

CLAS 0210

Sport in the Ancient Greek World



Class 4

Wednesday 3 February

Sport in Homer's

Iliad and Odyssey

Bronze Age and Greek writing



Linear A writing, 16th century BC
(not Greek)

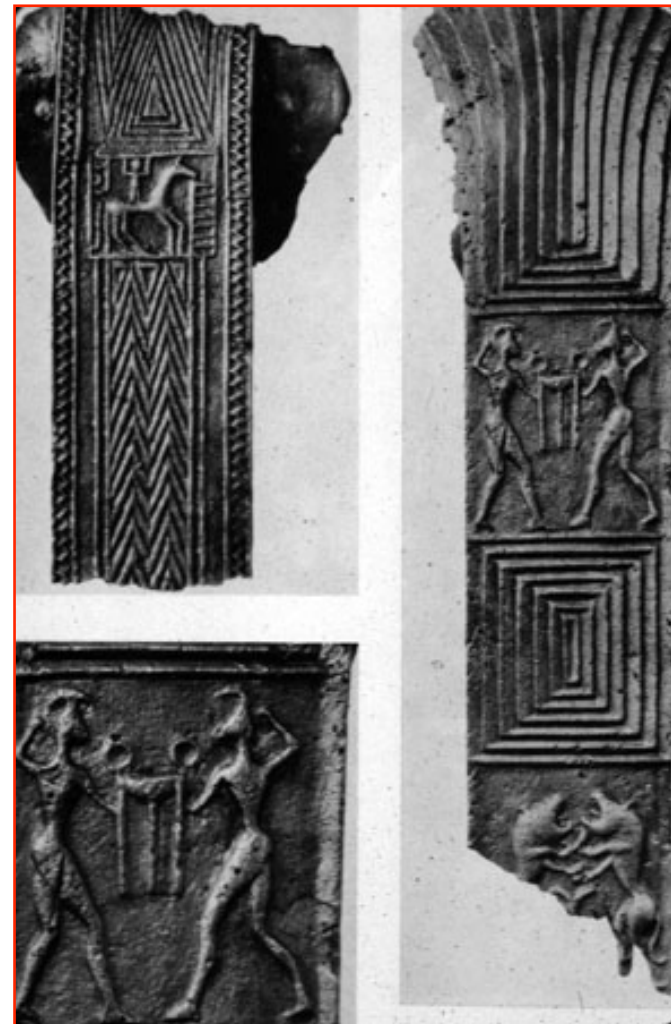
Linear B tablet, 13th century BC
(in Greek, but not alphabetic)



Alphabetic Greek

- Trojan War, *Iliad*
- *Iliad*, Book 23: Funeral Games organized by Achilles
for Patroclus
- *Odyssey*, Book 8
- Phaeacians
- Boxing match between Odysseus and Irus, in
Odyssey, Book 18

Bronze tripods



Horse-race victor and his tripod prize



- Attic black-figure vase, 6th century BC

The victor at the games carries off his tripod prize



Athenian
black-figure
vase, 6th
century BC

Cretan Double-axes



Gold



Bronze

Relative valuation of prizes

Value

- cauldrons
 - tripods
 - horses
 - mules
 - cattle
 - women
 - iron
- more
- less



1 tripod = 12 oxen



1 woman = 4 oxen



Chariot racer



- Athenian black figure vase, 6th century BC

Four-horse chariot racing



- Athenian black-figure vases, 5th century BC



Boxing



- 8th-century BC Geometric vase

Boxing match



- Athenian red-figure vase, early 5th century BC

Wrestling



- Athenian black-figure vase, 6th century BC

Foot race



Athenian black-figure vase, 6th century BC

Single combat



Hoplitodromos
Athenian red-figure
vase, 5th century BC

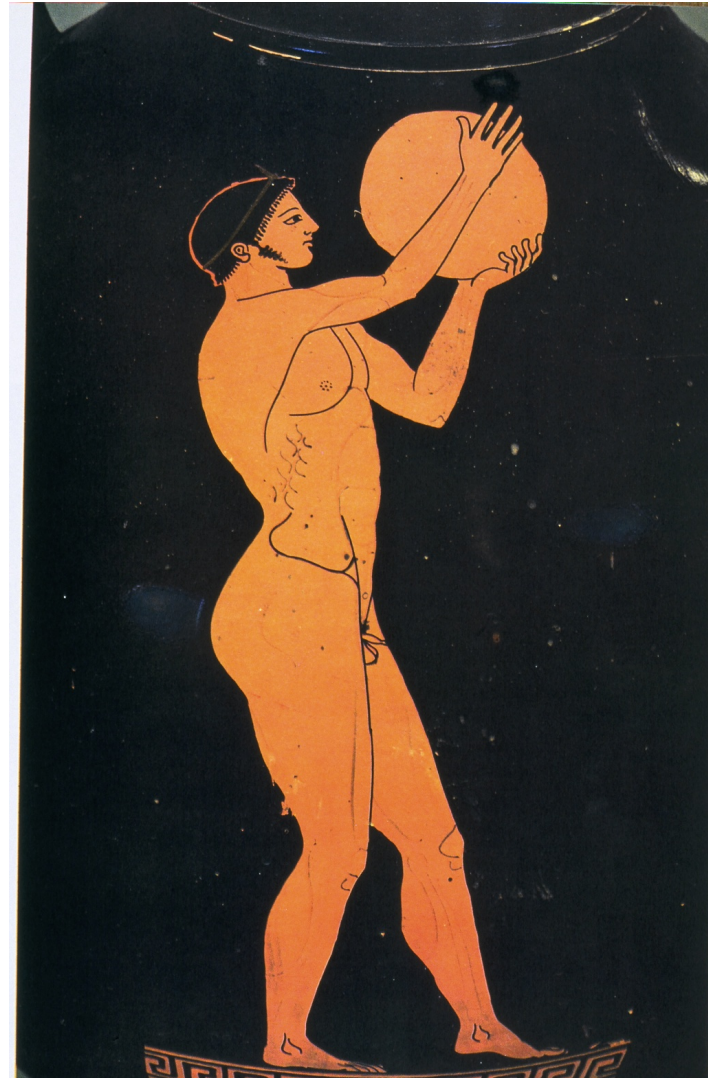
Throwing the weight



Miniature
bronze
statuette

Discus thrower

- Athenian red-figure vase, 5th century BC



Javelin thrower



Bronze mirror, 5th
century BC

Chariot races at the funeral games of Patroklos

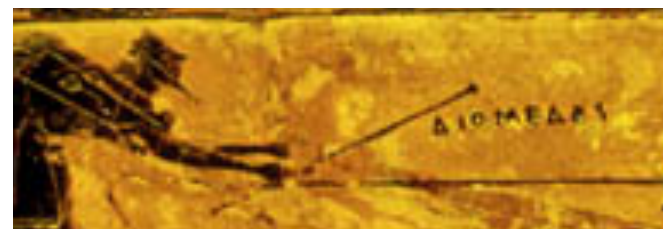
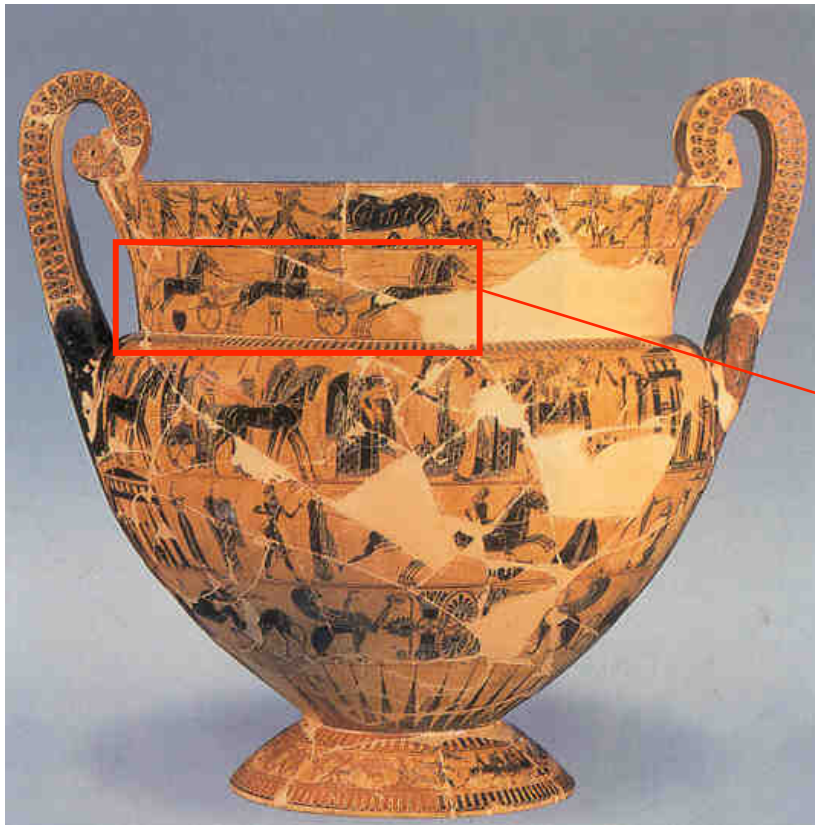


Patroklos athla
(the games of
Patroklos)

the symposium

Sophilos me graphsen
(Sophilos painted me [i.e., the vase])

The François vase



krater (vase for mixing wine)
by Kleitias, 6th century BC

<i>Event</i>	<i>Bronze age</i>	<i>Homer</i>	<i>Historical era</i>
footrace	-	x	x 776
wrestling	-	x	x 708
pentathlon	-	-	x 708
javelin	-	x	x
diskos	-	x	x
jump	-	x	x
boxing	x	x	x 688
chariot	?	x	x 680
archery	x	x	-
single combat	x	x	-
bull-leaping	x	-	-
acrobatics	x	-	-

[from S.G. Miller, *Ancient Greek Athletics*, p. 23]