

CLAS 0210

Sport in the Ancient Greek World



Class 13

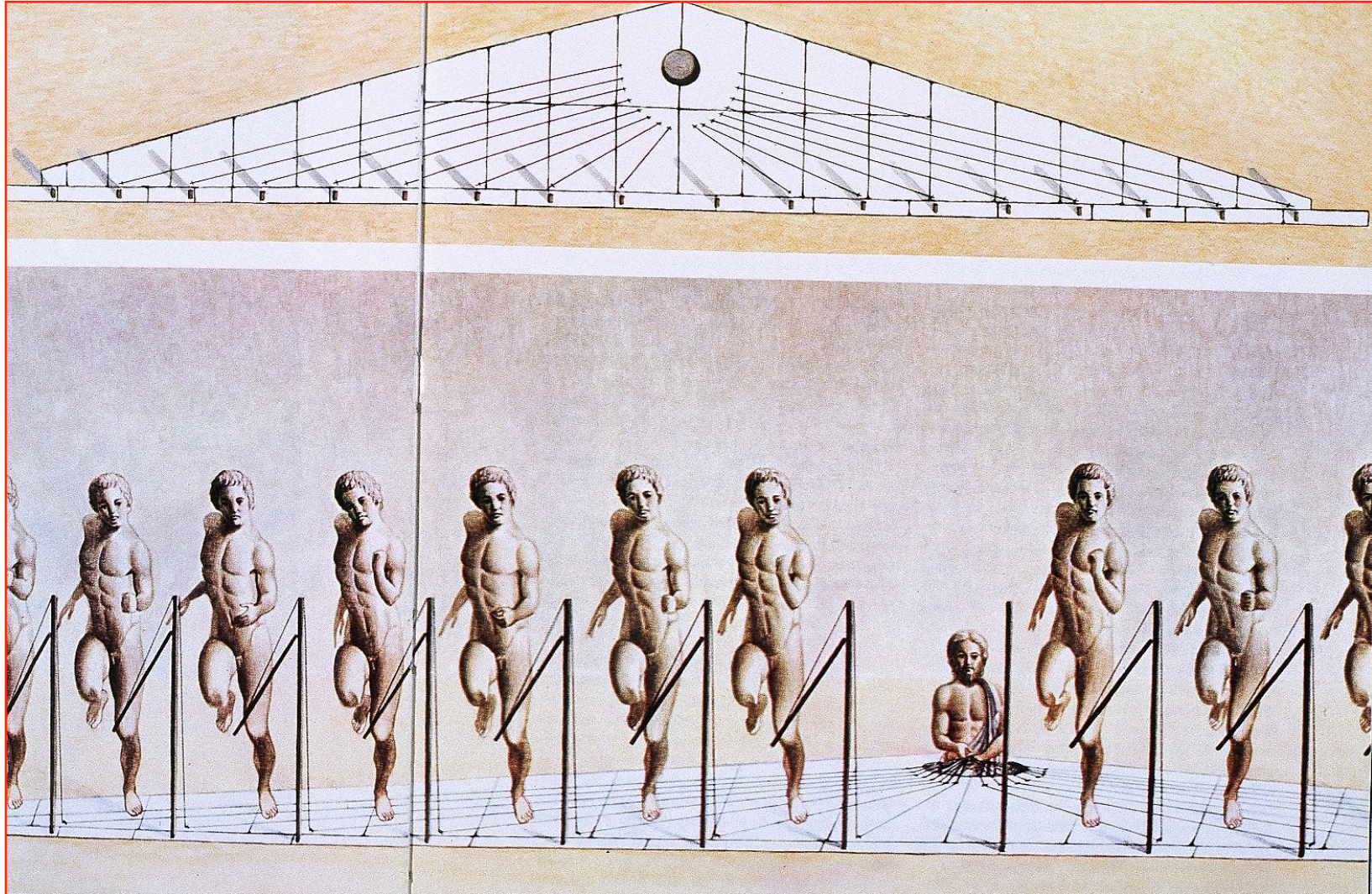
Wednesday 24 February

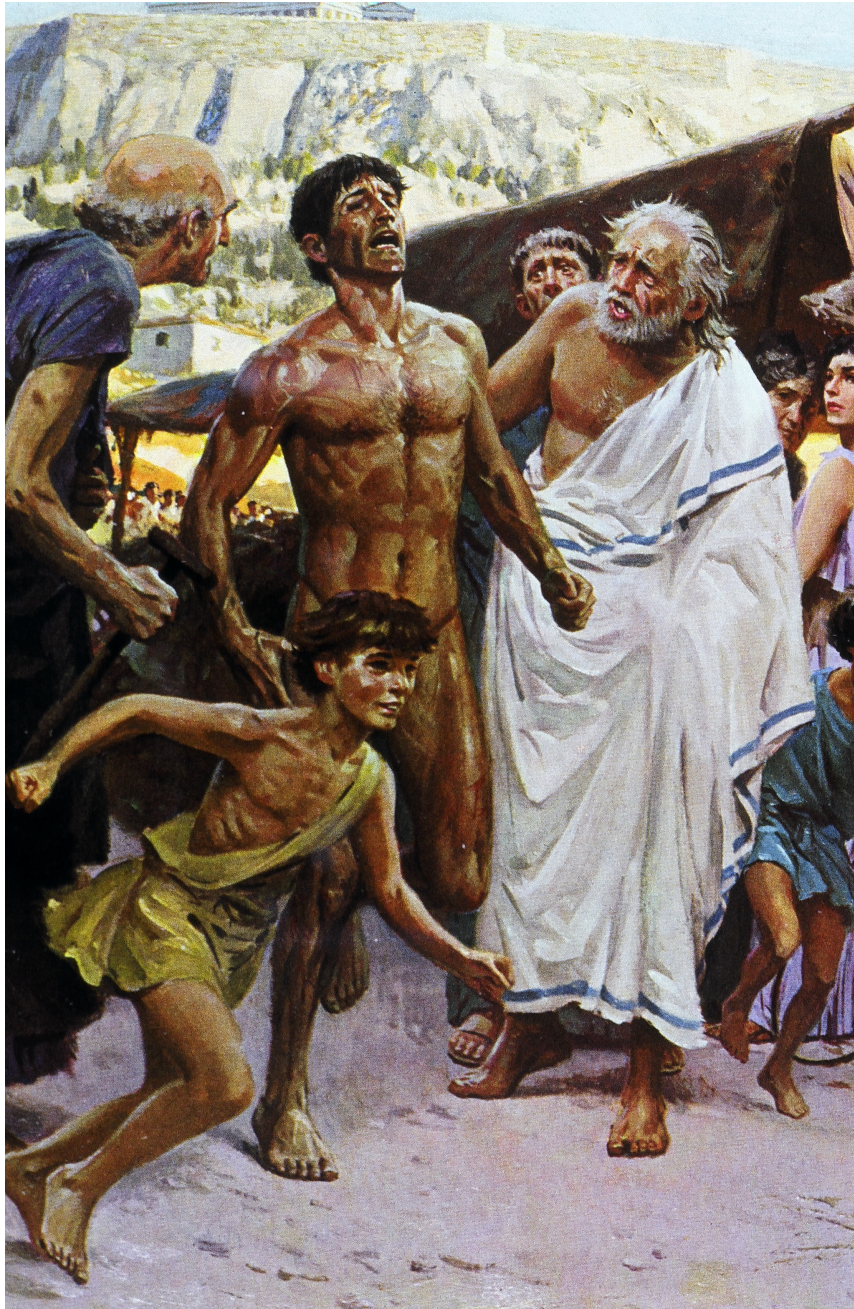
Athletic events II:

The Pentathlon

the **hysplex** (starting-gate at Isthmia)

See Arete #21-24





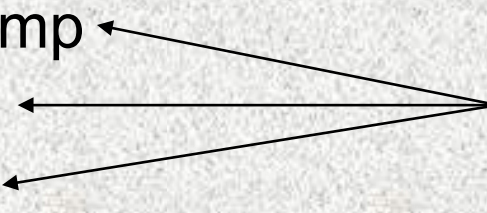
no race at the games
longer than 24 stades (the
dolichos)

hemerodromoi
("all-day runners")

Pheidippides *or*
Philippides runs to Athens
to announce the victory at
the battle of Marathon

See *Arete* ## 47-65 for sources on the pentathlon

Pentathlon [penta = 5, athlon = game]

- long jump
 - discus
 - javelin
 - stade foot-race
 - wrestling
- unique to pentathlon
- 

Philostratos, aetiological myth:
Jason & the Argonauts
Peleus

The possible scoring system for the Pentathlon

? only 3 wins required for victory

If one man wins discus, javelin, and long-jump: he wins.

If no one wins all three, stade-race held as a run-off.

If there's still no one with 3 wins...

- 2 men with 2 wins apiece: wrestle to find a winner

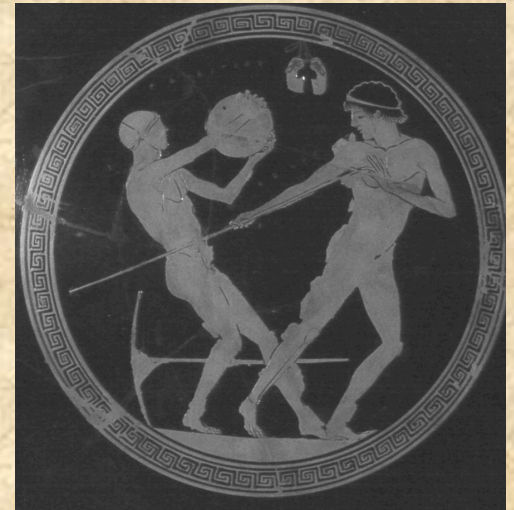
or

- 1 man with 2 wins and 2 men with 1 win apiece: wrestle a semi-final, the winner then wrestling the 2-win man

or

- 4 men with 1 win each: 2 wrestling semi-finals and a final to decide the winner

Thus:



A 2nd century AD inscription from Ephesus (Turkey)

Celebrates an athlete who won 27 pentathlon victories

It claims he was never beaten in discus, javelin, or wrestling

(i.e., despite not being a champion runner or jumper...
he could still win the pentathlon)

Panathenaic amphora



athletes or acrobats leaping on or over a horse
(note judge, flute-player, audience)

jumping (**halma**)



halteres

- jump into a 50-foot sand-pit (**skamma** = dug place)
- jumping plate (**bater**)
- short run-up (as for the modern high-jump)
- aided by two hand-held weights



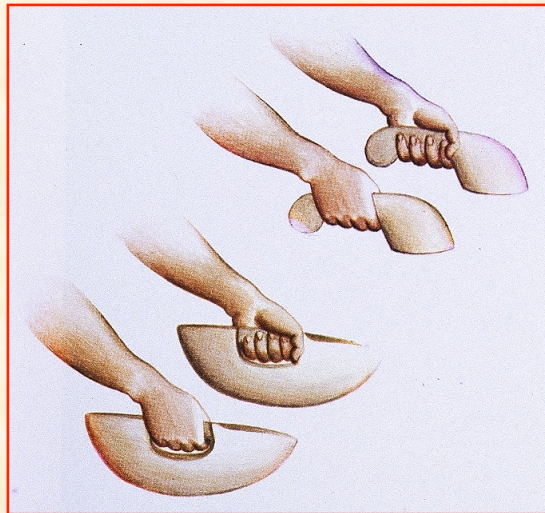
jumping weights

Range in weight from ca. 1.5 - 2.5 kg

4.6 kg
Dedication at Olympia
Ca. 550 B.C.

“Akmatidas of Sparta
having won the five
without dust
dedicated this”

Akoniti = “dustless”
i.e., without the need
for a wrestling fall



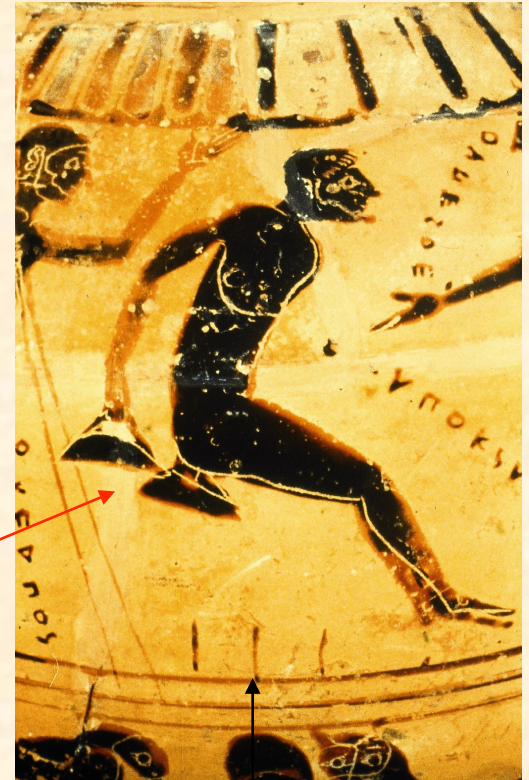


ready to jump

the run-up

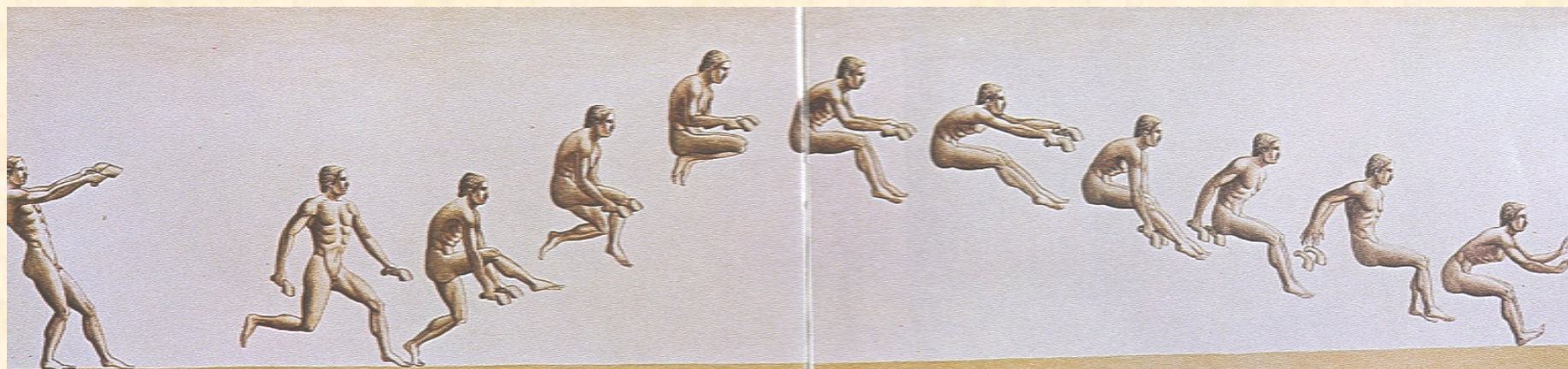
in mid-jump

the landing

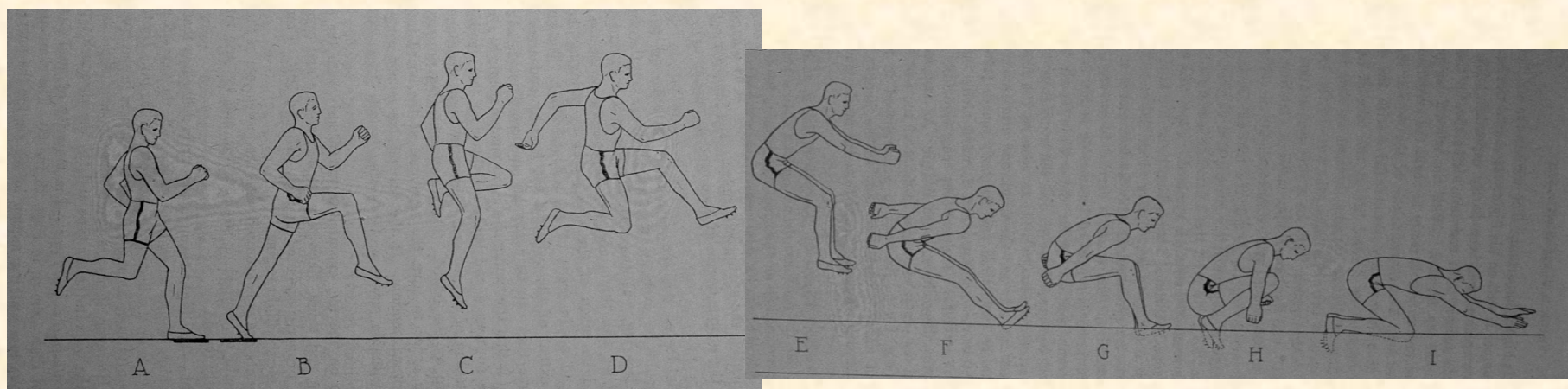


Pegs marking previous jumps

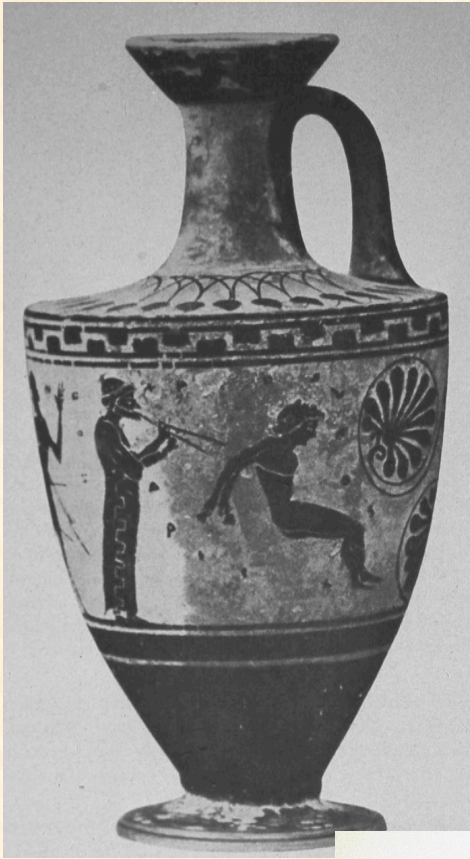




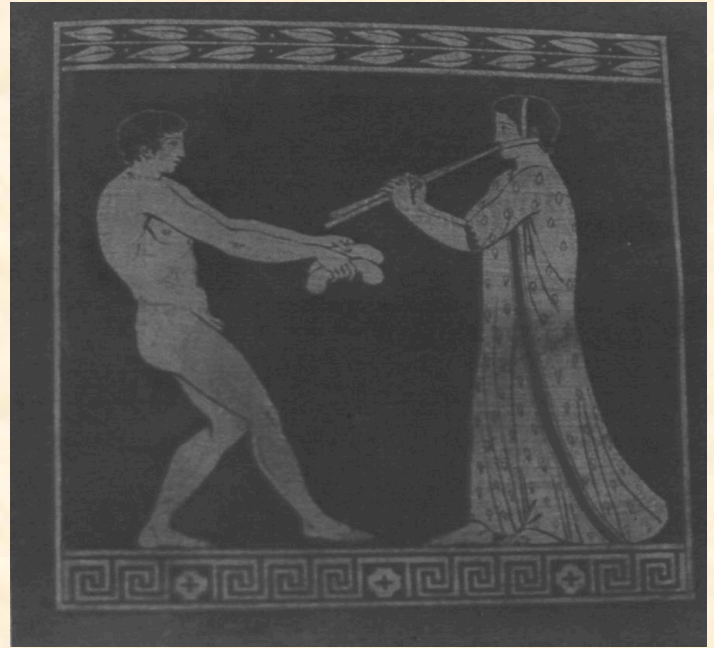
ancient halma with weights



modern "run-in-the-air" long jump



- jumping with rhythm required **music**



... as did the javelin and discus



Arete #60-61 on lengths of jumps

Phayllos of Kroton (southern Italy)

- *Proverb*: “beyond the [50-foot] dug-up area”
- alleged best jump of 55 feet

Chionis the Laconian

- alleged best jump of 52 feet

Current world records:

- long jump — 8.95m = 29'4”
- triple jump — 18.29m = 60'0”



Discus [diskos]

diskoi often bore
images or inscriptions
(poems, treaties, etc.)

The surviving two dozen ancient discuses are:

- 17 - 35 cm in diameter
- 1.3 - 6.6 kg in weight (av. = 2.5 kg)



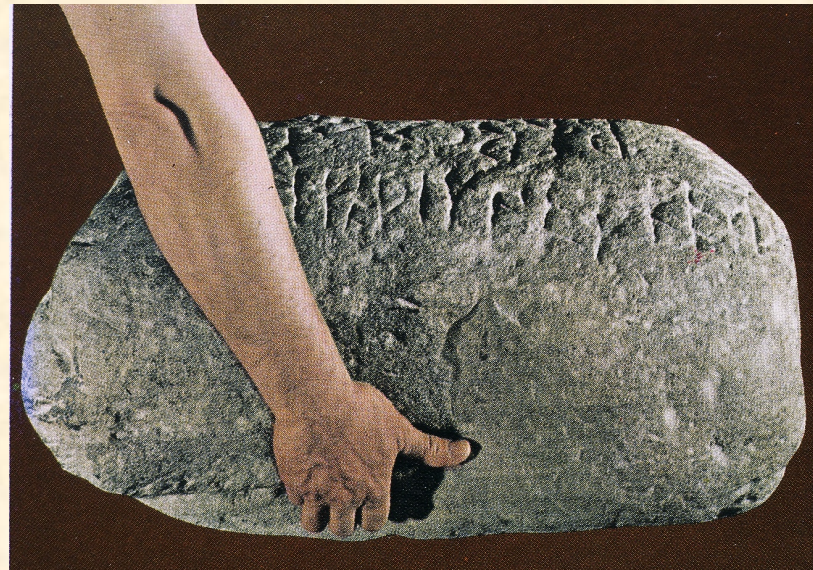
Myron's *Diskobolos*

Roman marble copy of
original of c. 450 BC



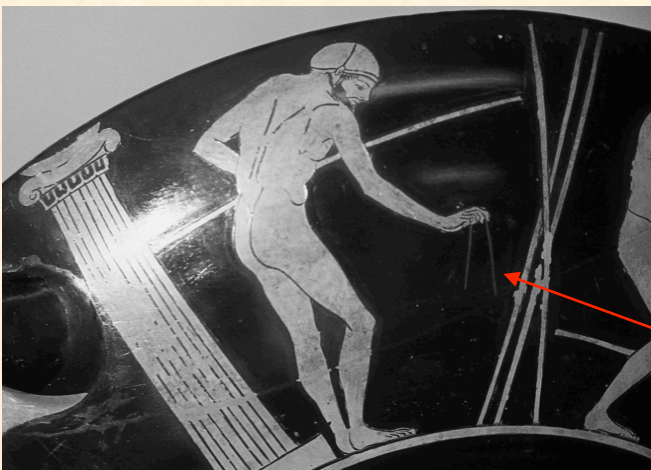
Lithobolos

(heavy stone-throw)



- “*Bubon, the son of Pholos, threw me over his head with one hand*”
- [inscribed 316 lb stone in Olympia Museum]

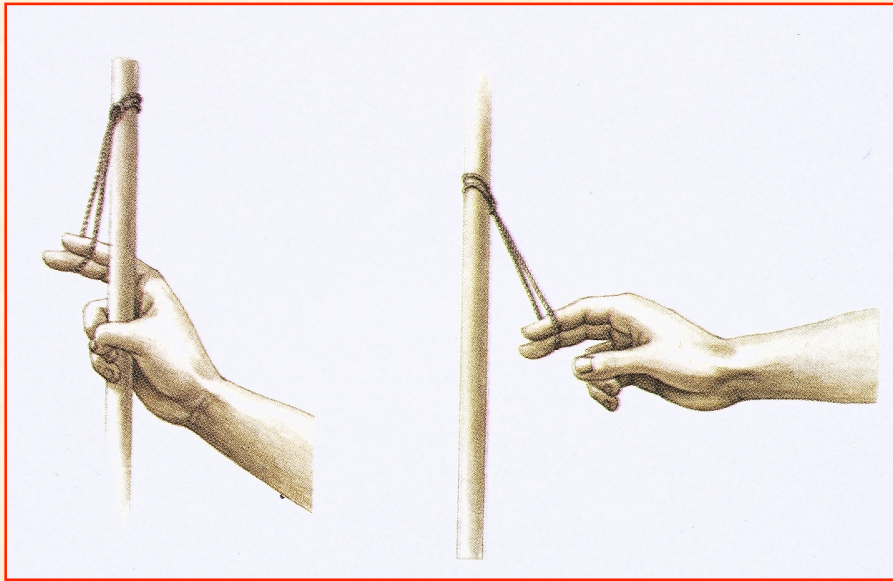
javelin (*akontion*)



thong

starting or turning
post in the stadium

the javelin thong



detail from a
vase painting





Arete ## 64-65, on law-suits
about deaths occasioned by
accidental javelin throws



target javelin



Athenian black-figure
vases with pictures of
pentathletes





boxing

wrestling

pankration

