

CLAS 0210

Sport in the Ancient Greek World



Class 22

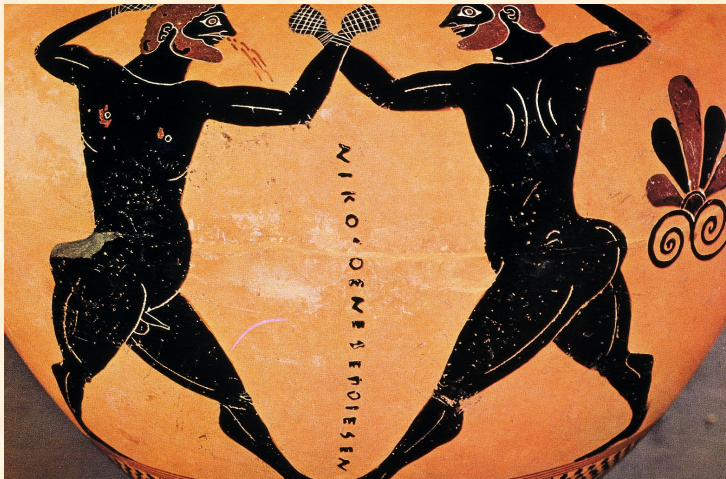
Wednesday 17 March

Civic Athletics:

The Panathenaic Games
at Athens [Part 2]

Origins of the Panathenaia

- Athletic competition at Athens goes back very early:



← e.g., this black-figure vase, made in Athens, showing boxers, of the early 6th century BC

- Earliest definitive evidence for the Panathenaia (early 6th century) =
 - (1) panathenaic amphoras, stating that they're **official prizes**
 - (2) inscriptions from the Athenian acropolis, referring to a **dromos** [race track or race] and an **agon** [contest] organized by a board of civic officials

Organization of the Panathenaia

The most useful source is the 4th-century BC text
The Constitution of Athens (Athenaion Politeia)

In the hands of a 10-man panel of *athlothetai*
(games organizers)

Chosen by lot by the **Boule** (council)

One from each tribe

Duties of the athlothetai

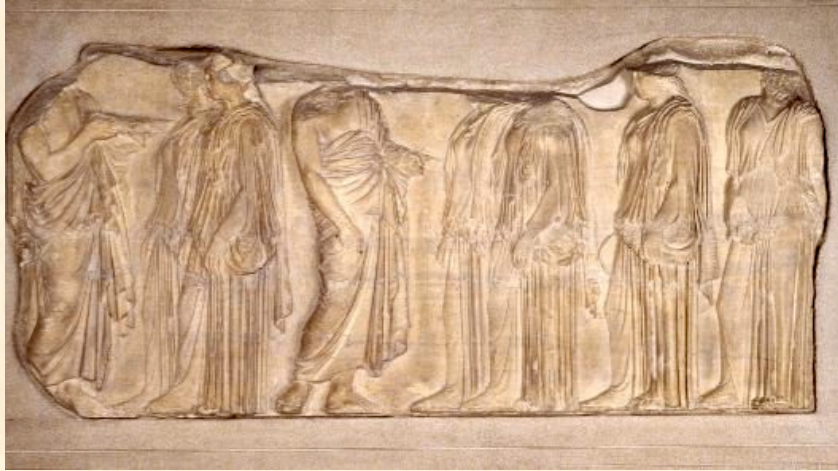
“...to manage the procession of the Panathenaia, the musical and gymnastic contests, and the horse race...

...they arrange for the making of the peplos, and, in association with the Boule, for the making of the vases...

...and they present the olive oil to the winning athletes.”

[*Constitution of Athens*]

The preparation of the peplos



- 9 months prior to the Panathenaia, 4 young girls aged 7-10 (arrephoroi), with the priestess of Athena, set up the loom.
- Weaving done by a special group of older women.
- Carried in procession and presented to the goddess by yet another group (washing of the cult statue and its garments).



water-jars for the washing

Athena in her peplos

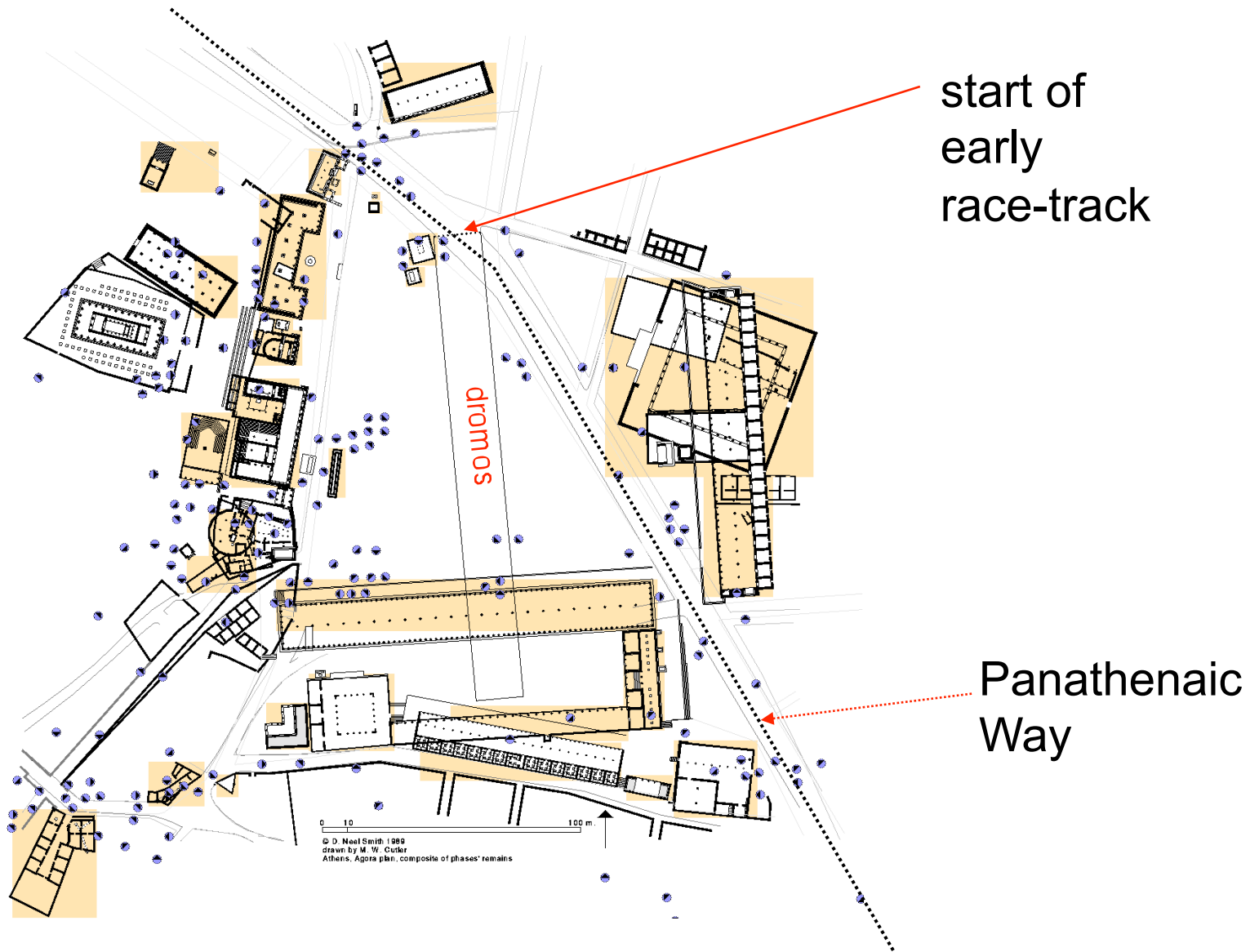




acropolis

agora

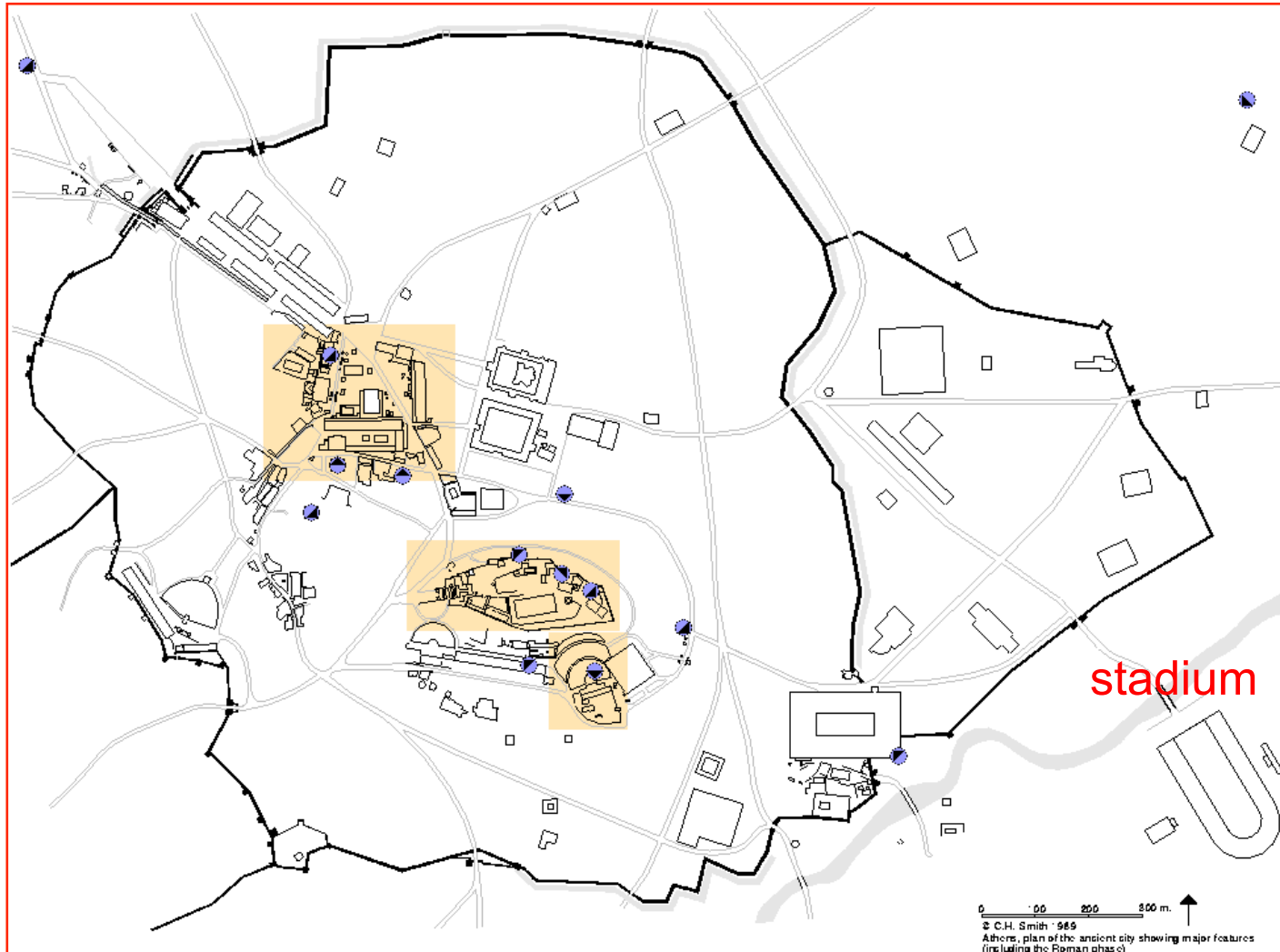
Plan of Athenian agora



Probable starting line for 5th-century racetrack in the Athenian agora



Plan of ancient Athens



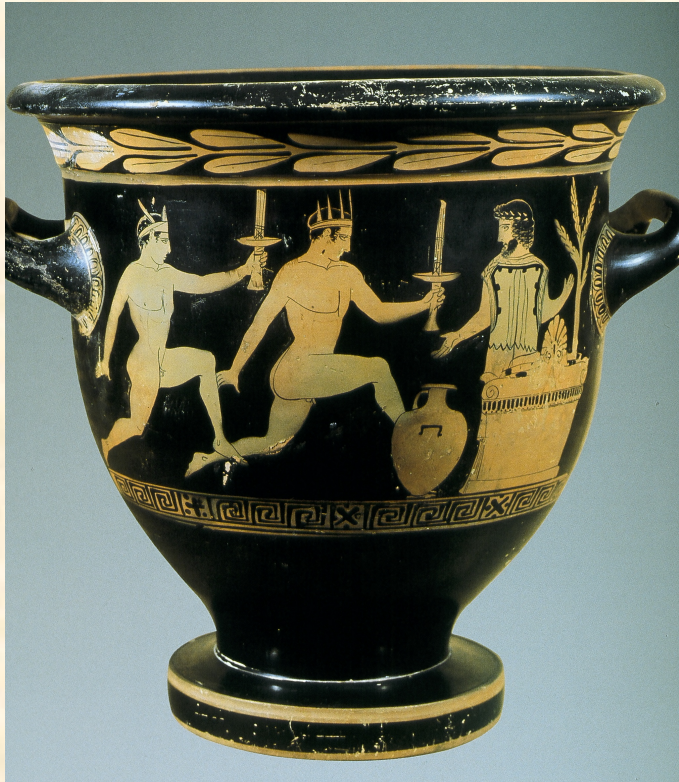
Pyrrhic dance [*pyrrhike*]



Contest of manly beauty [*euandria*]



Torch relay-race [*lampedodromia*]



- 2,500 m
- 400 runners (40 from each of the 10 tribes)
- each man ran ca. 60 m

Aristophanes, *Frogs*

“Contest of ships”



(Reconstruction of ancient trireme, in harbor of Athens)

Apobates race



- apobates racer depicted as part of the Panathenaic procession on the Parthenon frieze

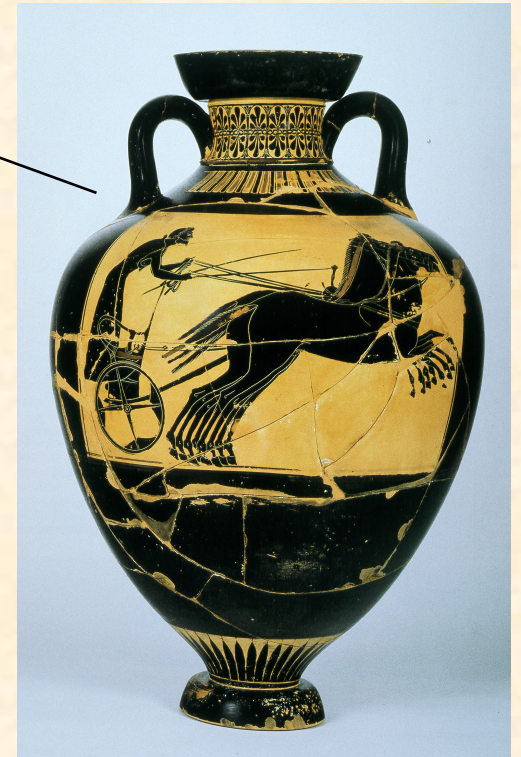


- Birth of Athena fully-armed, from Zeus' head
- Athena: a **warlike** deity
- e.g.:
- hoplitomachia
- hoplitodromos
- apobates race
- javelin, jumping, running

Athena, goddess of handicrafts:



weaving



potting



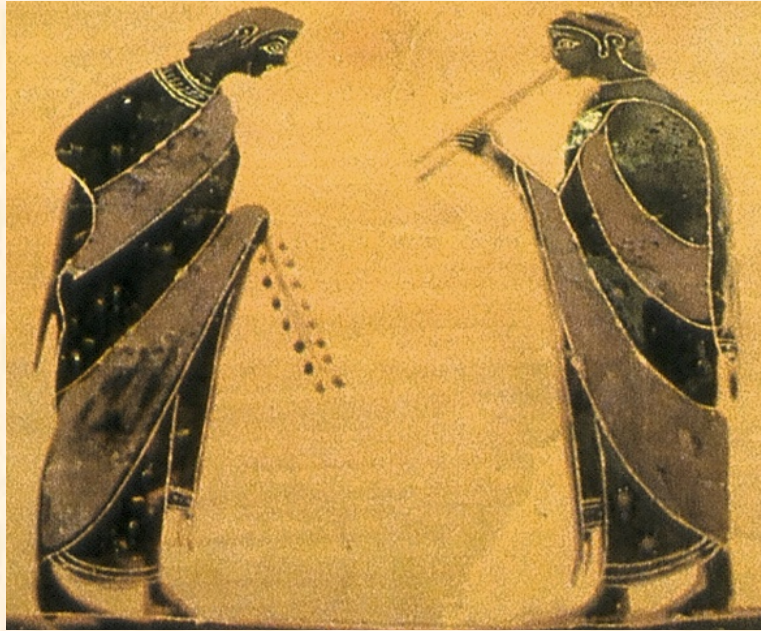
Athena and the olive tree/oil



The contest of Athena & Poseidon for the city



Athena and music



- according to the Greek poets, she invented the *aulos*

music an essential
accompaniment to
athletic events



Athena and athletics



- Athena intervenes directly on behalf of her favorite heroes — Diomedes in the chariot race (*Iliad*), Odysseus in the footrace.