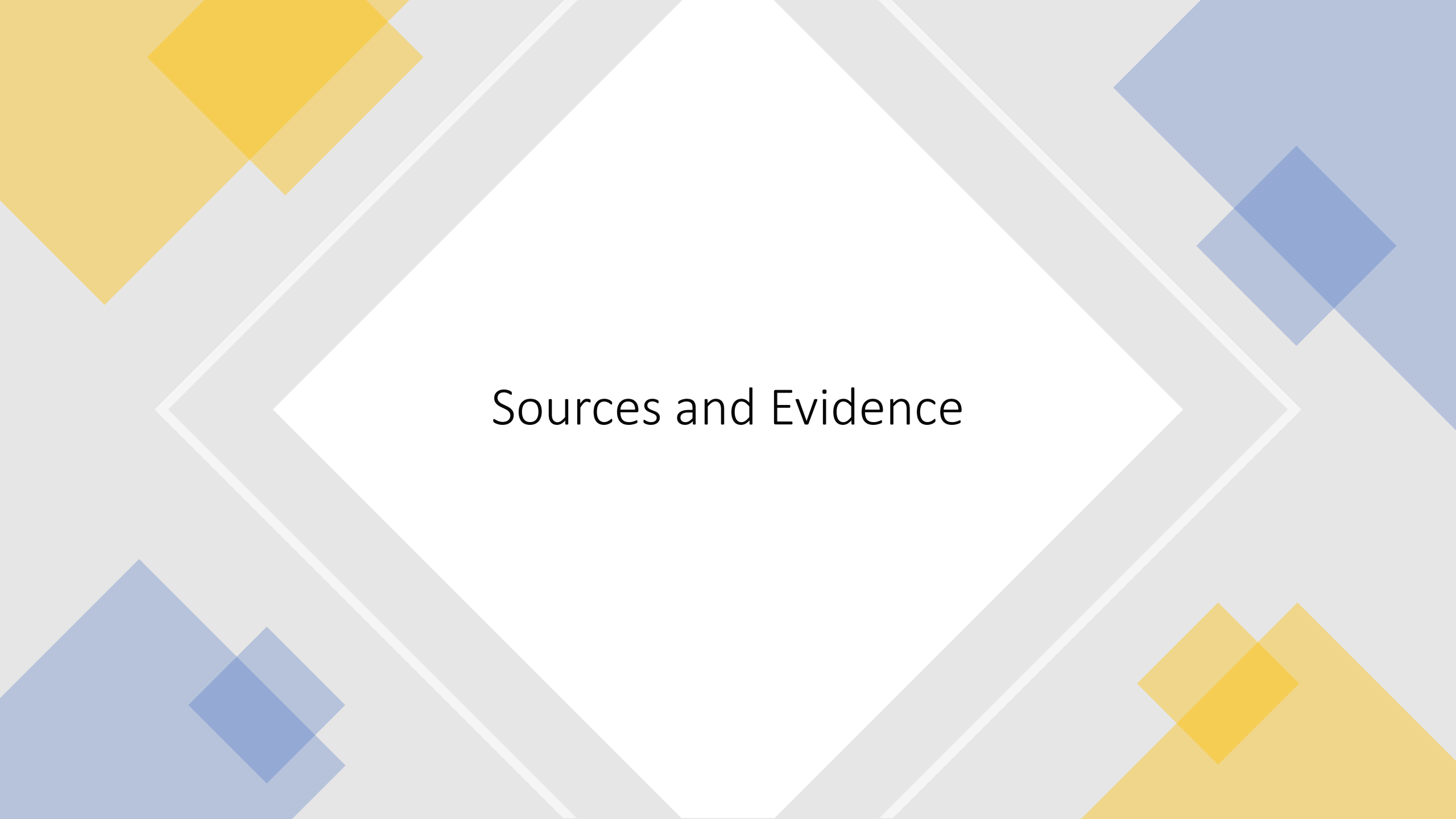




Sources and Evidence

Types of sources & evidence



Literary



Archaeological

Inscriptions
Sites &
Objects
Iconography
Numismatic

Texts

- Basics:
 - Genre
 - Transmission
 - Survival
 - Edition
- Gender issues:
 - Author & period
 - Audience & expectation
 - Ways of reading

Example: Medea

- 431 BCE – Play – Athens – Euripides
- But now all is enmity, and love's bonds are diseased. For Jason, abandoning his own children and my mistress, is bedding down in a royal match, having married the daughter of Creon, ruler of this land. [20] Poor Medea, finding herself thus cast aside, calls loudly on his oaths, invokes the mighty assurance of his sworn right hand, and calls the gods to witness the unjust return she is getting from Jason. She lies fasting, giving her body up to pain, [25] wasting away in tears all the time ever since she learned that she was wronged by her husband, neither lifting her face nor taking her eyes from the ground. She is as deaf to the advice of her friends as a stone or a wave of the sea: [30] she is silent unless perchance to turn her snow-white neck and weep to herself for her dear father and her country and her ancestral house. All these she abandoned when she came here with a man who has now cast her aside. The poor woman has learned at misfortune's hand [35] what a good thing it is not to be cut off from one's native land. Eur. Medea 16-35

Example Medea

- **Medea**
[690] Aegeus, my husband is the basest of men.
- **Aegeus**
What is this you say? Tell me particulars of your unhappiness.
- **Medea**
Jason wrongs me, though he has suffered no wrong from me.
- **Aegeus**
What has he done? Tell me in detail.
- **Medea**
He has put another woman over me as mistress of the house.
- **Aegeus**
[695] Surely he has not dared such a shameful act?
- **Medea**
He has indeed. Once he loved me, but now I am cast off.
- **Aegeus**
Was it some passion, or did he grow tired of your bed?
- **Medea**
A great passion. He has been unfaithful to his family.
- **Aegeus**
Pay him no mind then since, as you say, he is base.

- **Medea**
[700] His passion was to marry a king's daughter.
- **Aegeus**
Who has given his daughter to him? Tell me the rest.
- **Medea**
Creon, who rules this land of Corinth.
- **Aegeus**
But it is quite understandable, then, that you are distressed.
- **Medea**
I am finished. Furthermore, I am being exiled from the country.
- **Aegeus**
[705] By whom? This is yet another misfortune you speak of.
- **Medea**
It is Creon who exiles me from Corinth.
- **Aegeus**
Does Jason accede to this? I do not approve of that either.
- **Medea**
He pretends not to, but he is ready to put up with it.
- Eur. Med. 690-708

Inscriptions

Very few by women. But maybe for women.

Insight into sub-elites.

Funerary, paradigmatic, status-connected.

Note the dedicatory inscriptions.



Inscriptions Examples

13.35 Timarete for her Dear Dead Son

Friedländer 140

IG XII 9 285; Hansen 108. A stele from Eretria, probably sixth-century or slightly later.

Hail, passers-by; I lie here in death.
Come hither and read what man is buried here:
A foreigner (xenos) from Aegina, his name Mnesitheos.
My dear mother Timarete set up this monument for me,
An imperishable stele on the top of the mound,
[Which] will say th[ese] words to passers-by fo[re]ver,
‘Timarete set this up for her dear dead son’.

13.32 Thessalia

Friedländer 32

Hansen 119. A marble stele possibly of the sixth century from Thessaly. In the first two lines Thessalia speaks for herself; Acheron is a river in the underworld.

I died when an infant and did not yet re[a]ch the flower of my
youth,
But came first to tearful Acheron.
Her father Kleodamos, son of Hyperanor, and her mother Korona
Set me here as a monument to their daughter Thes(s)alia.

13.37 Potalis for her Husband

Friedländer 74

IG VII 3501; Hansen 111. A stone, with outlines of figures, of perhaps the late sixth or early fifth century from Tanagra in Boeotia. If the restoration in line one is correct, Mantisheos' wife Potalis was afterwards buried with him.

[Potalis] placed this [ste]lle over her [dear] dead h[usb]an[d]
M[antisheo]s, who was skilled in hospitality and ho(r)semanship.
Potalis.

Inscriptions Examples

13.43 A Western Greek Dedicates a Mirror to Athena

Friedländer 166

IG XIV 664; Hansen 395. An early fifth-century dedication of a female bronze statuette on an Ionic capital, part of a mirror stand, from Poseidonia (Paestum).

Phillo, daughter of Charmylidas, (dedicated) a tithe to Athena.

13.44 From Nikandra, Prominent amongst Women

Friedländer 46

IG XII.5 1425b; Hansen 403. This inscription was carved on the right thigh of an archaic female statue at Delos dedicated to Artemis and is dated to c. 650–625.

Nikandra dedicated me to the Far-Darter who delights in the arrow,
The daughter of Deinodikes of Naxos, prominent amongst ot(h)er
women,
The sister of Deinomenes, and n[ow] wife of Phraxos.

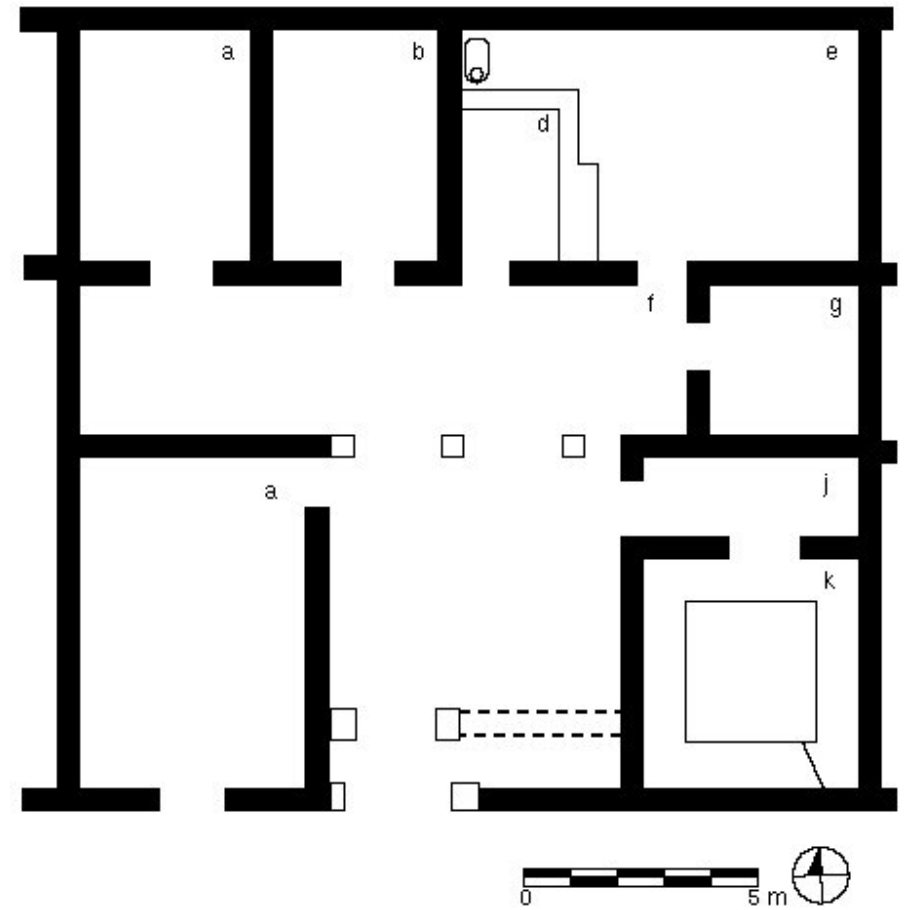
Objects





Objects

Sites



Iconography





Iconography



Coins

- Miniature art.
- Consider audience
- Divine vs. human