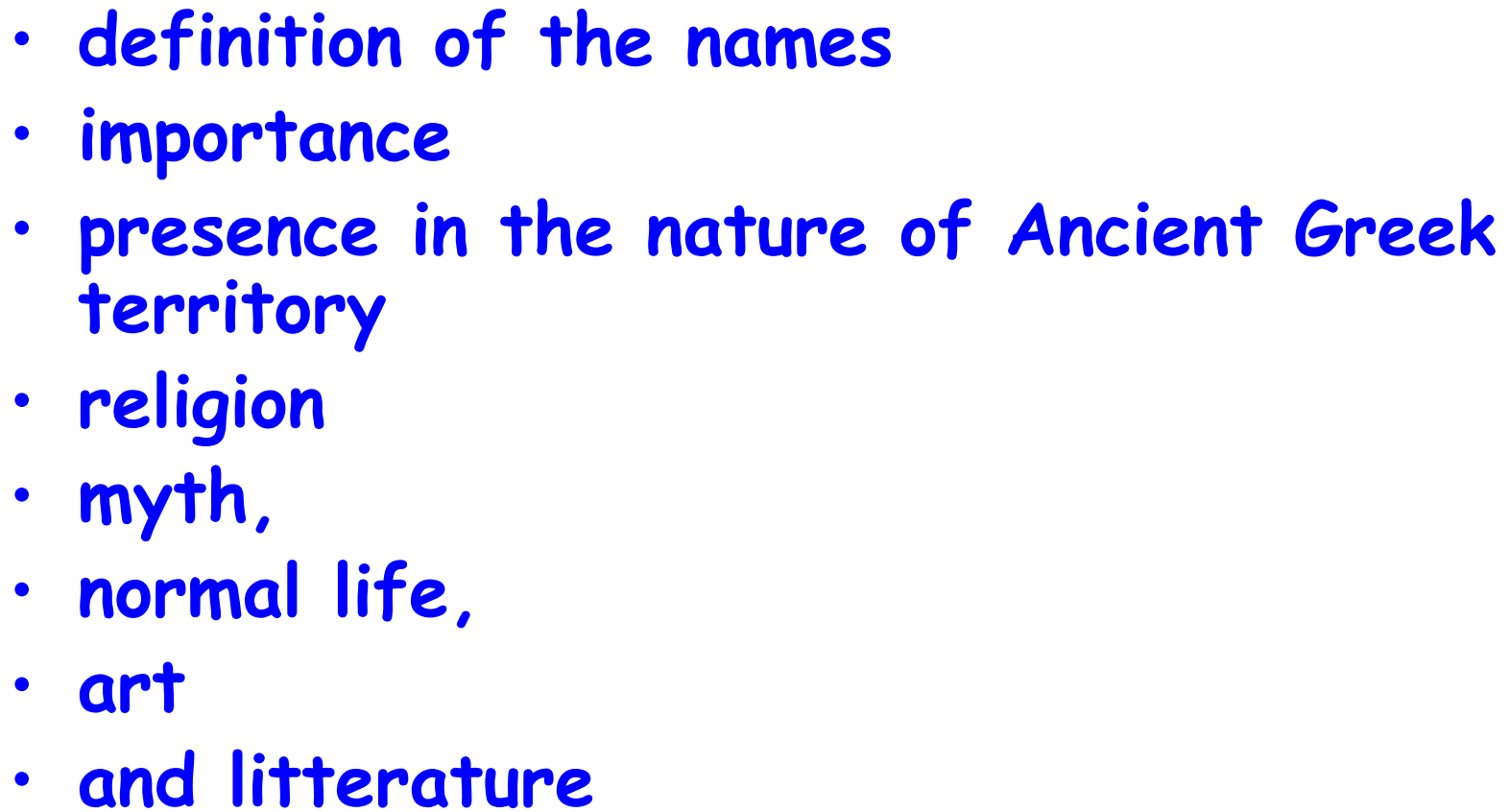
The role of horses in Greek antiquity: myth, normal life, religion and art

¹Karakitsou E., ²Fragkiadaki E., and ²Xylouri E.

¹Archaeologist

²Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

Corresponding author: Xylouri: efxil@aua.gr





Ἴππος, Ἄλογο - Horse

Definition:

- In Greek language "ἄλογο" (alogo) means without logical thinking - expression.
- The word was used in military to distinguish the soldiers from the animals.
- The word "Ippos" is coming from the mycenean's word "ipo".

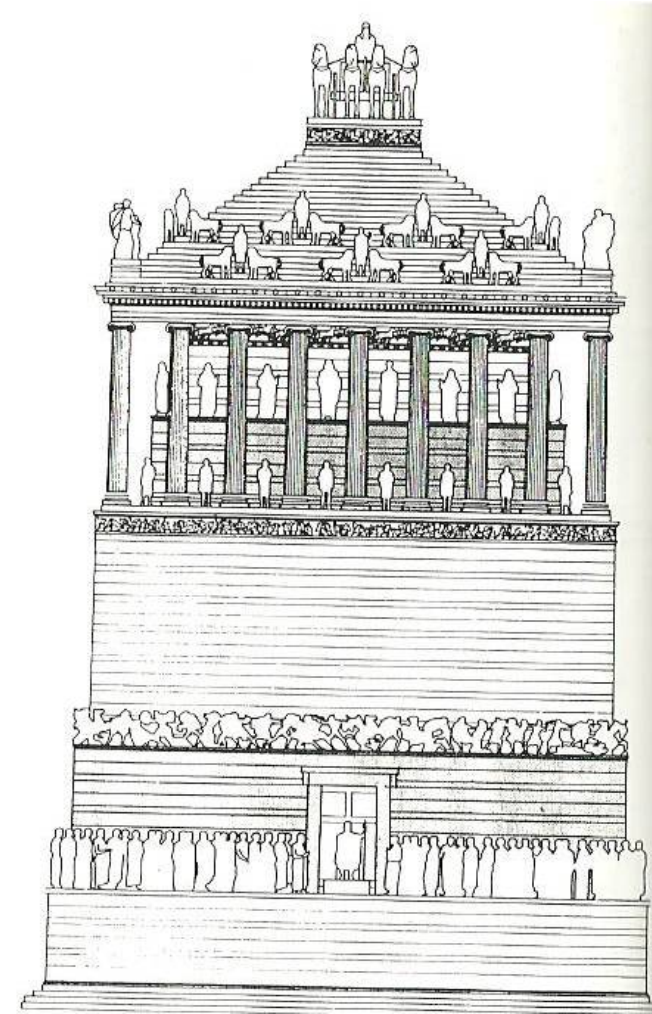
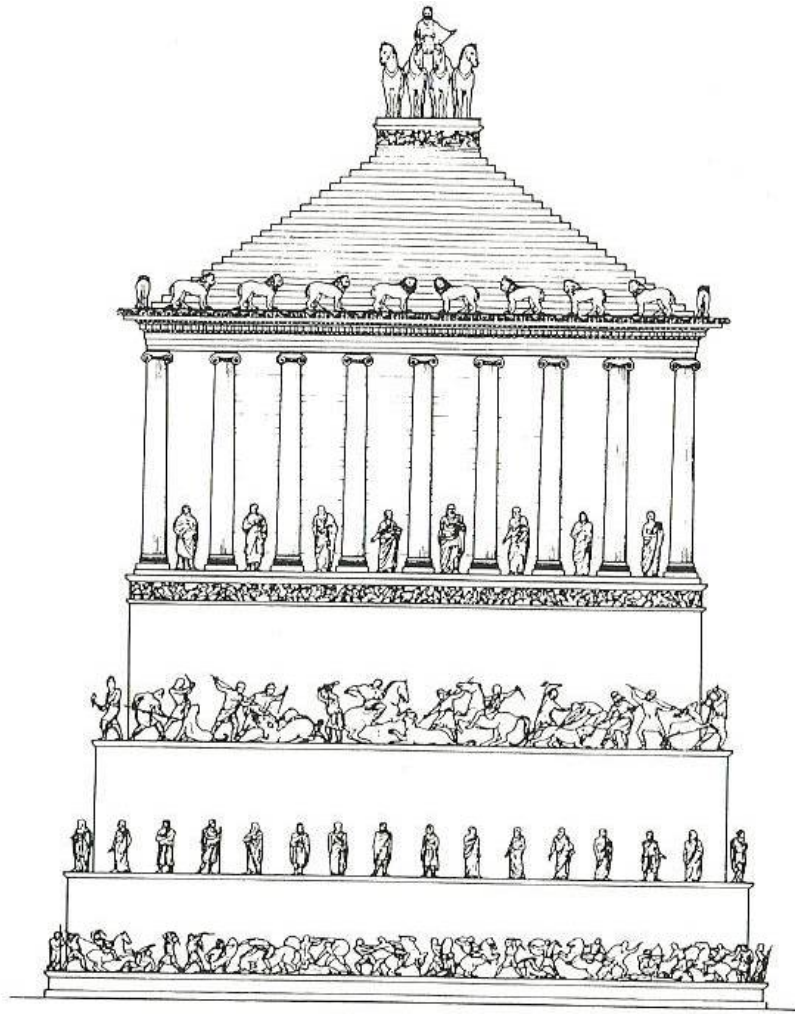


Main part of the 7th miracle of the ancient world

Importance

- It was part of the 7th wonder of the ancient world, the Mausoleum of Halikarnassos, as the horse was at the top of the monument.

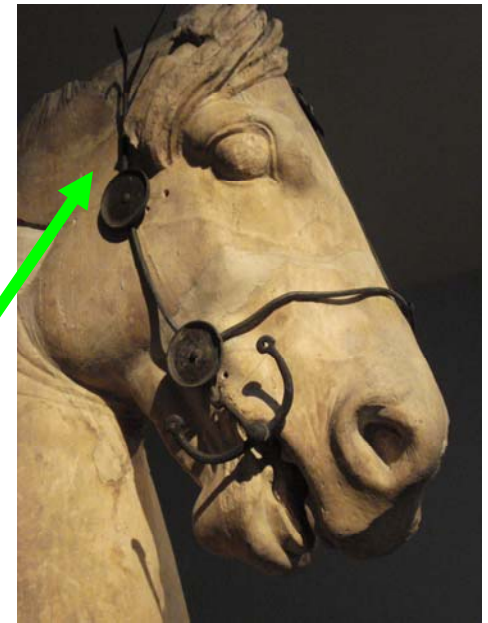




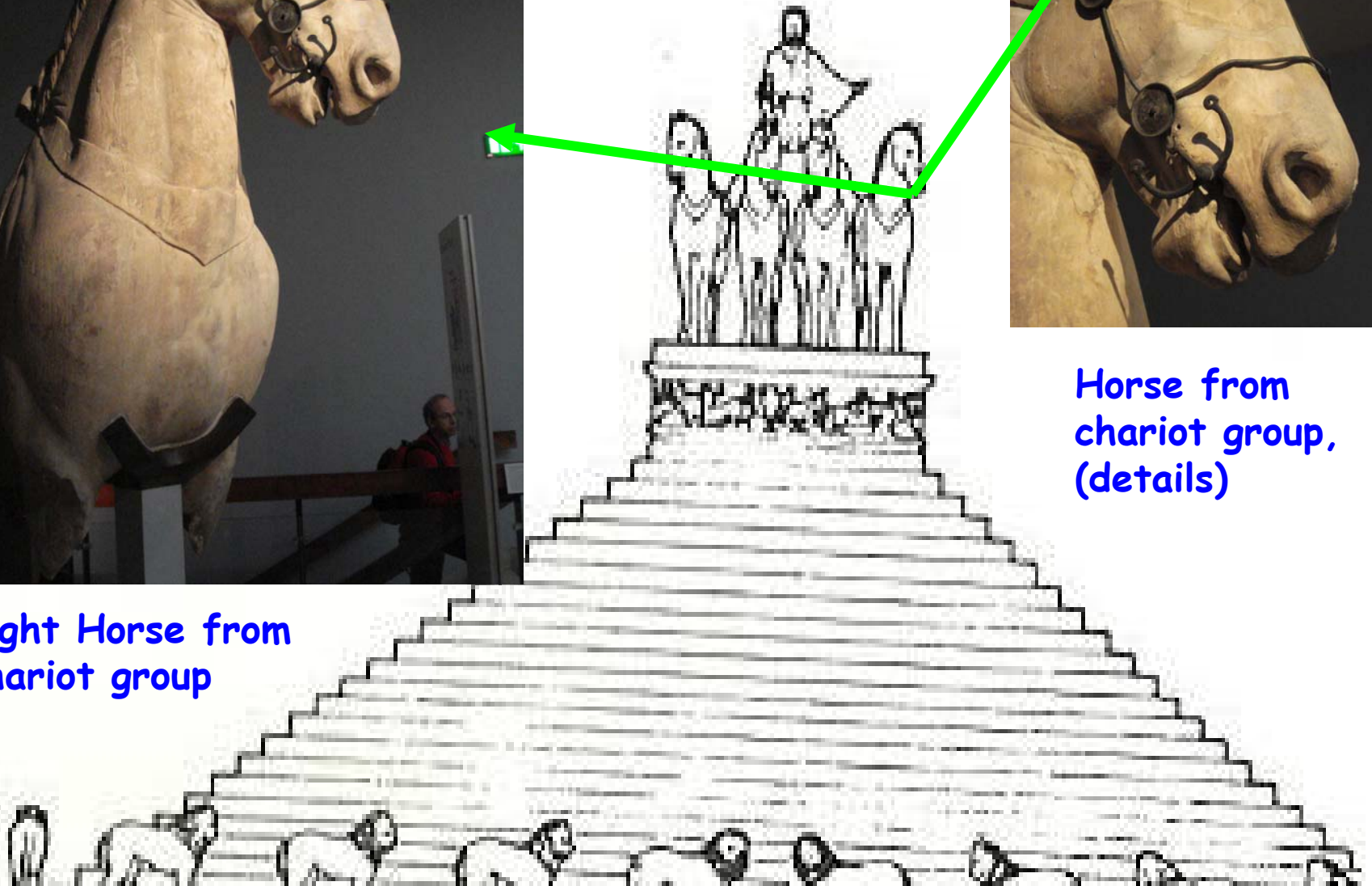
**The Mausoleum at Halikarnassos,
Reconstruction 360-350 B.C.**



Right Horse from
chariot group



Horse from
chariot group,
(details)





Presence in Ancient Greek territory

- Findings in Petralona Chalkidikis, Greece, give evidence of horses (skull) 70-75,000 years B.C.
- The ancestor of the modern horse appeared at the beginning of the second millenium B.C. in southern Europe. It was smaller in size: 1.40-1.45 m. high.



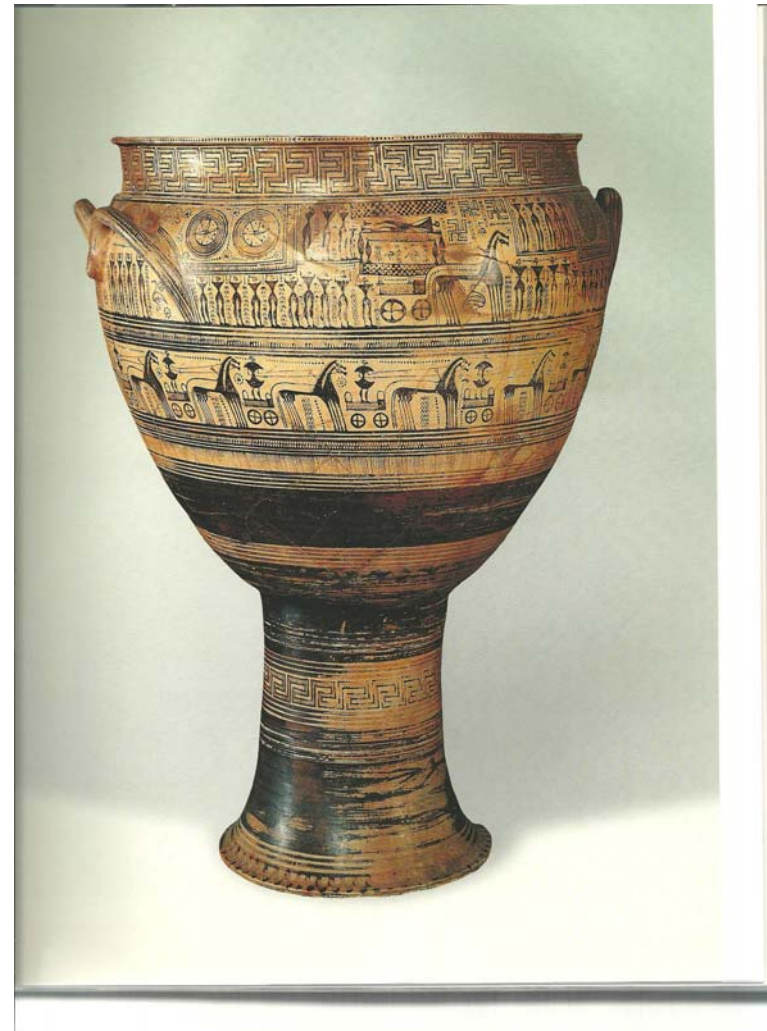
Horses in religion

- Sheep, goat, bovine and pigs were usually sacrificed but NOT donkeys and Horses!!!
- Despite this, four horses were offered to the funereal fire for Patroclus in order to "give" him blood and bring him back to life!



Horses in religion

- Burying horses near an important person started about 1,300 B.C. during the Mycenaean age to show economic and social position.

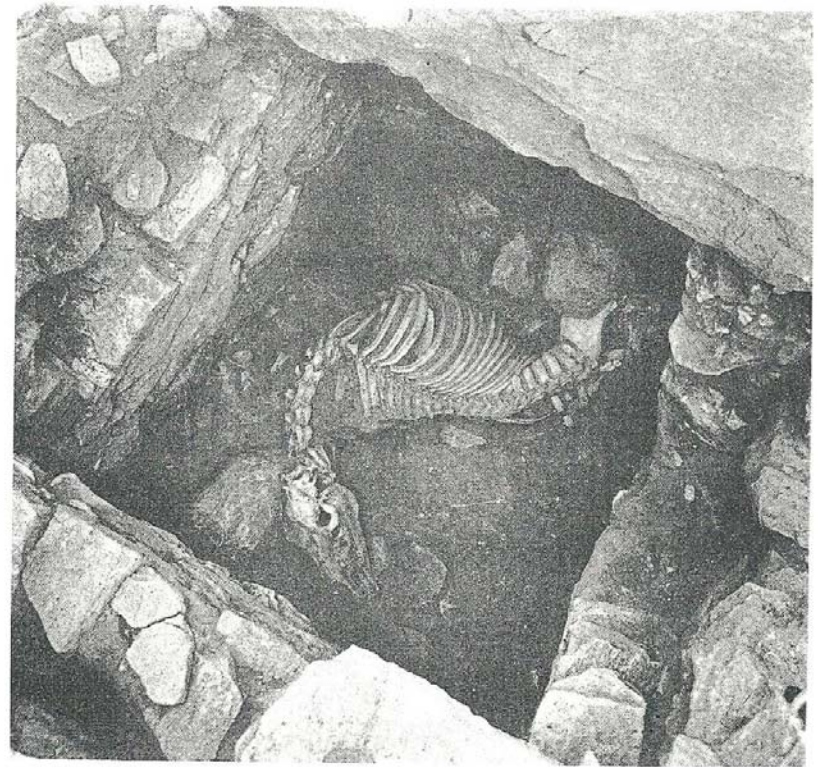




Horses in religion – Marathon

- A horse skeleton was found in Marathon, Athens, without legs, about 8 years old, may be belonging to the przewalski race, due to its small size.

FIG. 4 Tumulus I: The Horse's grave.





Horses in religion - Aidonia near Mycena

- In an other place under a horse skeleton there were found 14 single horse mandibular bones.



Μυκηναϊκό νεκροταφείο Αιδονίων. Σκελετός αλόγου, όπως βρέθηκε στον ορθογώνιο λακκοειδή τάφο 12.



Horses in religion - Doxipara - Thrace

- In Doxipara - Thrace (III-Ist century B.C.) there were found five buried horses with their carriages.





Doxipara - Thrace



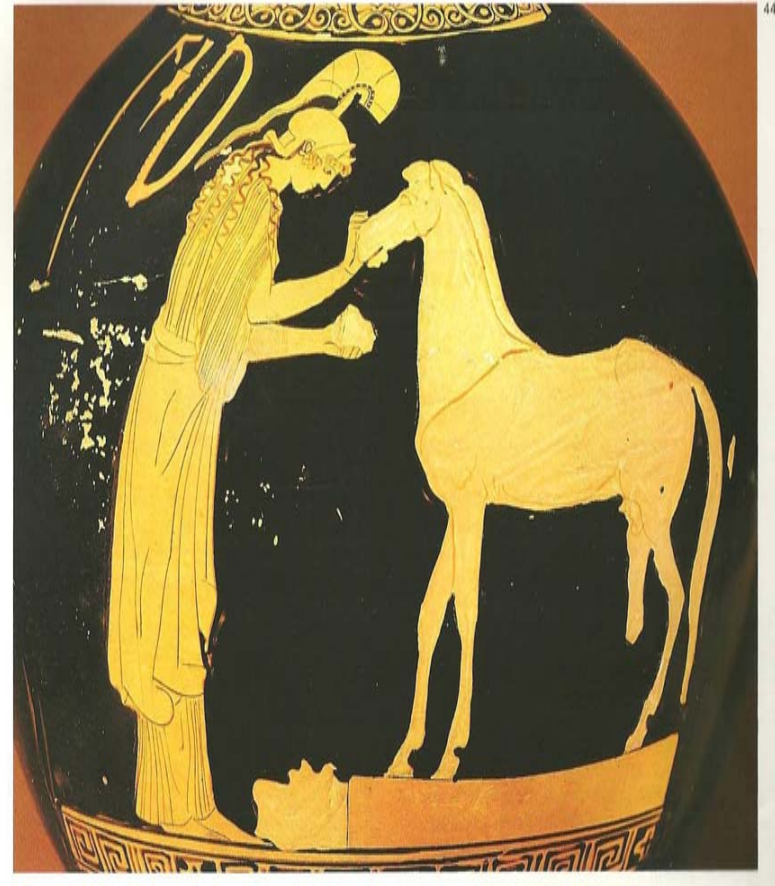


Horses in religion - Archanes

- A slaughtered horse (*equus caballus*), about 6 years old, cut into pieces, without head, was found in a tomb in Archanes, Heraklion, Crete.

Ιππίας Ποσειδών - Ιππία Αθηνά Ippias Poseidon - Ippia Athena

- Poseidon is considered the father of the horse. The goddess Athena tamed it by discovering the reins and bit so it was put to human service for the first time.



Vase, 470-460 B.C., Berlin,

Athena sculpts the horse using clay.

Δούρειος ἵππος Trojan horse

Athena was the inspiration for the Greeks in creating the **Trojan Horse** thus giving them the victory at Troy!

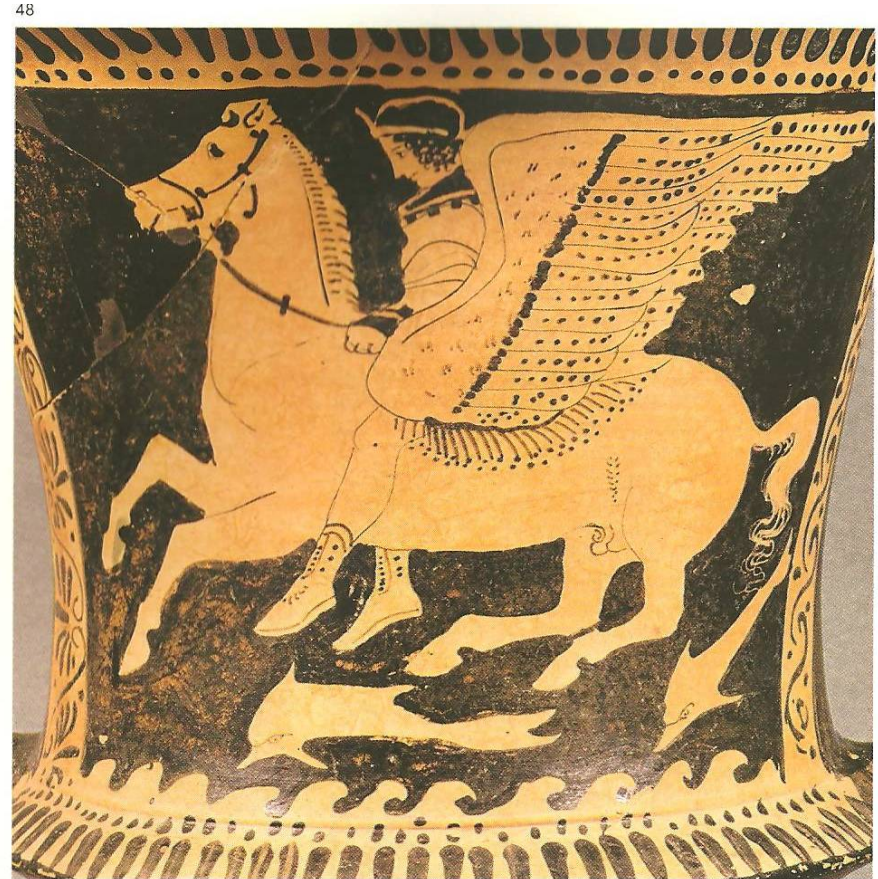


7th Century B.C., Vase in the museum of Myconos, Greece



Myth

- Pegasus (Horse with wings!) was born after the decapitation of medusa by Perseas.
- The Corinthian King and heroe Bellerefontis ride Pegasus with the help of Athena. But later he was punished by the horse for trying to become immortal!



Pegasus



Pegasus



Bellerophon in
Lycia, with Pegasus
try to kill Chimaera,
an animal with
lion - body, goat
head, snake tail.

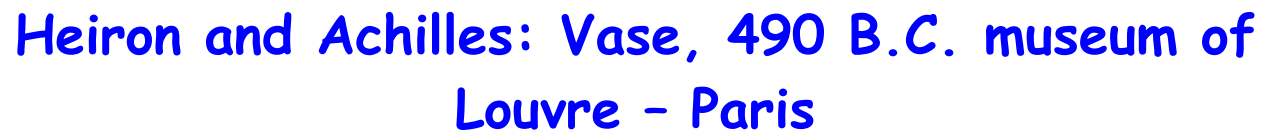
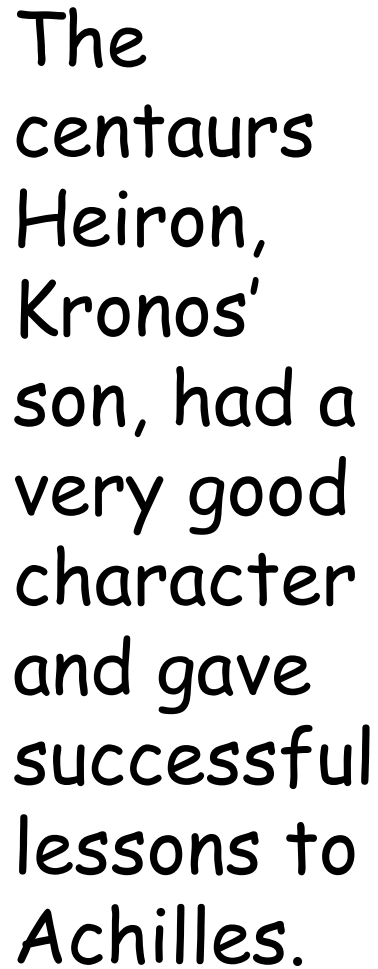
2nd century BC, Taranto, South Italy

Centaurs

Centaurs were half horse-half man, which lived on Mount Pilon, near Volos, Greece. They were violent, aggressive and had a diet of raw meat and wine.



Heiron and Achilles: Amphorae, 520-510 B.C. Museum of Louvre - Paris.





Normal life

- The horse was the strongest power at that time. It was used for transportation but mainly in military.
- In Ancient Athens there were at the beginning 300, later 600 and at the end 1,000 men with their horses (Ιππείς - Ippeis) in military.



Normal life

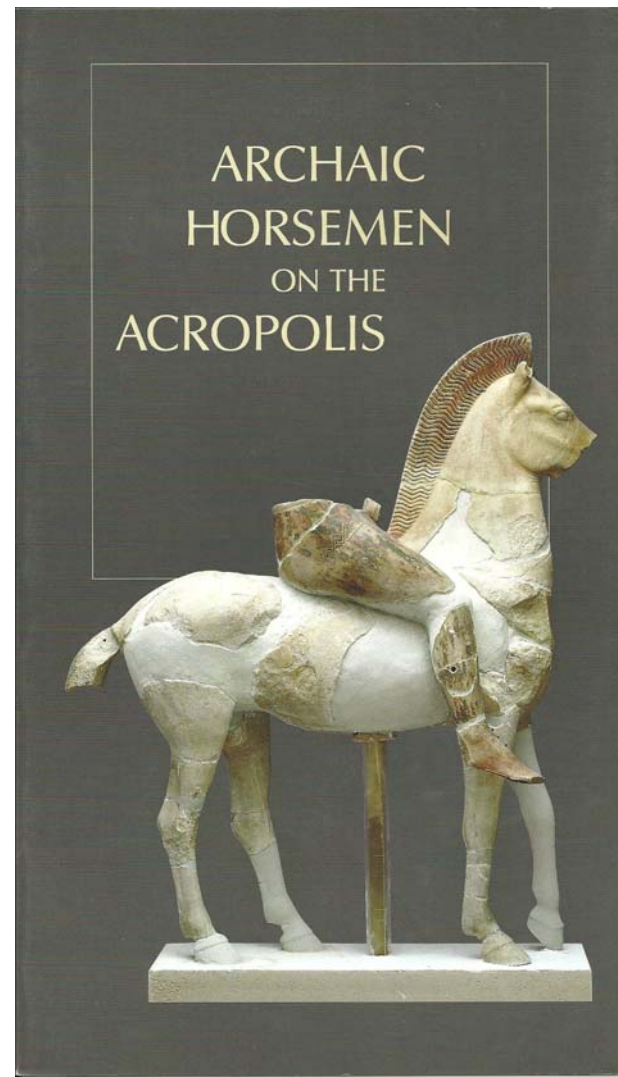
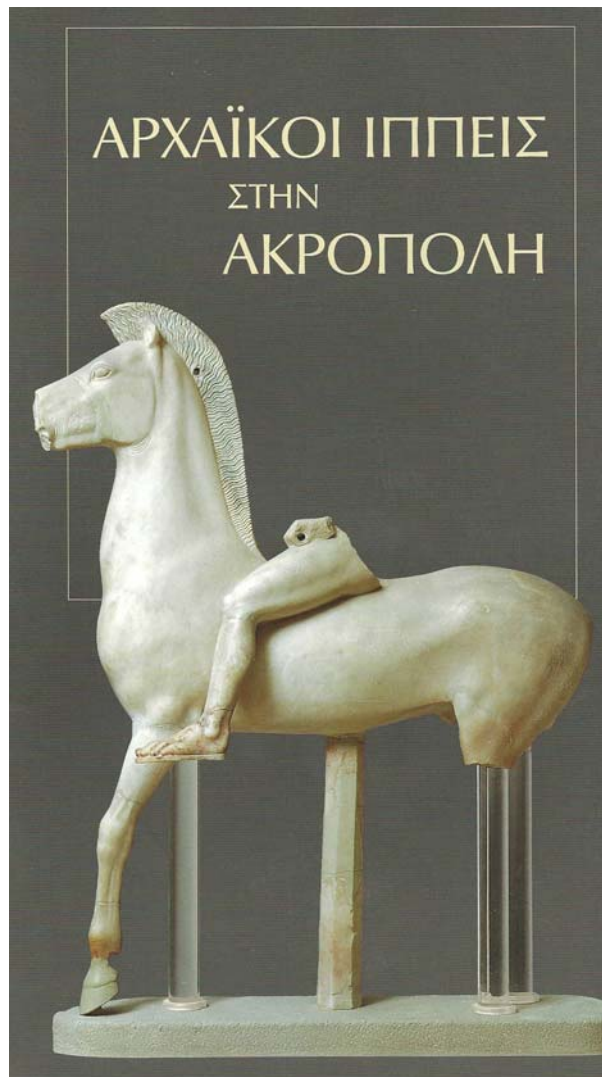
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Bronze statuette of a warrior on horseback. He once held a spear and a shield, and his helmet was topped by a crest which ran across sideways
Made in Taranto about 550 BC

From Grumentum
GR 1904.7-3.1

Museum of London, UK



Horsemen on the Acropolis -
Athens



Alexander the Great

- Voukefalas, (ox- vous+ head – kefali) was the horse of Alexander the Great.





Horses in Literature



- Xenophon, a pupil of Socrates', the historian and general, 450 B.C. in one of his books "Περί Ιππικής" (about the horse) refers to the treatment of animals as children.

Horses in Literature

The vase depicts a stables with the grooms tending the horses. It could well be the stable of Poseidon.



Vase 540-530 BC, Metropolitan
Museum of Art, New York



The chariot was the main means of transport for the aristocracy during the Mycenaean age.



1500 π.Χ. περίπου
Διάμ. σφενδόνης 2,1 - 3,3 εκ., διάμ.
κρίκου (εσωτ.) 1,2 εκ., βάρος 24,3
γρ.αμ.
ΕΘΝΙΚΟ ΑΡΧΑΙΟΛΟΓΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ
ΒΕ 1996/11.1

Ελληνοειδής σφενδόνη στερεωμένη στις άκρες κρίκων με τριεδρική την κερή εξωτερική επιφάνεια. Η σφενδόνη φέρει έλλειψη παράσταση άρματος με δύο άλογα και αναβάτη, ο οποίος κρατά τα χαλινάρια και ένα ραβδί ή ραπίδι πάνω από την πλάτη των αλόγων. Πρόκειται για ένα από τα μεγαλύτερα μυκηναϊκά δαγυλίδια που

National Archaeological Museum
Athens, Greece

Χάλκινο άλογο με αναβάτη, αριθ. X 15177, από το ναυάγιο του Αρτεμισίου. Γύρω στο 140 π.Χ.



Statue
from
copper
about 140
B.C.

Found in
Artemisio
north
Eubea.

Horses races (ippodromies)-Vases



Vase, 340-349 B.C. Malibu, J.
Paul Getty Museum



Vase, 500 B.C. Athens, Greece

Everyday Life

- The horse was used in all stages of life. The vases depict a newly-wedded couple being transported.



Vase 550 B.C. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Everyday Life

Achilles is
getting his
chariot
ready:
stroking and
calming his
horse
before going
to the
battlefield.



Vase, 560 B.C. Achilles preparing his horses for battle, Acropolis, Athens, Greece



- Greek Art provides an inexhaustible store of examples of the portrayal of the figure of the horse.



Horses in art



1. Vases horse races,
2. Sculpture
 - Marble on the frieze of Parthenon there were more than 230 horses
 - Bronze
3. Rings



**Terracotta group of Zeus driving
a four-horse chariot**
Made in N. Apulia about 300-200 BC
Bequeathed by Sir William Temple. From Gnathia
GR 1856.12-26.274 (Terracotta D 157)



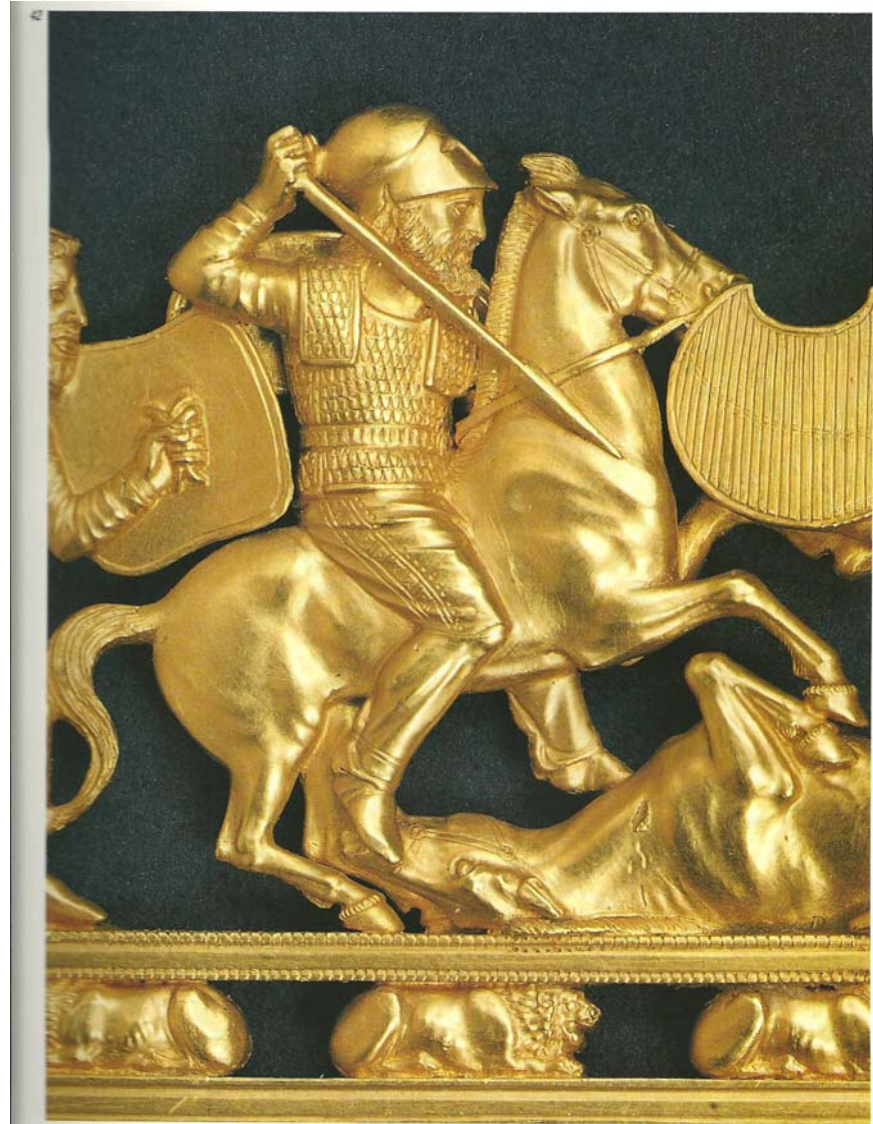
**Bronze statue in Zeus'
sanctuary in Dodoni,
Epirus, 575-550 B.C.**



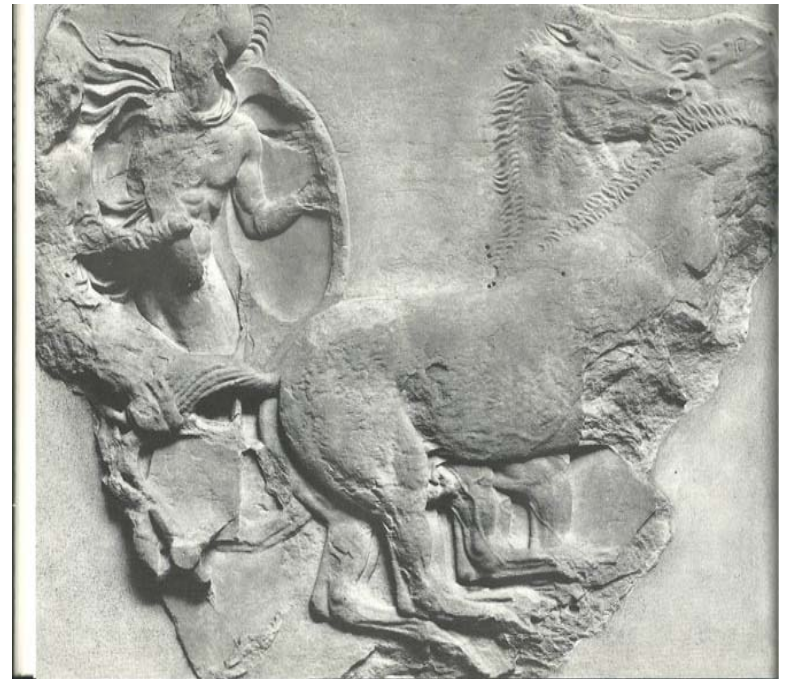
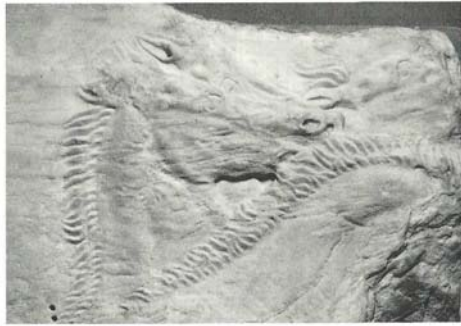
Ear - rings, Bolos, 2nd half century B.C.



Left: Golden Comb,
Right: detail of the horse
First half of 4th century B.C.
St Petersburg, the Hermitage
Museum



On the frieze of the Parthenon
there were more than 230 horses



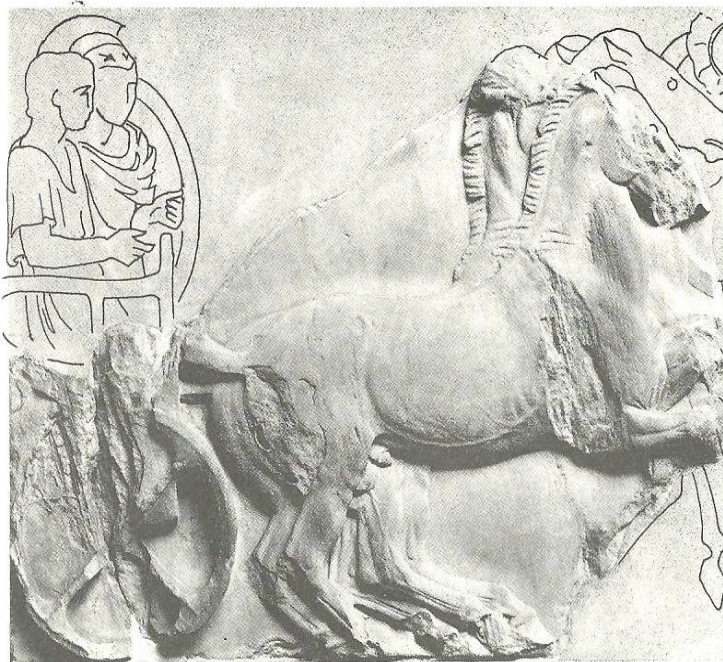
The sculptors had only the height of a metre of marble to work with. As a result, the horses are small bodied in proportion to their riders.



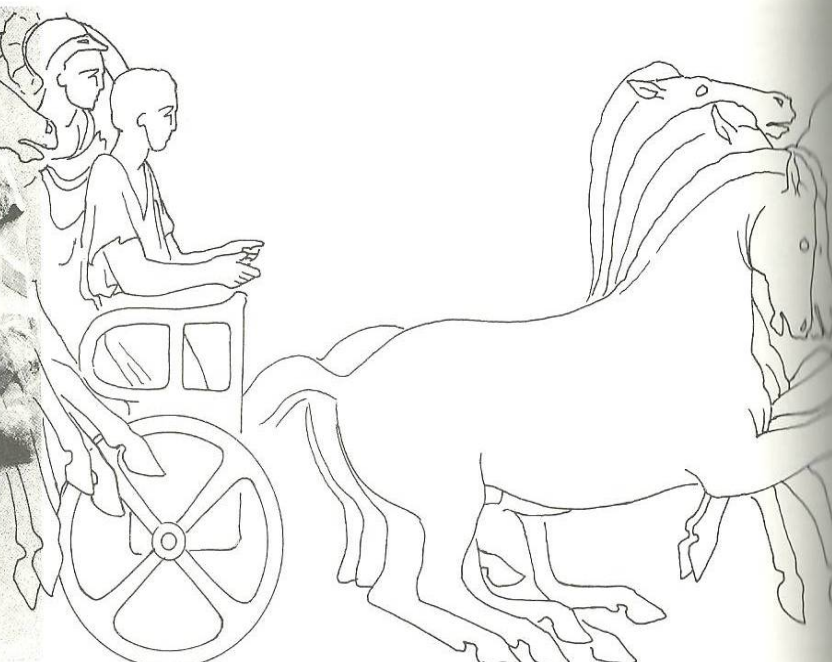
The frieze projects an image of the Athenian Cavalry

XXIX 74-5

XXX 76-7



(Athens) London



conjectured (later window)



Thanks a lot for your kind
attention