

CLAS 0210

Sport in the Ancient Greek World



Class 30

Monday 12 April 2010

Hellenistic Athletics and the
Internationalization of Sport

Developments during the Hellenistic Period

ca. 323 - 30 BC

- Greek-style games and festivals spread far beyond Greece
- Sport became more international in character
- Athletes came to be fully-fledged professionals
- Formation of athletic unions and associations

Philip II of Macedonia (d. 336 B.C.)



Argead Macedonian dynasty → City of Argos in Greece → the Argive hero Herakles
Macedonian kings allowed by the Hellenodikai to compete at Olympia



Coinage of Philip II
(philos + hippos = “lover of horses”)

Philip won victories in 3 successive Olympics:

- horse-race
- 4-horse chariot-race
- 2-horse chariot-race



The Philippeion at Olympia

- celebrated Philip's Olympic victories
- memorialized triumph at Battle of Chaeronea, 338 BC
- housed statues of members of Macedonian royal family





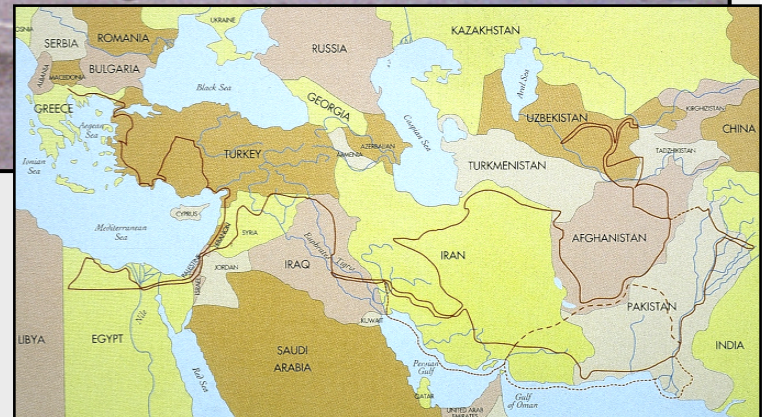
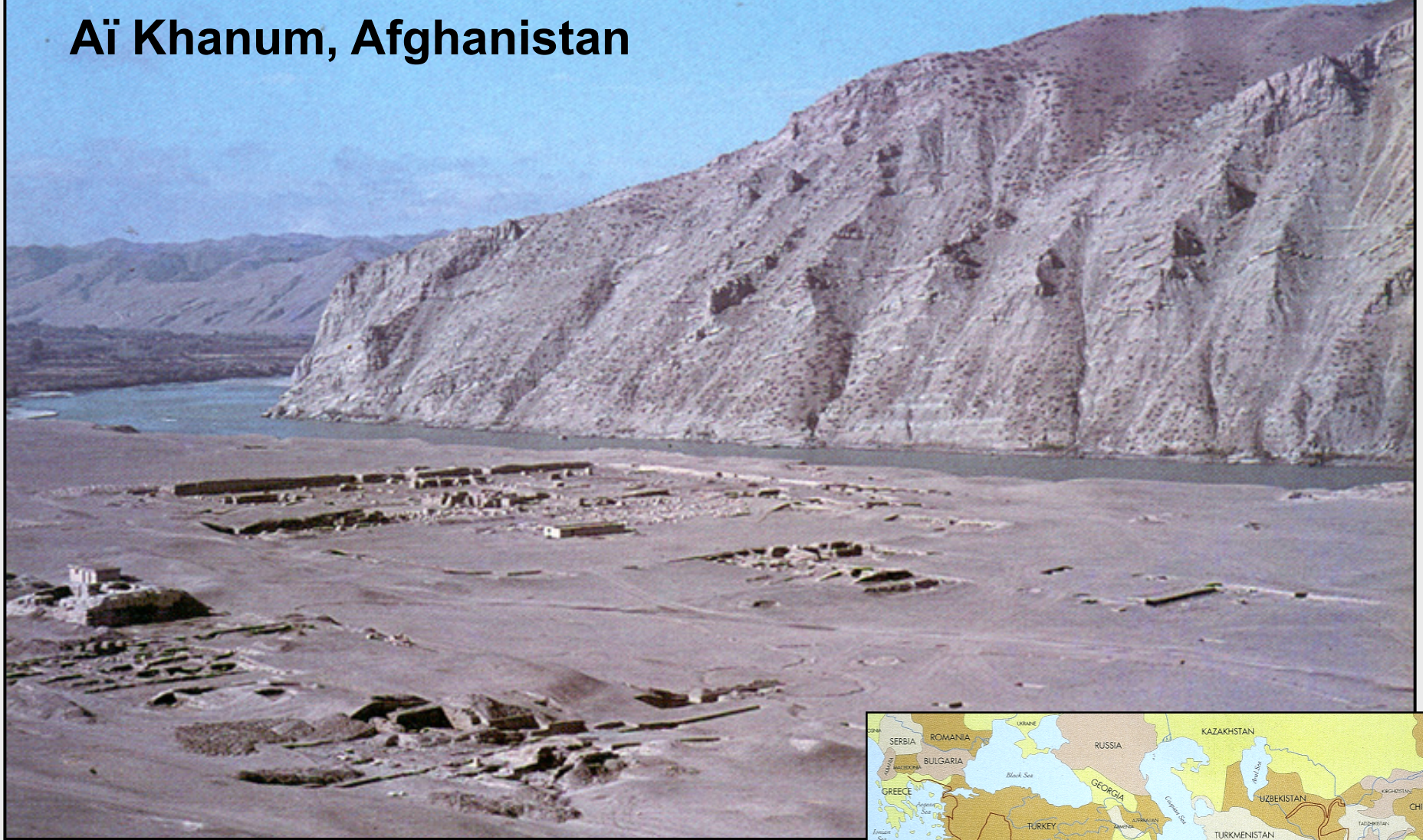
Alexander's conquests, as of 323 BC

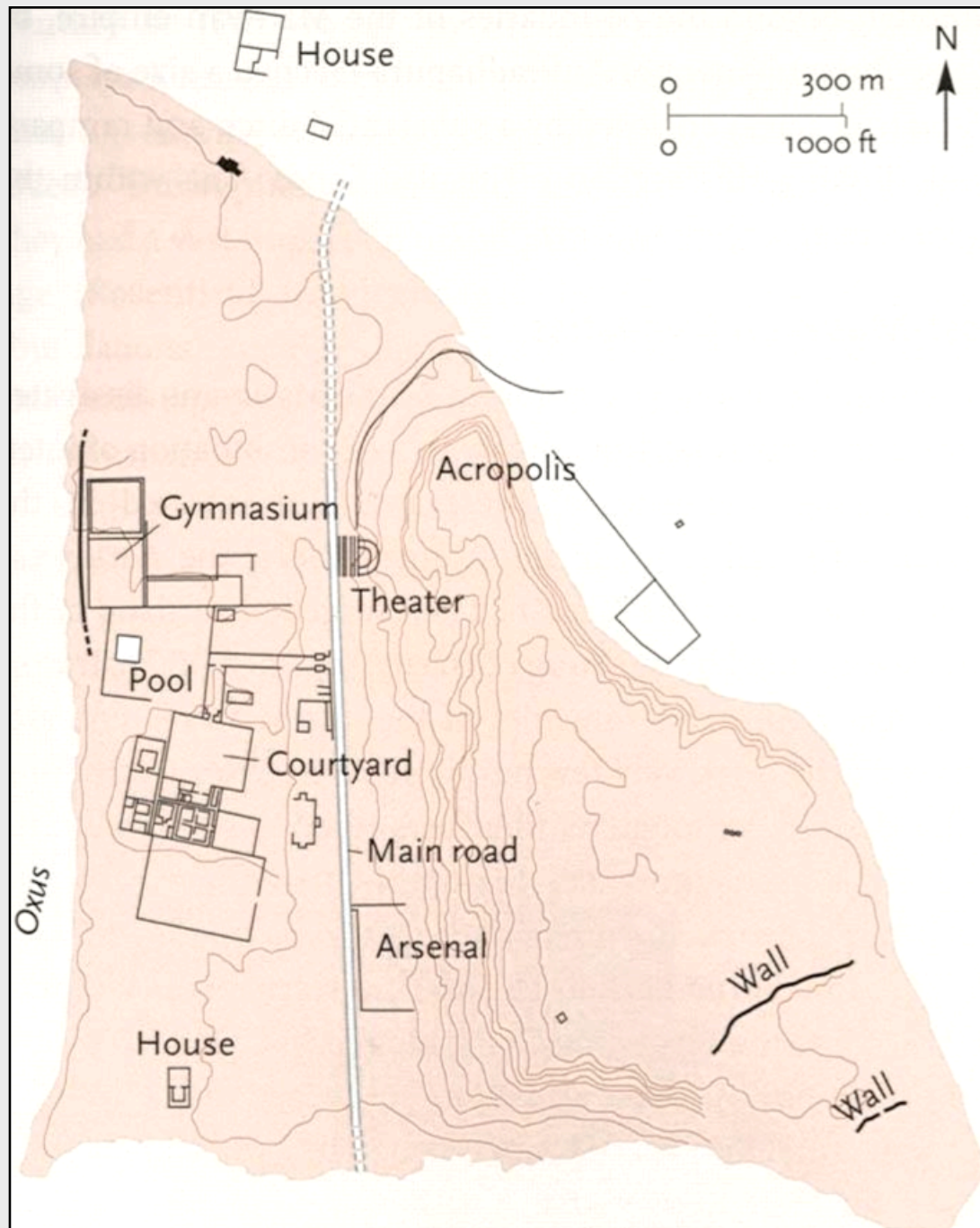
Arrian, *Campaigns of Alexander*



J.H. Schönfeld (ca. 1630)
Alexander Visits the Tomb of Achilles (at Troy)

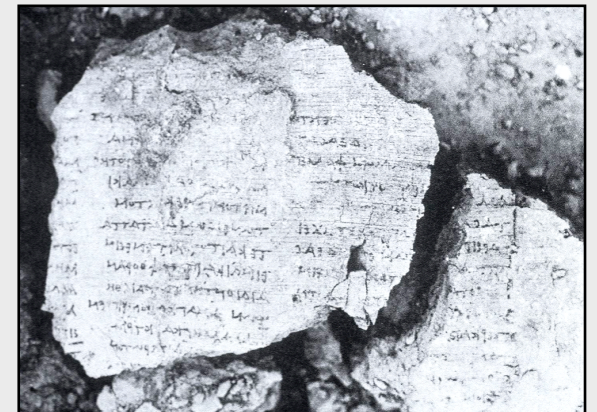
Aï Khanum, Afghanistan





Ai Khanum

**Reverse imprint of
a Greek papyrus**



Athletics as a synonym for Greekness
when far from home

See *Arete* #190

Two of Alexander's companions take with them
the equipment they need to practice athletics
while on the long march



**Antigonus (Macedonia)
Antigonid dynasty**

**Big Three:
Ptolemies
Seleucids
Antigonids**

Arete #191

An inscription at Delphi, 246 B.C.

The Aetolian League

The Soteria (“Salvation Games”) at Delphi, to be:

- stephanitic
- isoPythian musical competitions
- isoNemean athletic and equestrian competition

(Greek *isos* = “equal” — i.e., using the same rules and arrangements)

Arete # 192

Inscription set up at Delphi in front of the Temple of Apollo
182 B.C.

A response by the Amphiktyonic Council of Delphi to
a delegation sent by King Eumenes of Pergamon (Turkey)

The **Nikephoria** (“victory-bringing”) Games at Pergamon, to be:

- stephanitic

In terms of age categories and prizes for victors:

- isoPythian (musical contests)
- isOlympic (gymnastic and equestrian)

Arete # 199

An inscription of 2 B.C., set up at Olympia

Concerns the establishment by the Emperor Augustus
of Italic isOlympic Games at Naples