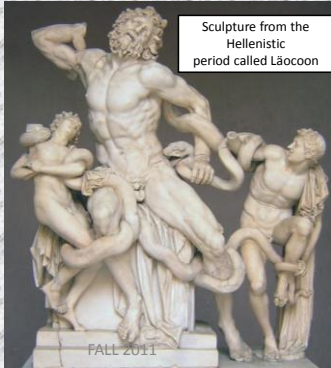


L27. Warfare and Hellenistic Culture



Sculpture from the Hellenistic period called Laocoon

HIST 225

FALL 2011



Hellenistic Kingdoms

Antigonid

- Macedonia

Seleucid

- Anatolia

Ptolemaic

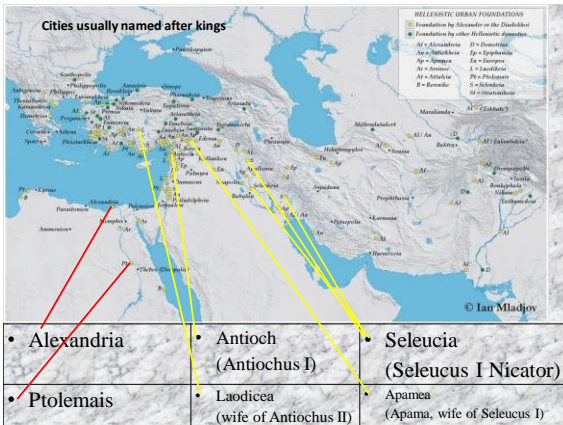
- Egypt

Attalid

- Pergamon

Accomplishments of the Hellenistic Kingdoms

- **Urbanization**
 - building of cities and monumental architecture
- **Art and Literature**
- **Science, Math and Medicine**
- **Philosophy**
- **Warfare**



Hellenistic Urbanization



Polis of Pergamon, modern Bergma in Turkey

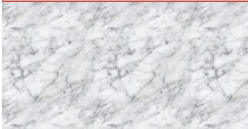
The Great Altar of Pergamon



Pergamon Museum in Berlin
 One of the "Wonders of the World"
 built c. 165 BCE by Eumenes II
 dedicated to Zeus frieze called *Gigantomachy* struggle of gods and giants

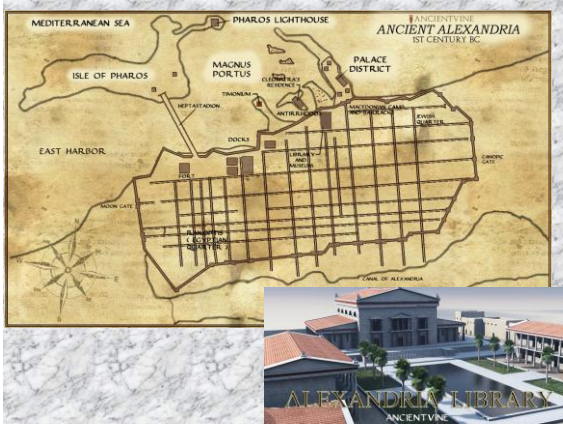


Coin of Ptolemy I "Soter"(Savior), the Marshal who lived to die in his bed. Ptolemy wears the Diadem made famous by Alexander



Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt

- Ptolemy I Soter (323-283 BCE)
 – builder of the Museon and Library at Alexandria
- **Ptolemy II Philadelphos** (283-46 BCE)
 – Apollonius becomes head Librarian
- Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-11 BCE)
- Ptolemy IV Philopator (221-204 BCE)
 – 16 other Ptolemaic kings and queens
- **Cleopatra VII Philopator** (69-30 BCE)



The Mouseion as a Research Institution

- Mouseion* was a royal complex home of music, poetry, a philosophical school and library
- "House of Muses" (modern: Museum)
- Library at Alexandria
- built in the style of Aristotle's Lyceum
 - Stoa (covered walk), gardens, a room for shared dining, a reading room, lecture halls and meeting rooms.
 - mathematics
 - astronomy
 - physics
 - natural sciences
 - poetry
 - literature
 - textual criticism

Hellenistic Literature at Alexandria

- Catalog and Canonization of Homer
 - divided into Books
 - Idylls (bucolic poems)
 - Callimachus
 - Theocritus
 - Apollonius Rhodes
 - *Argonautica* (*Jason and the Golden Fleece*)
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yYeZMx1Y7U>

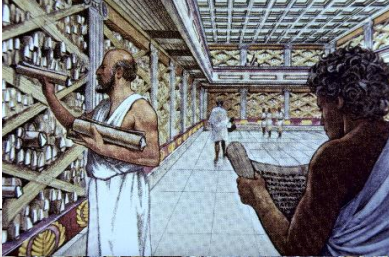
A Love of Books

Library of Alexandria built by Ptolemy I (Soter)

- 700,000 volumes

Library at Pergamon

- 300,000 scrolls





“Once regarded as ‘decadent,’ the strong humanity of Hellenistic sculpture, as reflected in this broken boxer with his cauliflower ear, battered hands, and bloodstained face, is now appreciated as a vibrant, if disturbing, symbol of Hellenistic culture.”

The Boxer, by Apollonius (2nd-1st century BCE) Museo della Terme, Rome

Modern Reception of Alexander

An angst-ridden Alexander for the mid-20th century.



Bust by Arno Breker, a popular German sculptor during the Nazi regime.

Hellenistic Philosophy

Cynicism: Life in agreement with Nature

- rejecting desire for wealth, power, health, or fame, and living a life free from possessions

Epicureanism: no pain is the greatest pleasure, and advocates a simple life.

- viewed the universe as being ruled by chance; no gods

Stoicism: live in accordance with Nature

- self-control and fortitude as a means of overcoming destructive emotions

Macedonian Kingship

• **King as Warrior**

- able to lead (or plan) military campaigns

• **King as God**

- ruler cult of the Hellenistic Kings

• **King as Benefactor**

- distributor of benefits

- grain
- money
- citizenship

King as Warrior

Alexander speaks to his men at Opis

“Nay, I have been wounded by the sword, hand to hand; I have been shot with arrows, I have been struck from a catapult, smitten many a time with stones and clubs, for you, for your glory, for your wealth.. Whosoever has died, his death has been glorious; and splendid has been his burial. To most of them there stand at home brazen statues; their parents are held in esteem...”

**Hymn honoring Demetrios Poliorketes
Athens, 291 BCE**

“The greatest of the gods and those dearest to the city are present: Demeter and Demetrios are brought together here...She, the Holy mysteries of the Maiden have come to perform, and he, gracious as a god ought to be, and handsome, and joyful, is here also. All his friends in a circle and he in their midst, his friends just like stars and he the sun. ...”

**Divine Honors for Antiochus III and his
Wife Laodike**

The great King Antiochus observes the attitude of his ancestors towards all Greeks, takes care for peace, supports many who tumbled, separately and in common, has set others at liberty instead of slavery, is convinced in general that kingship is established in order to bestow benefactions on mankind, has already previously relieved our city from slavery and has given liberty to her.

**King Eumenes II accepted the honors
of the Ionian League**

... you began stating that I had chosen from the start the finest deeds and showed myself the common benefactor of the Greeks, that I had faced many great battles against the barbarians, displaying all zeal and care to make sure that the inhabitants of the Greek cities should always live in peace and enjoy the best state of affairs,

...receiving glory for the attendant danger and hardship, and choosing to stand firm in what concerned the League, in conformity with the policy of my father, and that I had demonstrated on many occasions my attitude in these matters, both in public and in private,

...being well disposed to each of the cities and helping each of them achieve many of the things that relate to distinction and glory, which through my actions demonstrated my love of glory and the gratitude of the League.

Hellenistic Warfare and Society

- relied on the citizen-soldier (*phalangites*)
 - farmer-soldiers could serve for a short time
 - military colonists
 - special privileges
- ethnic-foreign mercenaries

Developments in Hellenistic Warfare

- Macedonian armies returned to what they were during Philip II:
 - Phalanx becomes big and loses its flexibility
 - Under Antigonid for example:
 - *taxeis* replaced by the syntagma (1800 men)
 - created flanking problems
 - articulated and double phalanx
- War of Successors weakened noble fighting spirit
- Elephant as decisive arm of military
