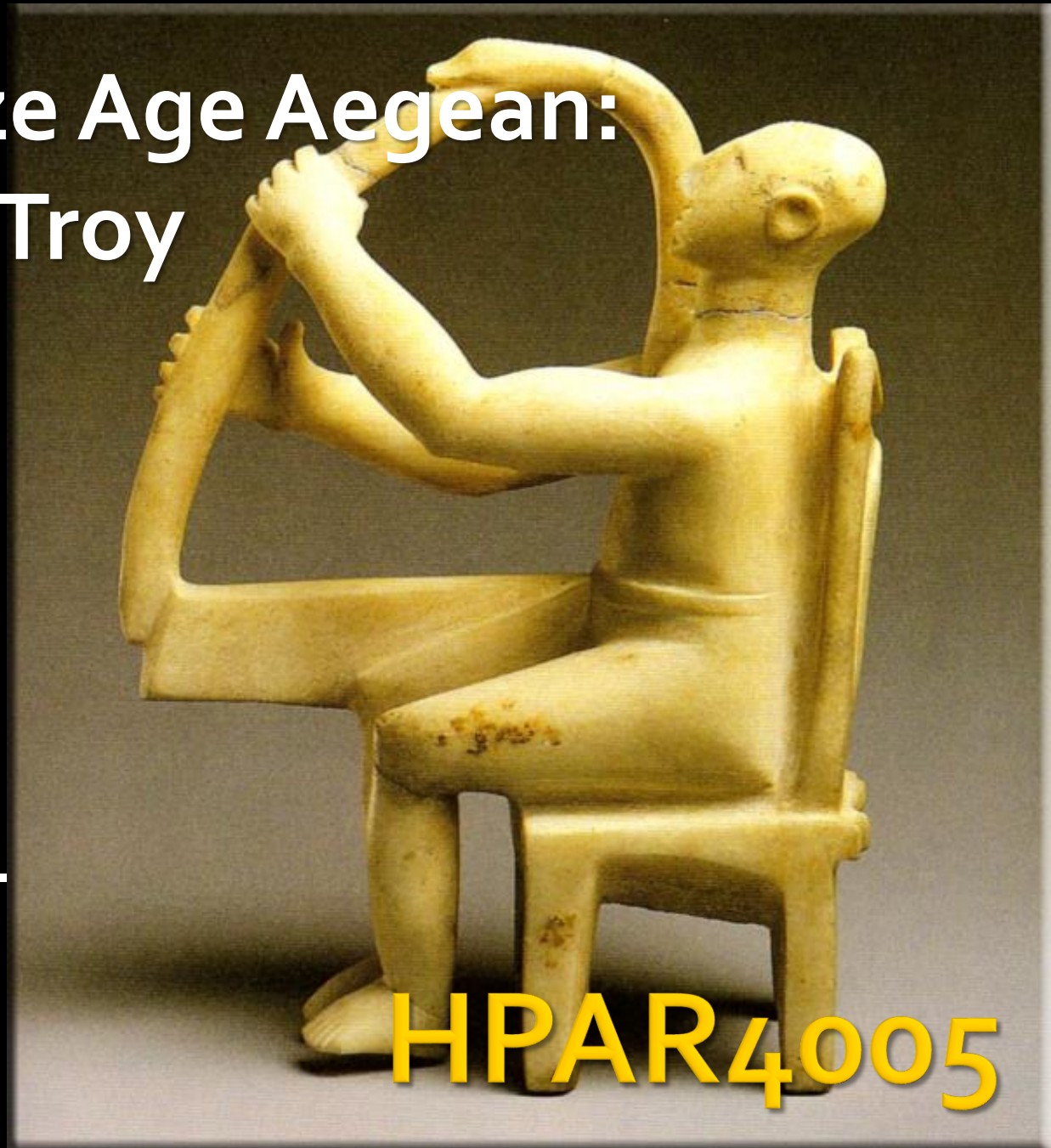


Early Bronze Age Aegean: Cyclades & Troy



HPAR4005

Craft Production

1. Specialist craft production
2. “Sophisticated artistic styles”
3. Trade networks
 - All typically associated with emergent elites & hierarchical societies
 - Alternative perspectives from EB Aegean?



Finds from Amorgos

Cyclades: Time and Place...

- Early Bronze Age = 3rd millennium BC
- EC I = Grotta Pelos Culture
 - 3200-2700 BC
- EC II- IIIA = Keros Syros Culture
 - 2800-2200 BC
- EC IIIA-IIIB = Phylakopi Culture
 - 2300-1800 BC



Cycladic islands

EBA Cyclades

- 3200-2200: development of distinctive culture
- Small farming, village communities in a resource rich environment
- Material world: rich in crafted objects
 - Pottery
 - Marble sculpted figures
 - Silver jewellery
 - Bronzework



Folded-arm figurine

Resources

- Only limited arable land
- Maritime connectivity: outward looking
- Mineral resources
 - Copper: Kythnos
 - Silver, lead: Siphnos
 - Marble: most islands, especially Paros, Naxos
 - Obsidian: Melos
 - Pumice: Thera



Obsidian blades



Marble figurine heads

Grotta-Pelos Culture

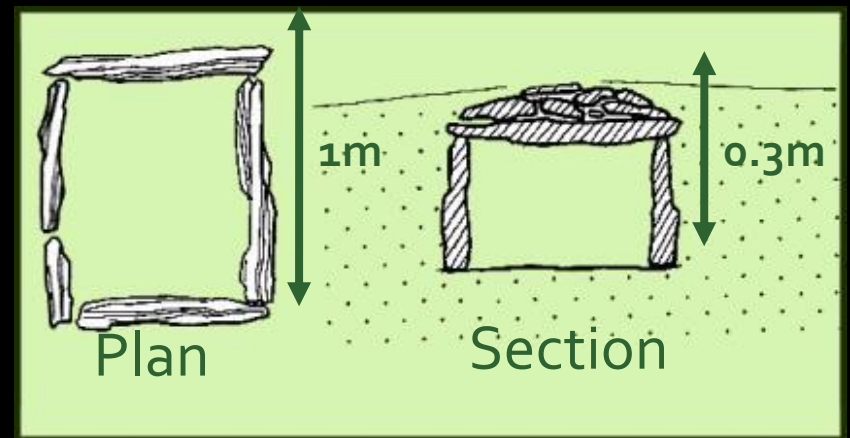
- Increasing settlement of islands:
 - But limited agricultural resource: small farmsteads/hamlets?
 - Development enabled by maritime communication
 - Exogamous communities?
- Primarily funerary evidence



Ceramic *pyxis*

Grotta-Pelos Culture

- Cist graves:
 - Shallow rectangular pits cut into earth
 - Lined with stone slabs
- Single inhumation in contracted position
- Groups of graves: kinship?
- Burial population...
- Broodbank: increasing visibility of individuals?



Cist grave

Grotta Pelos Culture

- Variable grave goods:
quality & quantity
 - None
 - A few pots
 - Obsidian blades common
 - Simple ornaments
 - Marble & metal goods rare
- “wealthiest” graves:
accumulations of grave
goods



Ceramic collared jar

Grotta-Pelos Culture

- Craft production:
 - Handmade pottery
 - Simple incised decoration
 - Schematic marble figurines
 - Marble vessels
 - Marble palettes
- Very little metal: preference is obsidian

Collared jar



Pyxis



Marble kandila



Marble violin figurine

Grotta-Pelos Culture

- Small communities with access to certain range of (locally) crafted objects
- Emphasis on personal adornment & body modification: personal identity?
- Little exchange **beyond** Cyclades; but extensive communication & exchange **within** the Cyclades:
 - “demand for prestigious, but robust and durable exchange items” (Broodbank 2000: 167)
 - Means of creating & securing social relations **beyond** immediate community
 - Expression of shared identity...

Keros-Syros Culture

- Full flowering of Cycladic culture
 - “the islands’ golden age” (Fitton 1989: 40)
- Settlement evidence alongside funerary remains
- Finest products of Cycladic craftsmanship
 - Marble figures
 - Metallurgical production



Transitional GP-KS sculpture

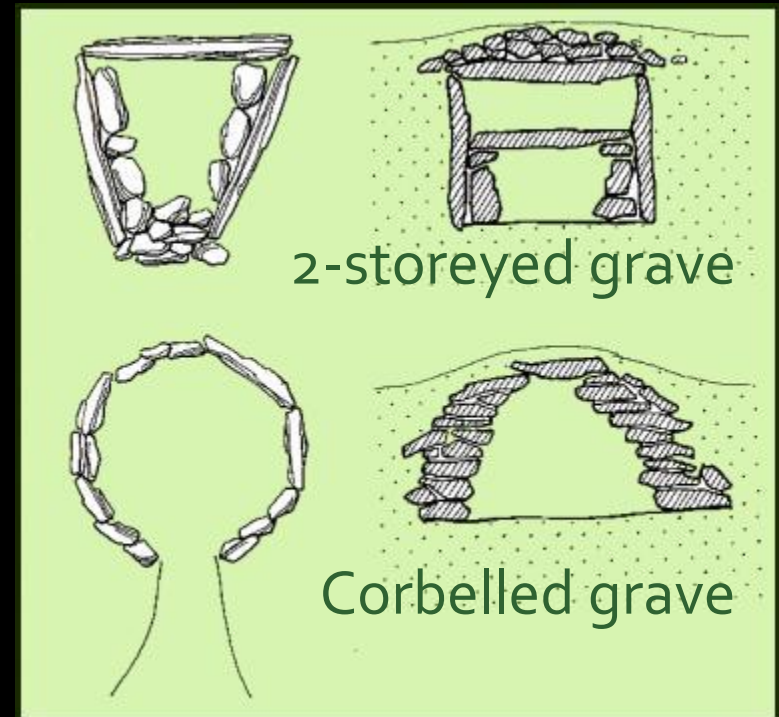
Keros-Syros Settlement

- Usually near sea: communication & source of food
- Hilltop location: defence
 - Fortifications at Kastri
- Small villages, densely packed, irregular organisation



Keros-Syros Funerary Practices

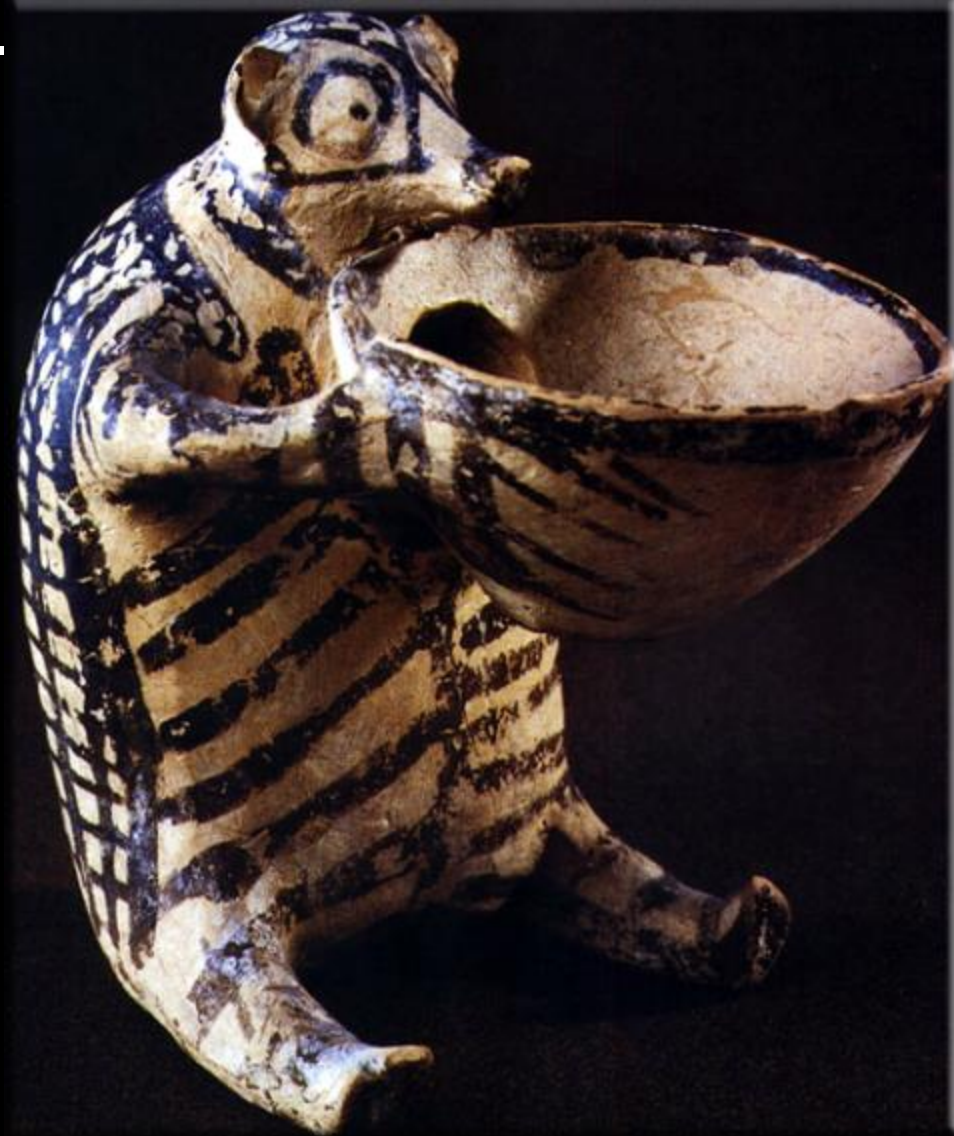
- Grotta-Pelos cemeteries continue in use
- Greater range of grave types:
 - Rectangular cist & new types
 - Ossuaries in lower part of 2-storeyed graves
- Multiple inhumation more common: contracted position
- Built platforms: communal gatherings
- What might this tell us about societal changes?



Cist graves

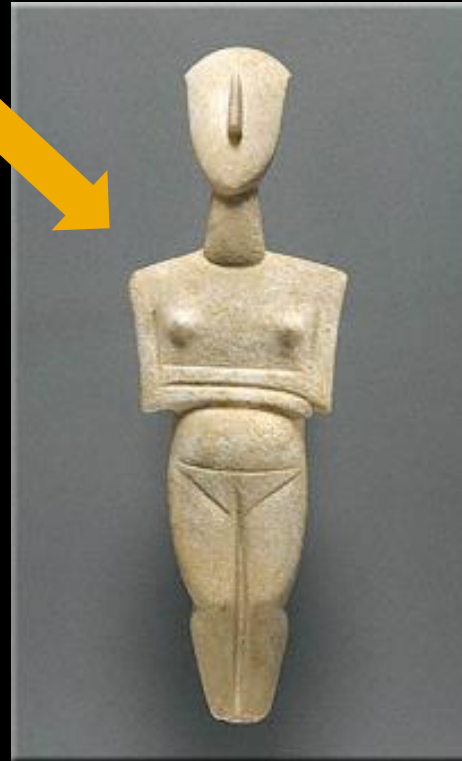
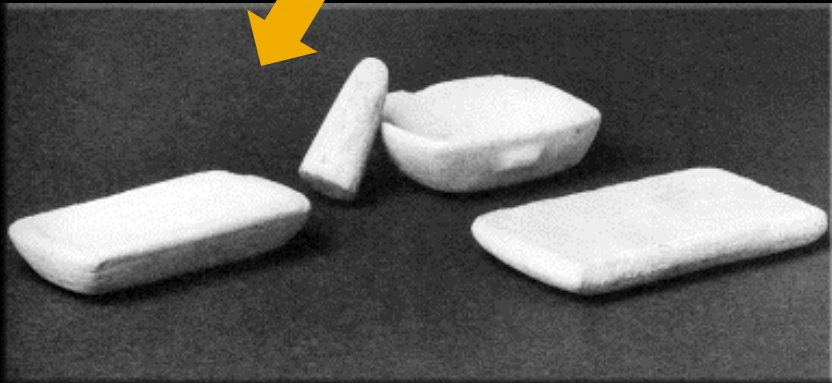
Keros-Syros Grave Goods

- Abundant pottery:
 - Primarily cups & bowls
 - Sauceboats
 - Frying pans: elaborate incised decoration
 - Zoomorphic vessels



Keros-Syros Grave Goods

- Marble objects:
 - Folded arm figurines
 - Vessels
 - Palettes & pestles



Keros-Syros Grave Goods

- Metal-work: large quantity & great variety
- Arsenical copper tools:
 - Kasti: furnaces & crucibles
- Also weapons & toiletry articles
- Silver vessels & jewellery:
 - Torcs, bracelets, diadems



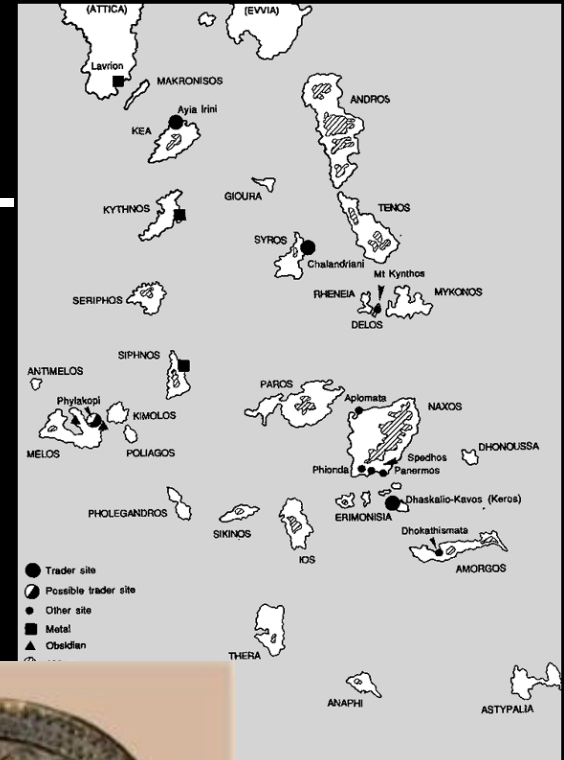
Copper tools



Silver bowls

Keros-Syros Exchange

- Trader sites:
 - Larger communities with ability to manipulate local trade & monopolise long-distance ventures
- “source of [ideological] power lay primarily in the very activity & practice of maritime movement”
(Broodbank 1993: 323)



Frying pan
Chalandriani

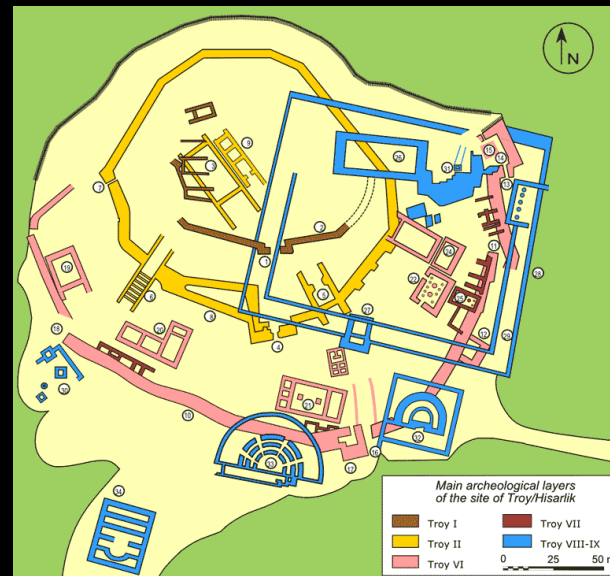
Daskaleio-Kavos

- Knowledge of distance = power
- Rich deposit of smashed marble objects, obsidian, pottery
- Most remote trader centre
- **Politics of value:** removal of goods from circulation in ceremony of destruction
 - Controlling acquisition of objects in highly visible ceremony



Troy: Time & Place

- NW Anatolia: identified with Hisarlik
- 9 “cities” with numerous sub-phases
- Early Bronze Age settlement:
 - Troy I: 3000-2600
 - Troy II: 2600-2150



Schliemann at Troy

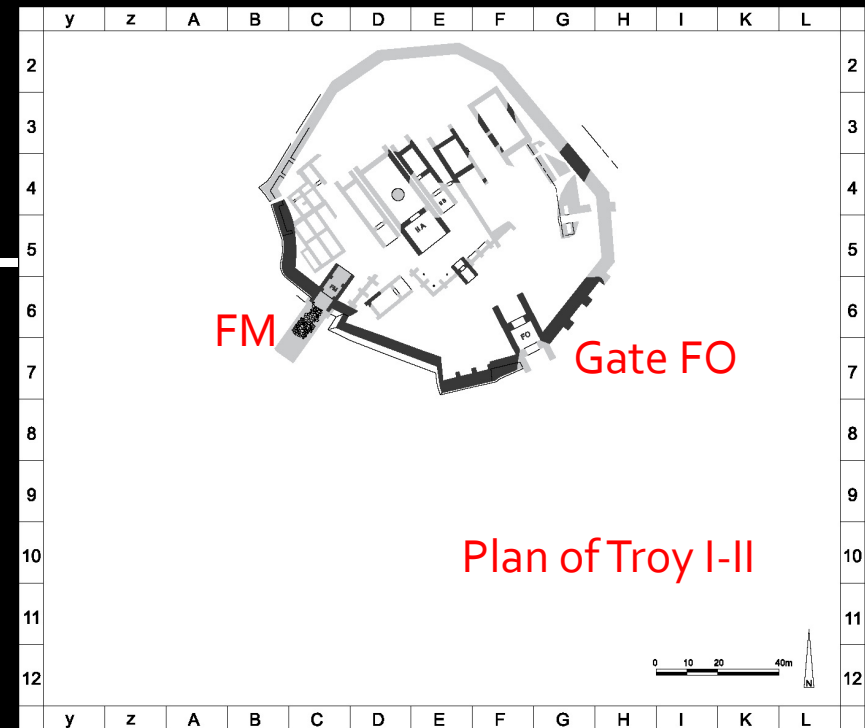
- Schliemann's excavations
- Understood nature of tell:
 - “ Hills on which, in the course of thousands of years, new buildings have been continually erected on the site of former buildings, gain very considerably in height...”
- Priam's Troy must be the earliest city



Schliemann's trench

Architecture

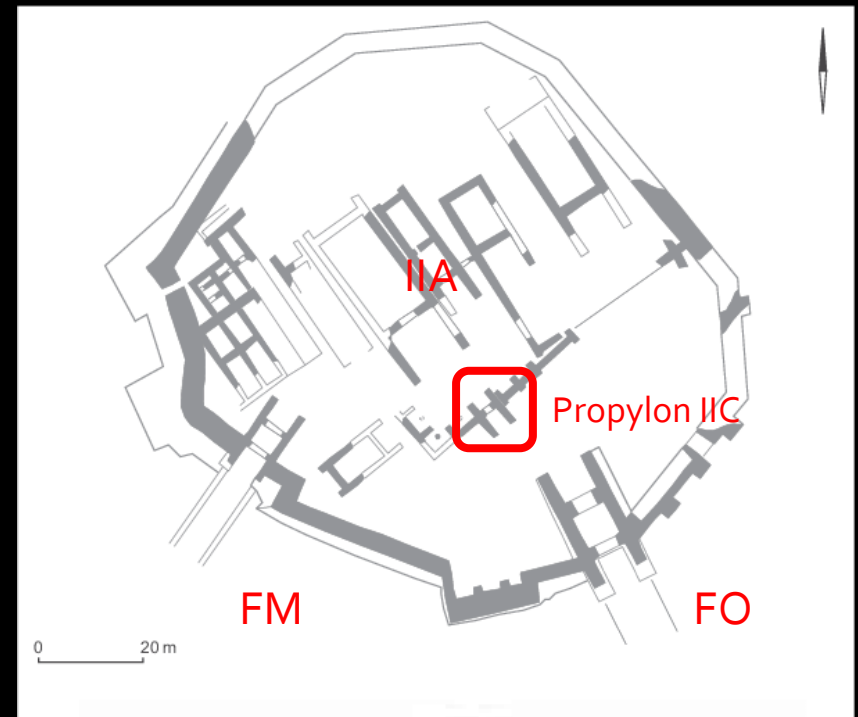
- 3rd millennium BC: small but wealthy urban centre:
 - (140 x 90m)
- Fortified settlement:
 - 'hardly larger than Trafalgar square' (Schliemann)
- Fortified citadel:
 - Mudbrick fortifications built on stone glacis
 - 2 massively constructed gatehouses
 - FO: leading into a gravel courtyard area



"Scaean Gate": Ramp FM

Troy II Citadel

- 2nd internal enclosure wall blocking route to Central Complex from FO
 - Accessed through IIC
- 5 large rectangular buildings on citadel:
- Large central building IIA:
 - Massive architecture: 35 x 10m, walls 1.5m wide
 - Prototype megaron with portico & hall with central hearth
 - White plastered walls



Plan of Troy II

Material World of Troy II

- Pottery:
 - Troy IIb: introduction of wheel
 - Troy IIc: new drinking vessel: widespread in west Anatolia, Aegean & Balkans
 - Specialised drinking equipment
 - Copies in precious metal



Depas amphikypellon



Material World of Troy II

- Textile production:
 - Decorated spindle whorls
 - Bone needles, awls, pins
- Who was responsible for textile production?
- What textiles were being produced?



Troy II: Hoards

- Most significant find: 21 hoards, found between 1872 & 1890
- Large quantities of gold, silver, copper & bronze
- Trading prosperity
- Hoard A: found in 1873 near the Scaean gate
 - "Treasure of Priam": bronze weapons, silver ingots, gold jewellery



Sophia Schliemann



Treasure of Priam

Troy II: Hoards

- 2 diadems
- 11 metal vessels of gold, silver, bronze
- Ceremonial weapons:
 - Polished stone hammer axes, one deliberately broken in antiquity
 - 6 rock crystal pommels



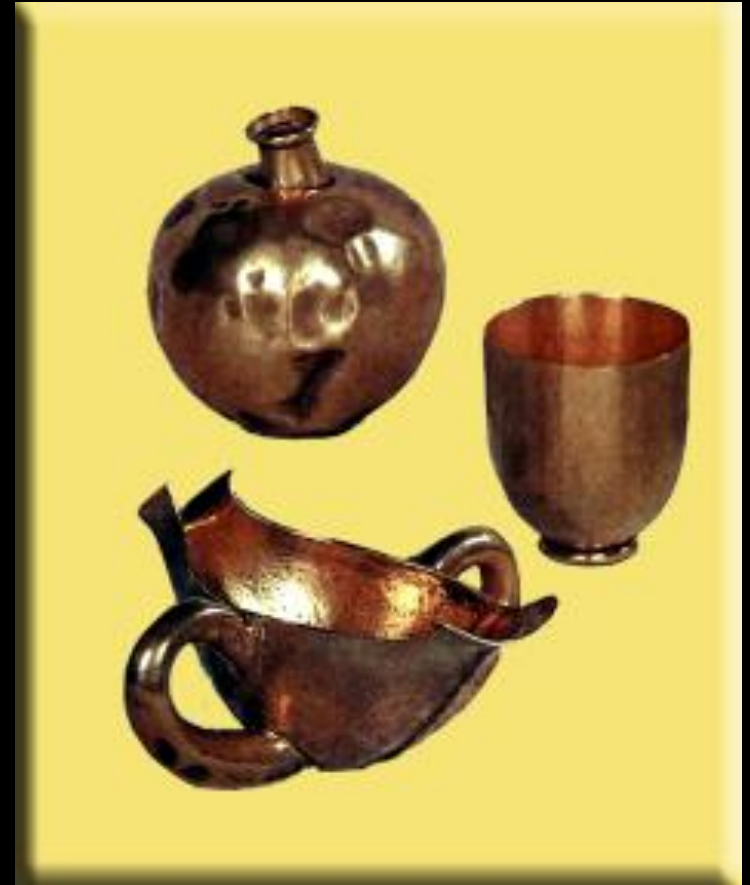
Stone hammer axes



Gold jewellery

Metalworking at Troy

- EB II Troy :
 - Proto-urban metalworking centres
- Significant metalworking hoards:
 - Accumulation of wealth
 - Major trading centres
- On periphery of Near Eastern world:
 - Some evidence of contact in mid third millennium with Syria & Mesopotamia
 - Links to jewellery from Ur?



Troy hoard A

Summary

- Cyclades: flourishing village society
 - Small communities with increasing maritime connections (within & beyond Cyclades)
 - Skilled crafting: especially sculpting marble, also pottery, metallurgy
- Troy: some evidence form centralisation of control
 - Fortified centre with large halls
 - Evidence for craft specialisation
 - Sophisticate elite objects
- How should we catergorise these very different types of community?
 - Urbanisation, chiefdoms, segmentary societies?
 - Or are the categories unhelpful?