Decline, Destruction, and Aftermath

The End of the Mycenean Palaces
“Cyclopean” West Wall of the citadel at Tiryns
Mycenae - defensive steps taken
LH IIIC burnished pottery
Theories about the cause of the destruction of the Mycenaean palaces

- foreign enemies (invasion from Outside the Aegean)
- social uprising (Internal Social Upheaval)
- natural catastrophe (Climatic changes)
- systems collapse (Economic factors)
- changes in the nature of warfare
“Sea Peoples”
What are we left with? Some questions to think about for the future:

1) How stable was the Mycenaean palatial system in the first place?

2) Were there certain “shocks” that affected the Mycenaean palatial system as a whole?

3) Why were the palaces never rebuilt?

4) Why were large areas of the Peloponnese, including some of the richest agricultural zones in southern Greece, so thoroughly depopulated during the century following the destruction of the palaces?
Tiryns - reoccupation and reuse
Map showing new LH IIIC settlements
LH III C Pictorial style krater found on Cyprus
Pictorial painted krater - “The Warrior Vase” - LH IIIC from Mycenae
LH IIIC marine style stirrup jar from Kos
Metalwork - armor and weaponry
Large wheelmade figurines from the LH IIIC sanctuary in the Lower Citadel at Tiryns
LH IIIC painted plaster head from Mycenae
Ships and sea-faring

Stirrup jar from Skyros with bird-headed boat

“warship”? depicted on fragment from Kynos
Goddess with Upraised Arms
LM III, Knossos,
Shrine of the Double Axes