

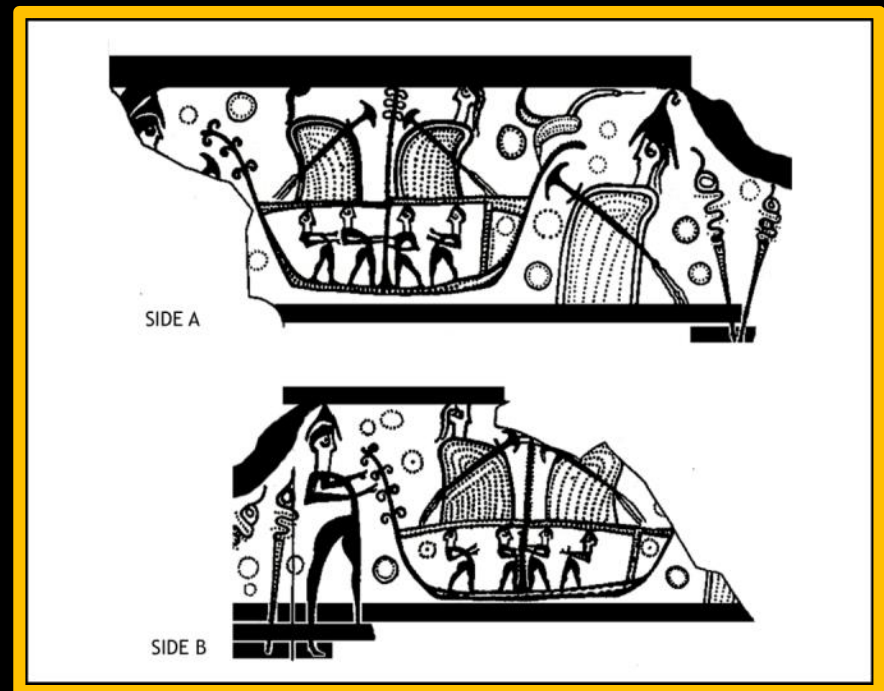
Mediterranean Seafaring

Bronze Age Representations of Boats



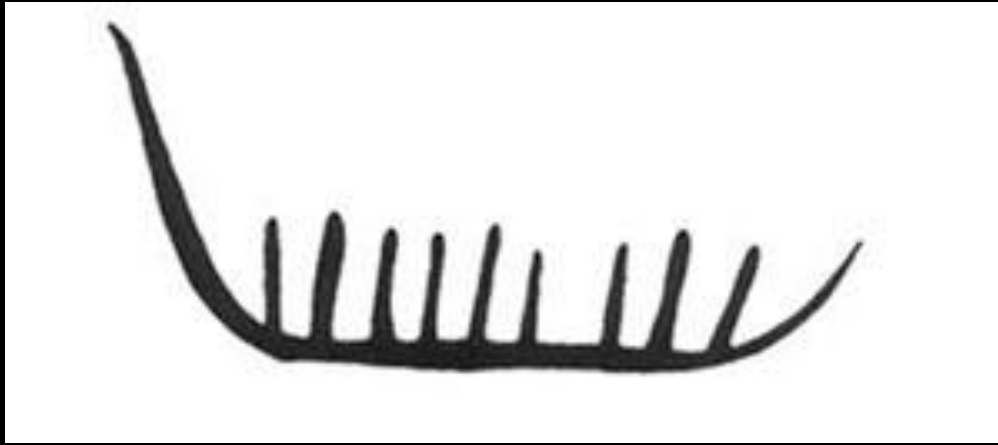
Bronze Age Representations

- Range of representations from EBA in variety of media
- Graffiti
- Boat models
- Representations on pots
- Seal stones & signet rings
- Wall-paintings
- Egyptian reliefs

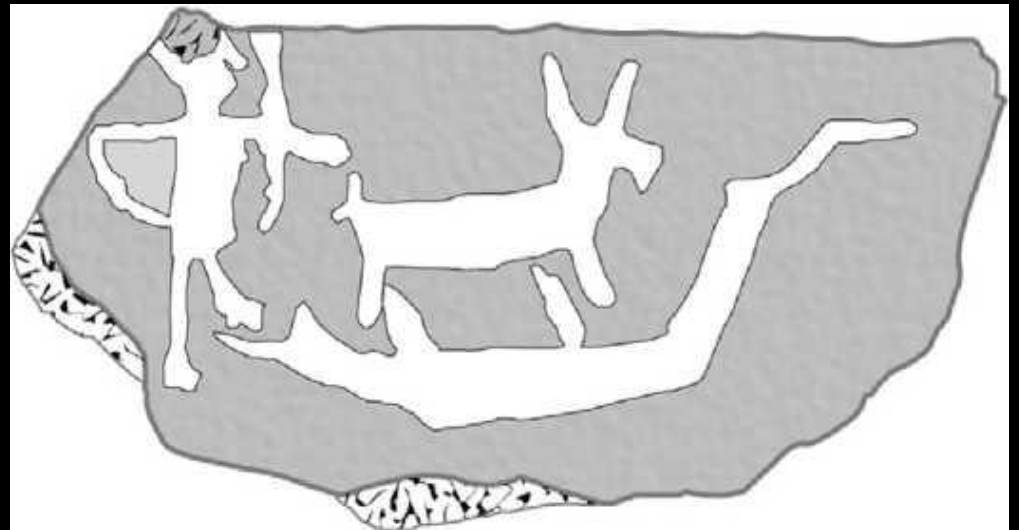


Enkomi, Mycenaean krater

Earliest Boat Images



Thessaly: 4500-3300 BC
(Late Neolithic)



Naxos, fragment of white marble
2500-2000 BC (EB)

Boat Modles



Palaikastro, c.3000 (EM I)



Naxos boat model, lead. Keros Syros Culture

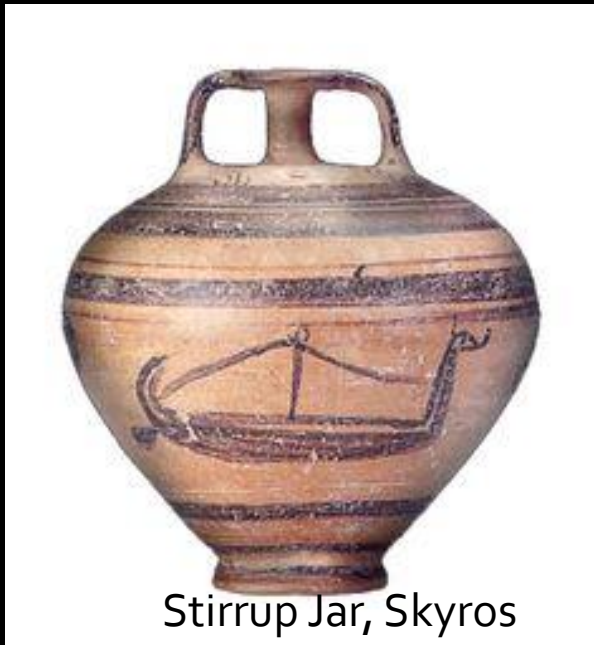
Images on Pottery



Mycenaean krater
Enkomi



Kynos
krater fragment



Stirrup Jar, Skyros



Kolonna, pithos

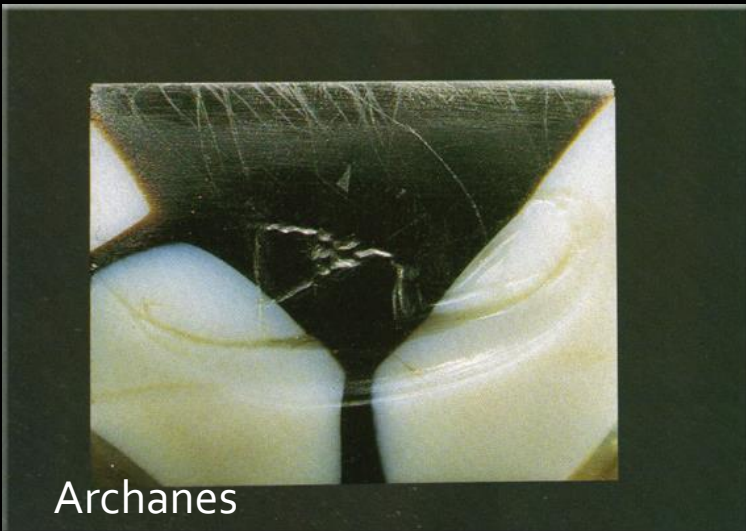
Seals & Signet Rings



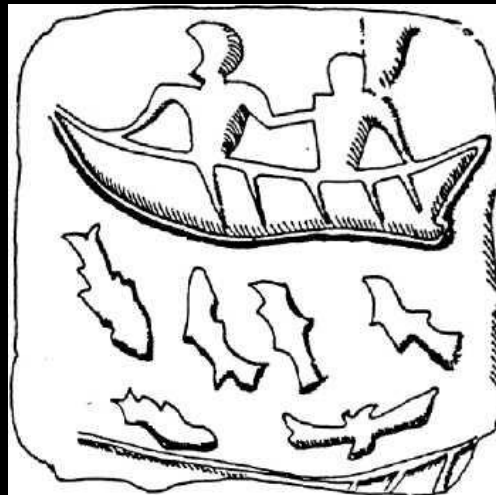
Tiryns



Mochlos

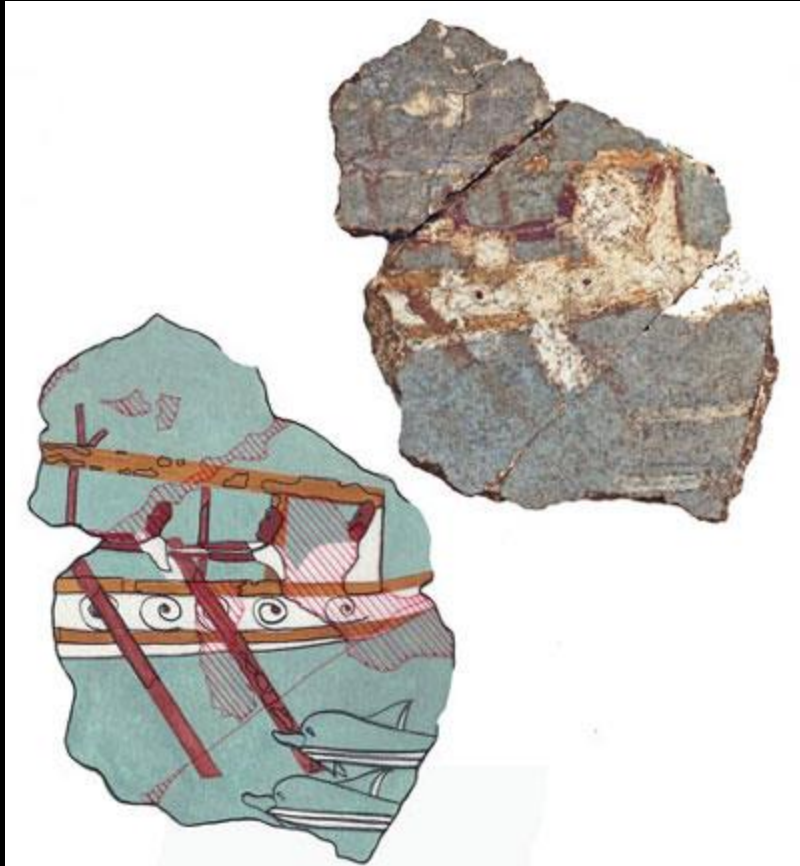


Archanes



Malia

Wall Paintings



Iklaina, Mycenaean wall painting fragment



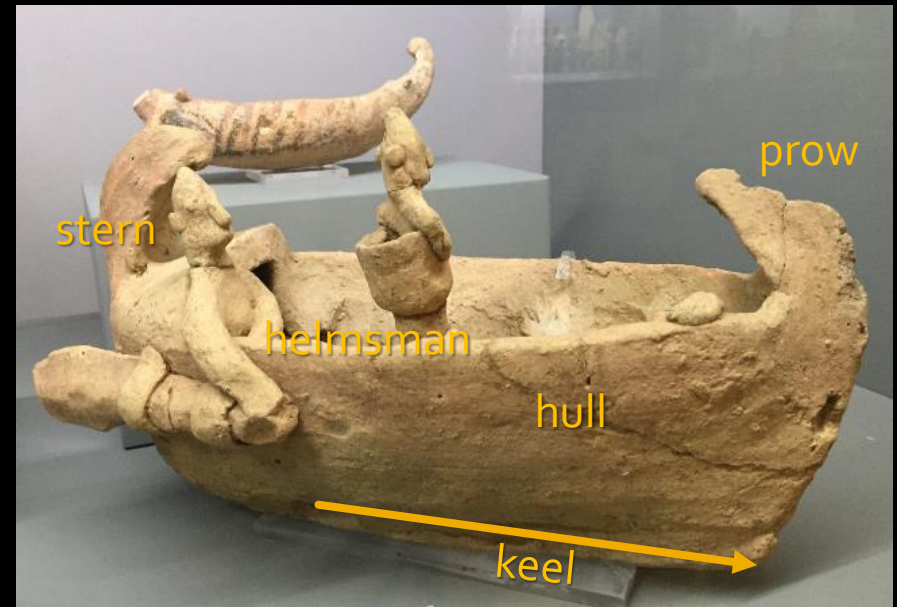
Thera, detail of boat

Representing Boats

- Why did BA communities represent boats?
- Is the choice of medium significant?
 - A difference between palatial & non-elite art?
- How can we use this information?
 - Reconstructing ancient boats
 - Understanding ancient seafaring technologies
 - Understanding the social & economic status of ancient seafaring & the seafarers
- Look at:
<http://www.salimbeti.com/micenei/ships.htm>

Interpreting Ancient Iconography

- Can we establish the construction of boat from?
 - Form & relative size of hull
 - Keel
 - Mast & rigging & or number of oars



Iron Age boat model, Cyprus

Interpreting Ancient Iconography

- Looking at ancient images:
 - We do not see the actual object but a representation
- Ancient representation of a boat does not show us the physical actuality of the boat



Interpreting Ancient Iconography

- Inherent problems in using images to reconstruct ancient boats:
 - Issues of perspective
 - Might be a shorthand
 - Need not be accurate
 - Stylistic conventions might outweigh realism
- Artists focus on specific aspects that caught their eye or were important for conveying a specific message



EC frying pan with boat

Interpreting Ancient Iconography

- MC White Painted boat models:
 - Representations of coracle-like vessels or basket-boats (Wachsman 2008)
 - Painted network designs indicate basketry framework
 - Apparently quite large vessel, perhaps seagoing?
- Parallel with traditional Iraqi *quffa* (or *kuphar*):
 - Large enough to hold several people
 - & transport goods, building materials, & livestock



Middle Cypriot boat model



Interpreting BA Aegean Boats?

- Horizontal ladder motif = quintessential element on graffitis & paintings of Aegean BA boats
- Clearly important detail to artist & viewer
- Not clear what these represented?
- Any ideas?



Larnax from Gazi



Interpreting BA Aegean Boats

- AB: solid block of dark paint
 - Hull: from keel to caprail
- XB: area above keel, intersected by 19 vertical lunates
 - Oarsmen (analogy with helmsman) seen through the open rowers gallery with vertical stanchions
 - = ie. the ladder pattern
- AX: horizontal band filled with 2 bands of semicircles
 - Screen of leather?

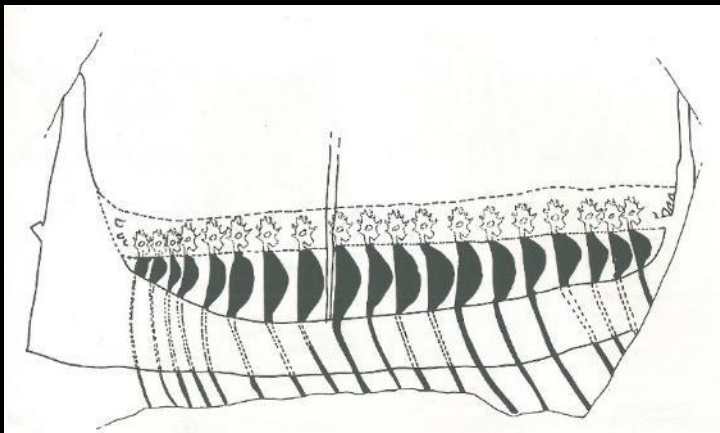


Kynos LH IIIC krater sherd

Reconstructing the Kynos Ship



Helmsman



Reconstructions
with rowers



Case Study 1 (for seminar)

- Keros-Syros Culture (EC II) schematic representations incised on frying pans
 - How to reconstruct boats?
 - Estimate of crew size?
 - Social (economic) role of longboat in EC society?
 - Why are these boats depicted & why on this medium (& concentration at Chalandriani)



Detail of boat on frying pan

Case Study 2 (for seminar)

- Wall paintings, Thera
 - How have the various components of the ships been interpreted?
 - Wachsmann – identification of archaizing elements
 - What is the meaning or significance of the procession?



Details of ship procession fresco



Case Study 3 (for seminar)

- Boats of the Sea Peoples & the iconographic evidence from Medinet Habu:
 - How have these ships been reconstructed?
 - How have these been related to other representations of boats?
 - Size of the rowing teams & fleets?
 - Cultural affinities of the boats?



Sea battle relief, Medinet Habu

Summary

- Wide range of boat/ship representations in variety of media:
 - This can tell us a lot about the social aspects of ancient seafaring & its place within ancient societies/communities
- Significant source of evidence for interpreting early maritime technologies, the form of the boats & even crew sizes
- Problems involved in going from the representation to the physicality of the boats