

CLAS 0210

Sport in the Ancient Greek World



Class 21

Monday 15 March

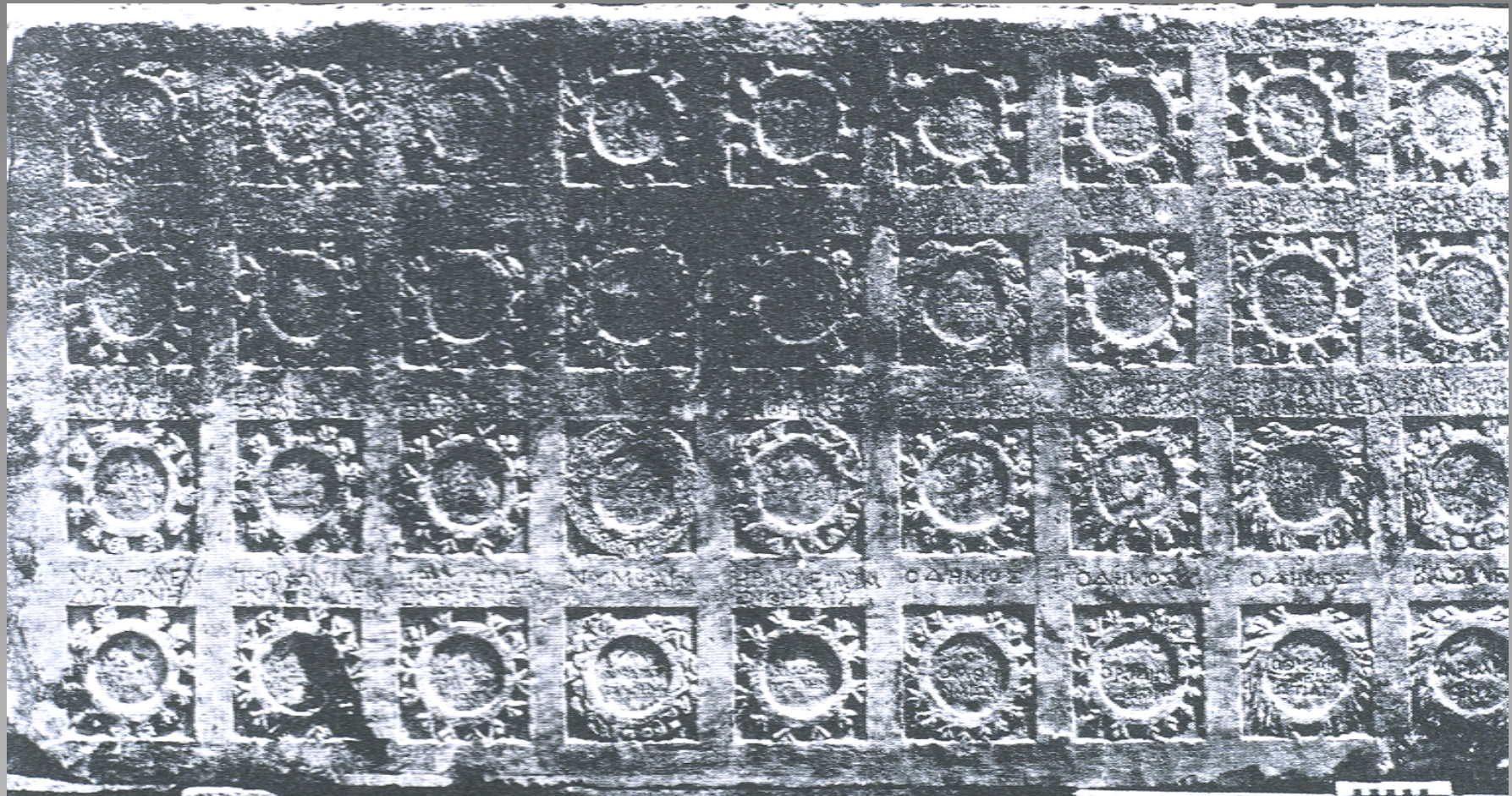
Civic Athletics:

The Panathenaic Games

at Athens

[Part I]

Athletic trophies displayed on a Roman marble relief (2nd c. AD)





Wrestling...
to win one of these
a **Panathenaic amphora**

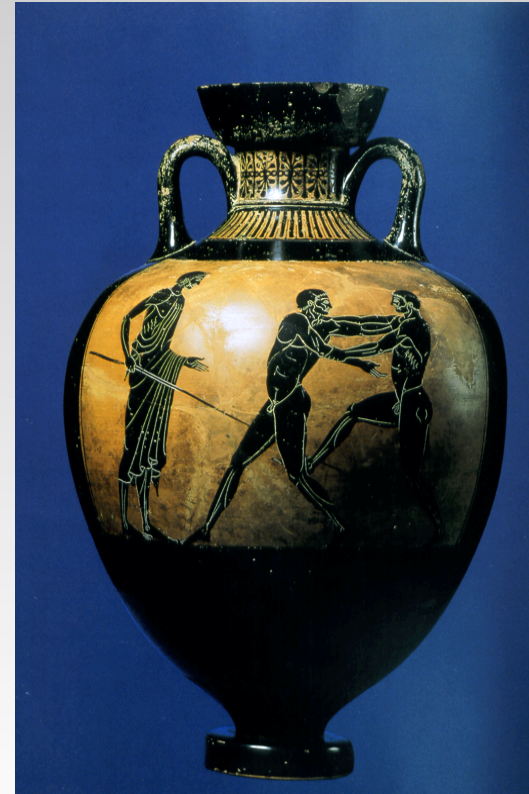


Panathenaic amphorae always have...

The goddess **Athena**
on one side



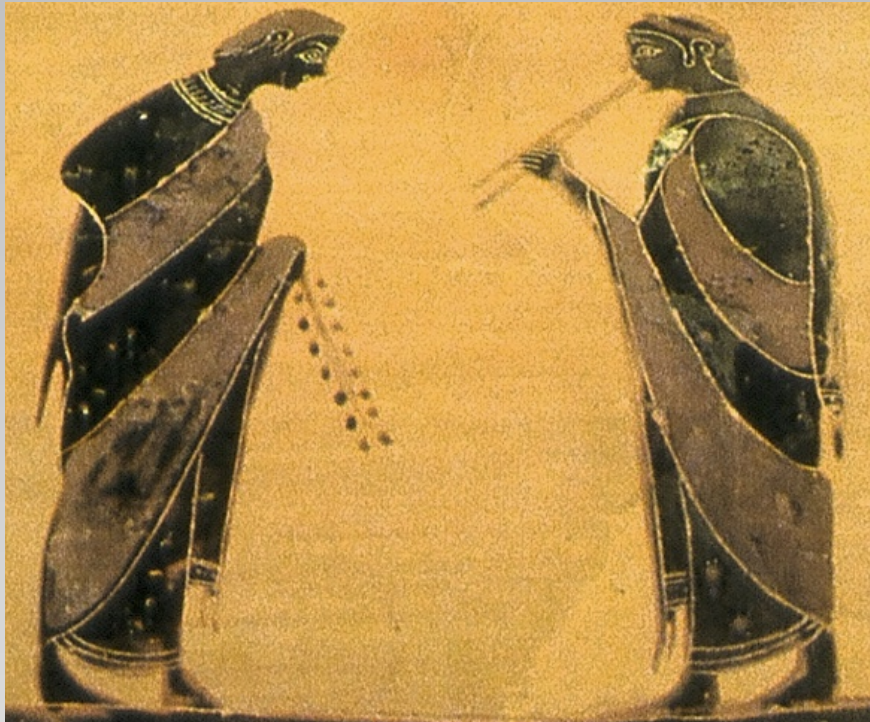
The **prize event**
on the other





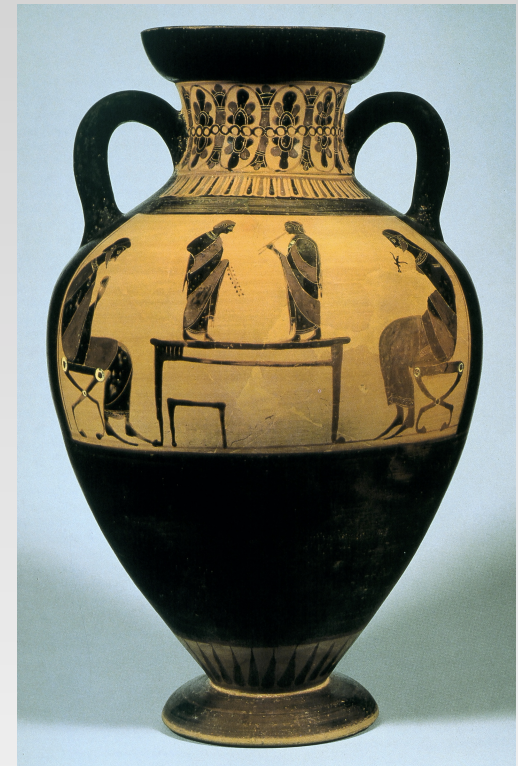
- The city (polis) of Athens
- Patron goddess: Athena
- Panathenaia =
“all-Athenian”

- Common religion as a binding factor
- “the altars and sacrifices of which we all partake”
[Herodotus]
- 120 days/year devoted to festivals at Athens
- most important festival = the annual **Panathenaia**
state festival honoring **Athena Polias** (“of the city”)
- every four years held on a much larger scale =
- the **Greater Panathenaia**
- the events included...



← musical competitions

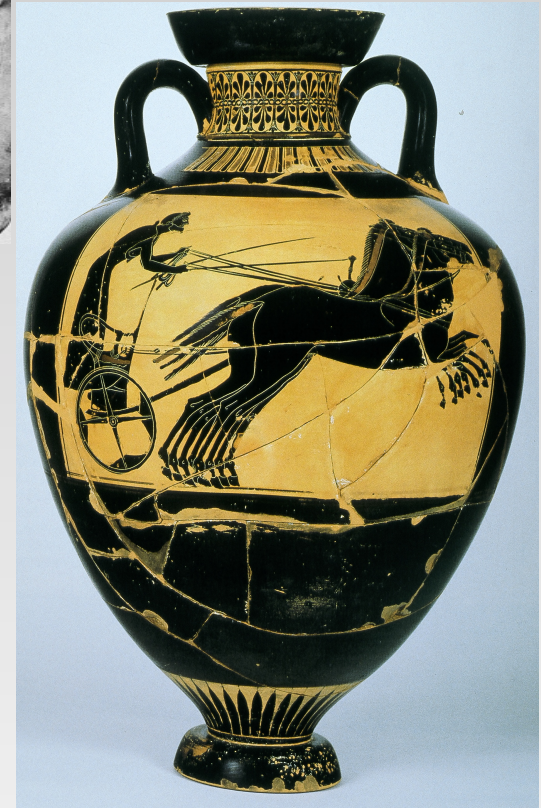
↑ recitations of Homer's poetry



gymnastic and equestrian events
(e.g., tethrippon)



dancing in armor

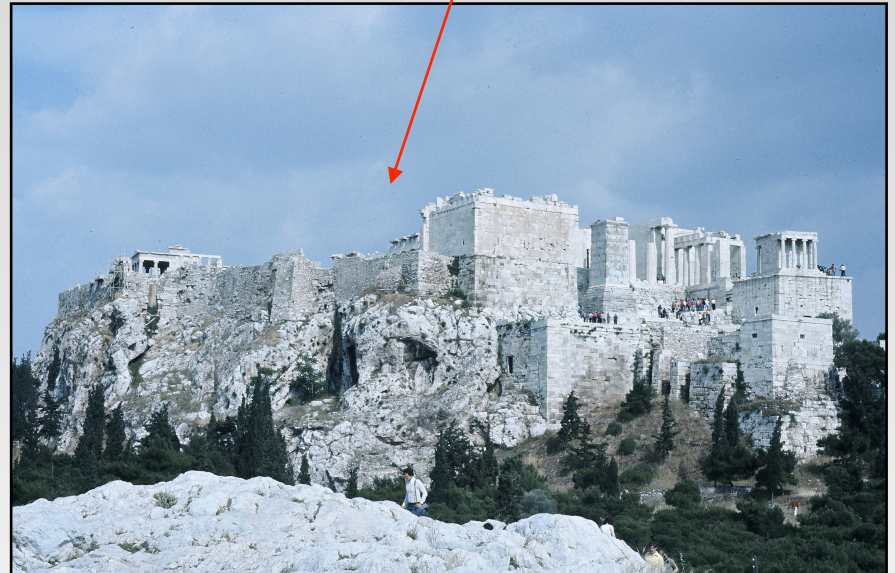




torch-racing through the city

a naval regatta in the harbor

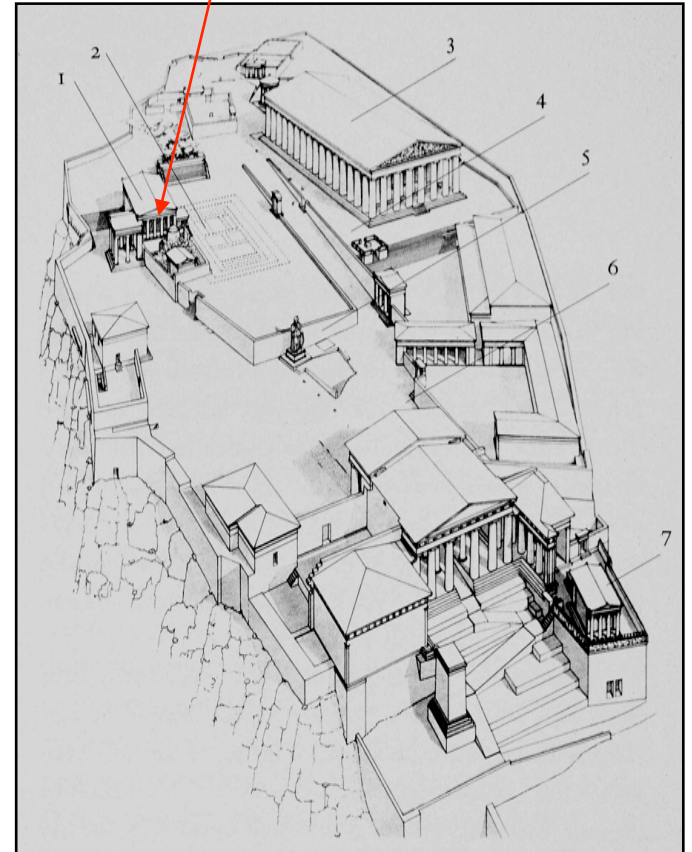
and, above all, a procession
through the city to Athena's
shrine on the Acropolis





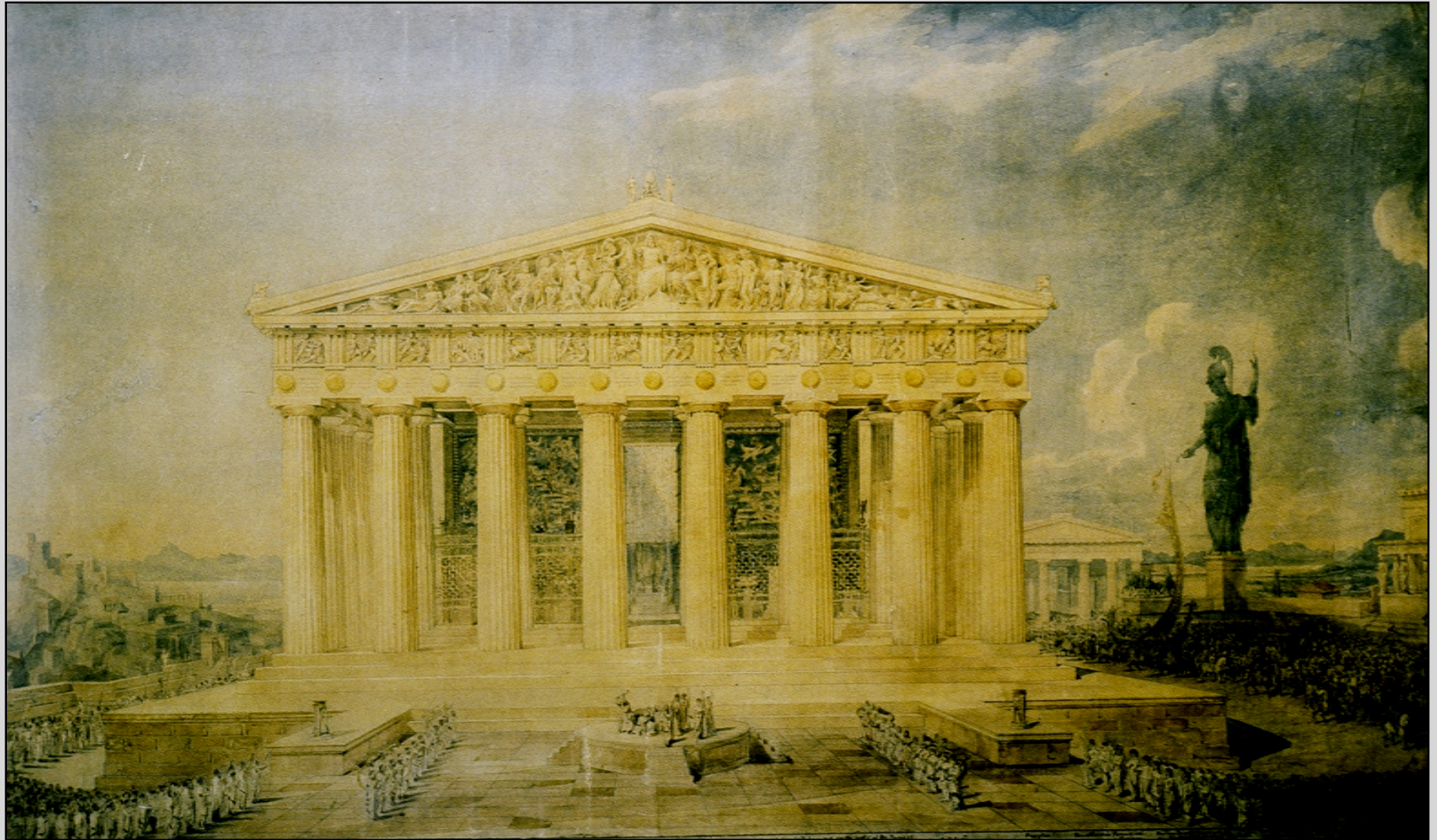
presentation of the **peplos**
(a richly woven robe)...

...to Athena, in one
of her temples on
the Acropolis, the
Erechtheion



Reconstruction of Panathenaic procession





19th-century painting by Cockerell:
the arrival of the Panathenaic procession



Panathenaic amphoras combined:

- sacred
- civic
- athletic

commissioned by the state

bore an official inscription

carried an image of Athena

filled with olive oil

(olive = Athena's sacred tree)

picture of athletic event

Program of the Greater Panathenaia

- Day 1: Musical and rhapsodic contests
- Day 2: Athletic contests (boys & youths)
- Day 3: Athletic contests (men)
- Day 4: Equestrian contests
- Day 5: Tribal contests
- Day 6: Torch race; pannychis (all-night revel)
procession and sacrifice
- Day 7: Apobates competition; boat race
- Day 8: Awarding of prizes
feasting and celebration

Prizes for the Warriors

Horse Race

- 60 1st prize: 16 amphoras of olive oil
2nd prize: 4 amphoras of olive oil

Two-horse Chariot Race

- 1st prize: 30 amphoras of olive oil
2nd prize: 6 amphoras of olive oil

65 **Two-horse Chariot Procession**

- 1st prize: 4 amphoras of olive oil
2nd prize: 1 amphora of olive oil

Javelin Throw on Horseback

- 1st prize: 5 amphoras of olive oil
70 2nd prize: 1 amphora of olive oil

Boys' Pyrrhic Dance

- 100 drachmas and a bull

Youths' Pyrrhic Dance

- 100 drachmas and a bull

Men's Pyrrhic Dance

- 100 drachmas and a bull

Tribal Contest in Manly Excellence

- 75 100 drachmas and a bull

Torch Race

- Winning Tribe: 100 drachmas and a bull
Individual Victor: 30 drachmas and a hy

Boat Race

- 1st prize: 300 drachmas, 3 bulls, and
200 free meals
2nd prize: 200 drachmas and 2 bulls

Extract from text of
Arete #120

Age categories:

boys (12-16)

youths (16-20)

men (over 20)

prizes for
runners-up

Timing of the Great Panathenaia

- Great Panathenaia fell in 3rd year of each Olympiad
- Held in Athenian month of Hekatombion (~July)
- Main day of festival fell on Athena's birthday, 3rd day from end of the month
- Thus, an 8-day festival, roughly 23-30 Hekatombion

Many events were *tribal* contests, open only to Athenian citizens

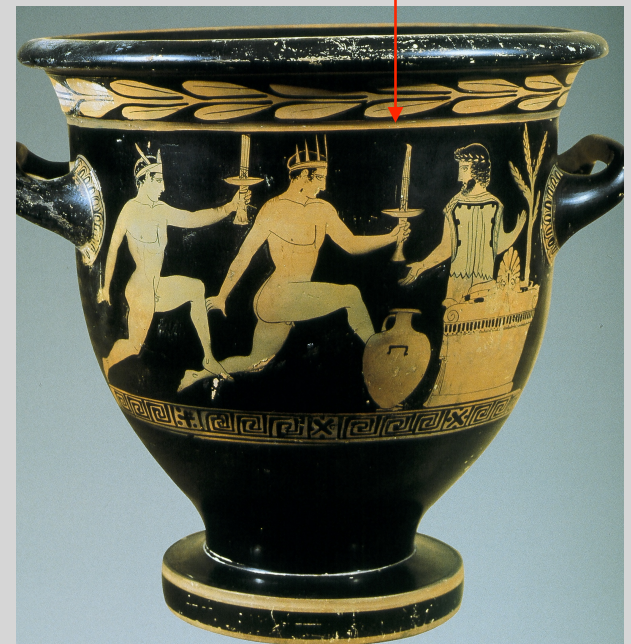
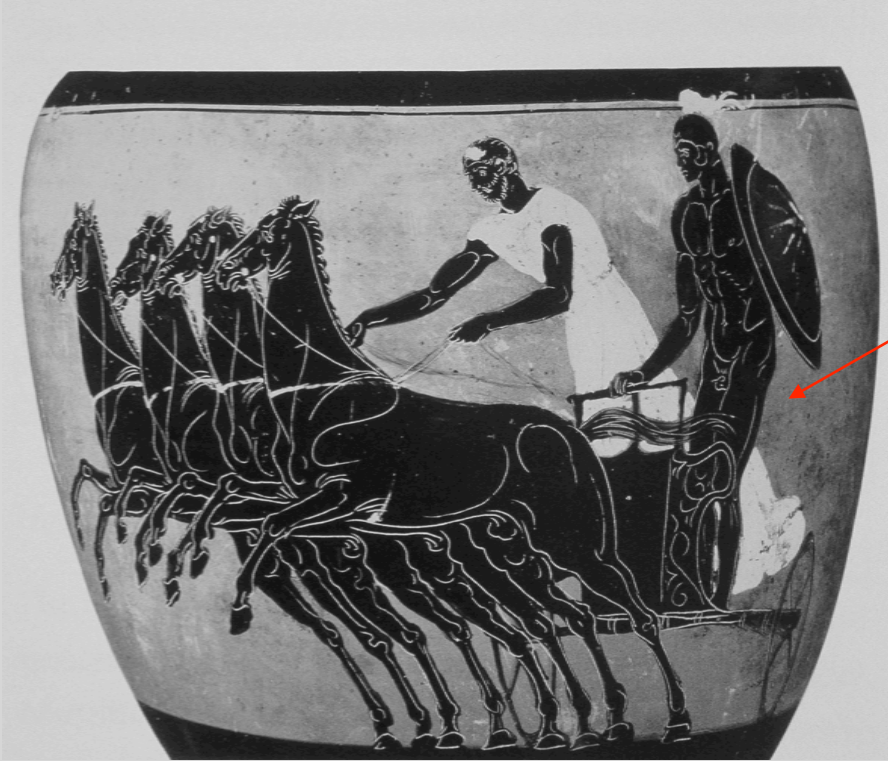


- Rhapsodic singing
- “Pyrrhic” warlike dancing



Apobates race
(jumping on and off
a moving chariot)

torch race

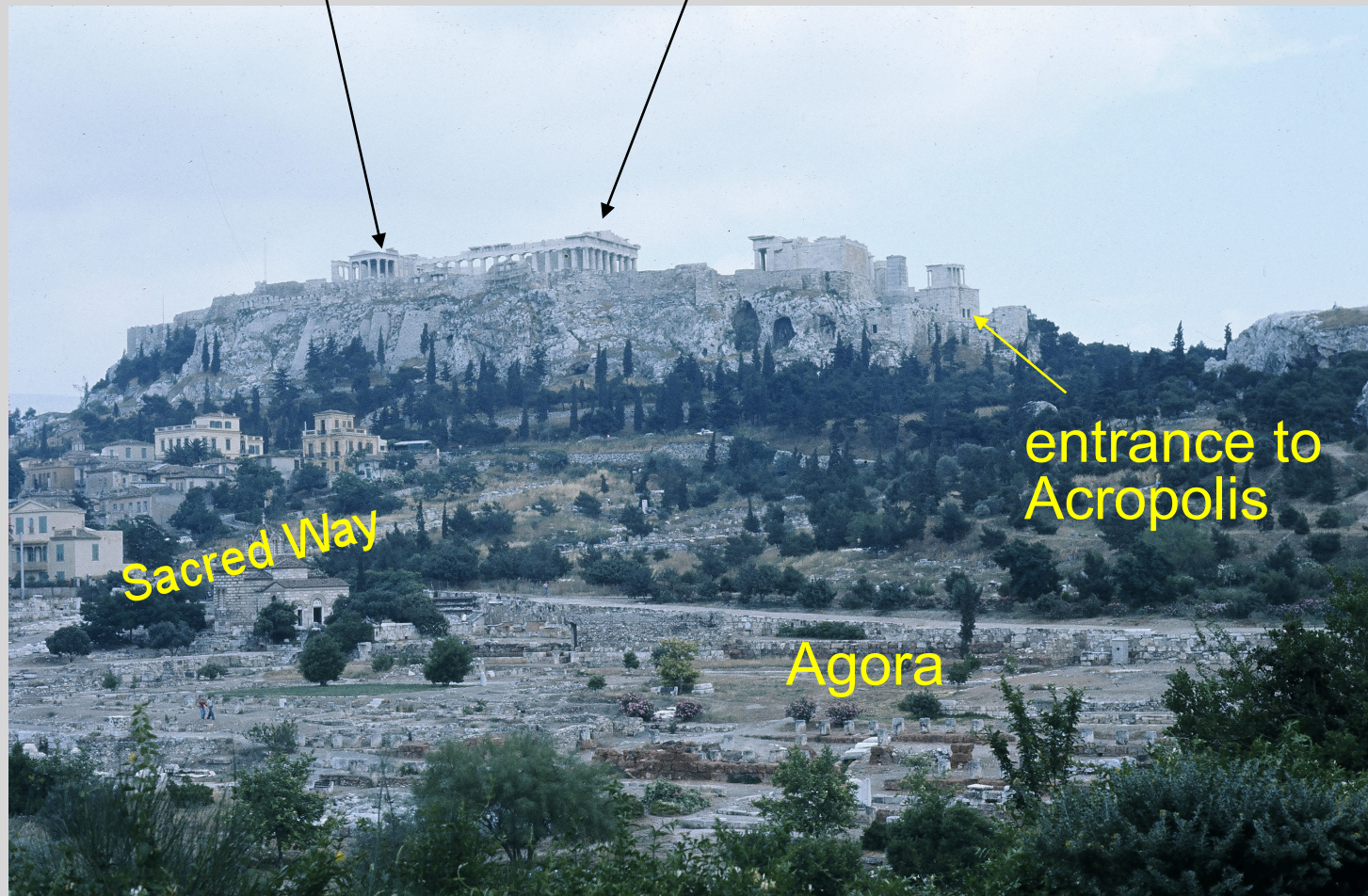


The Athenian agora



Erechtheion

Parthenon



entrance to
Acropolis

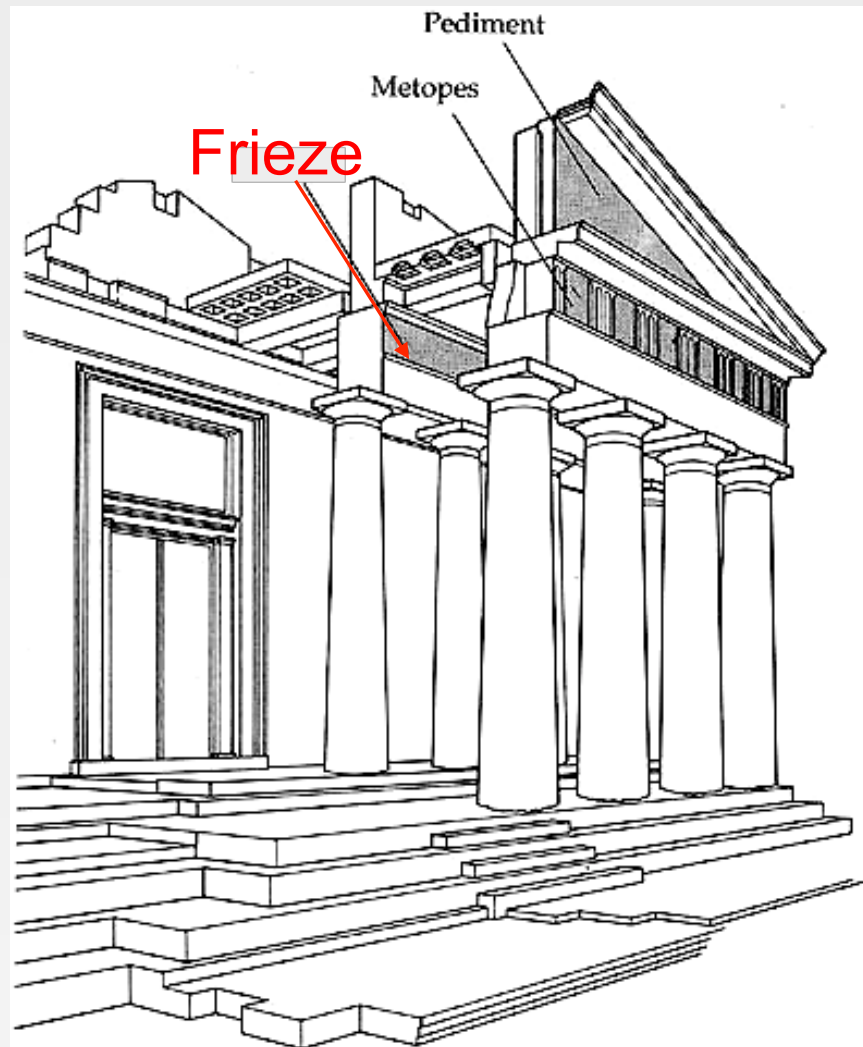
Sacred Way

Agora

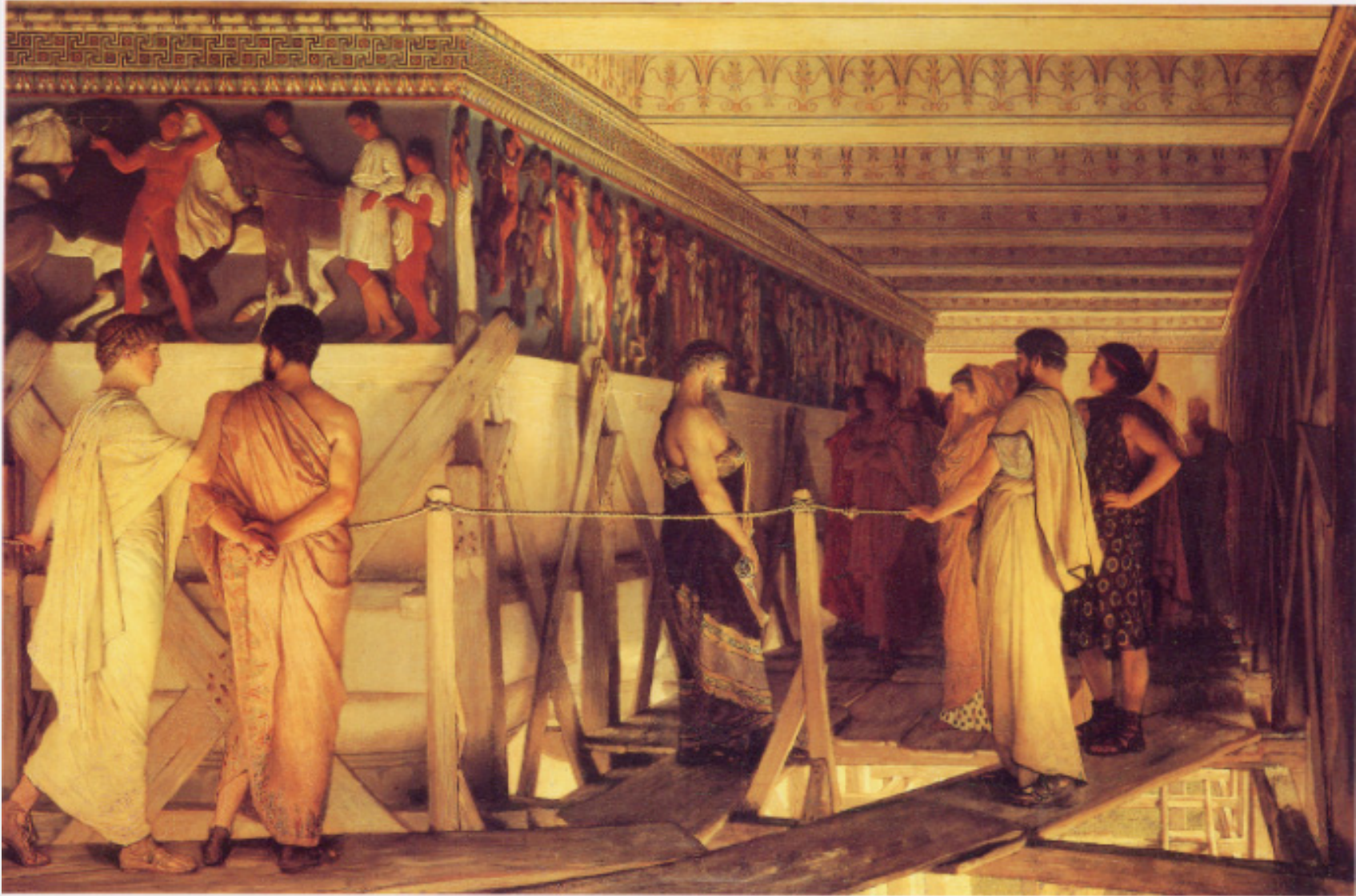
The Panathenaic procession is the subject-matter of the Parthenon frieze



Cut-away
diagram of
the Parthenon



Pheidias shows off his Parthenon frieze



(Alma-Tadema)