



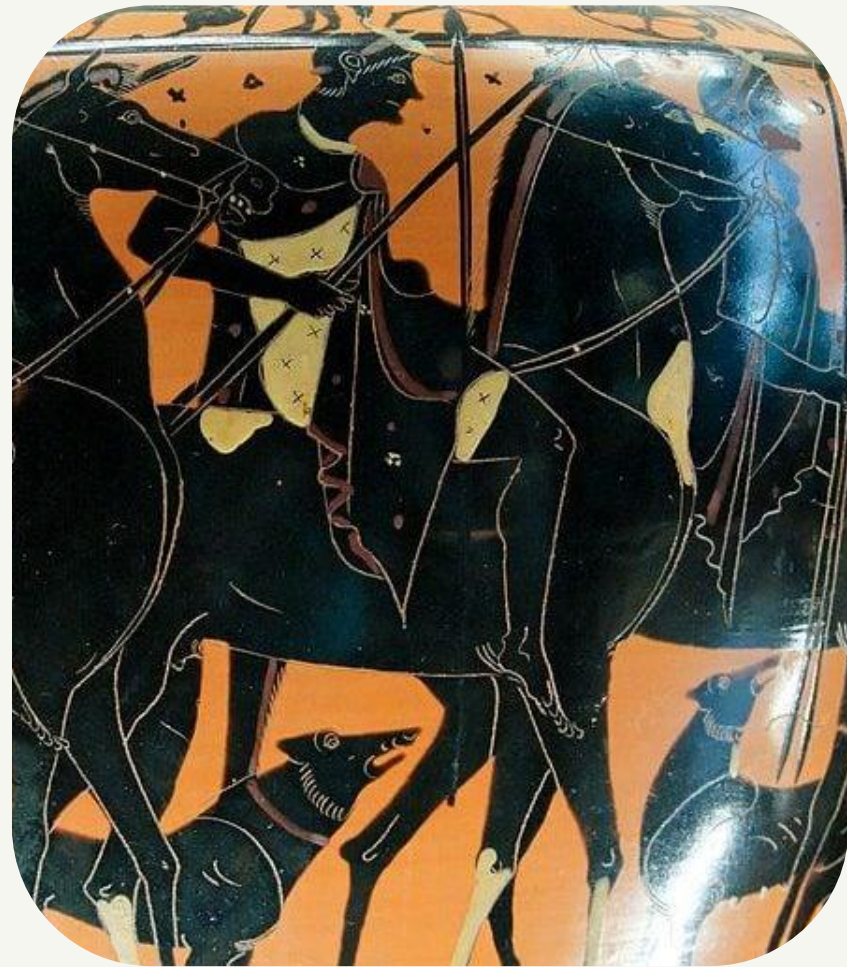
Ancient Greek Horses & their Depictions in Greek Art

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Horses in Greece

- Due to their cost horses were typically owned by ancient greek cavalry & the second highest social class called "Hippeis"
 - They were used in art to show wealth & power, and were often represented as companions of Greek heroes or gods
- Horses were used in warfare to pull chariots and carry riders, however were not widely used until 356-323 BCE
- Horses were used in chariot races during funeral games & later in olympic games on courses called hippodromes
 - Owners & breeders of horses would be credited with their wins, which is how Spartan princess Kyniska was credited as the first woman to win the Olympic 4 horse chariot race





Horses of greek origin

- There are 8 breeds (mostly) remaining today from Greece
 - Pindos pony, Andravida horse, Peneia pony, Zante horse, Kreta pony, Thessalia pony, Skyros pony, Rodope pony
- Most of these breeds have been crossed with modern horses during conservation efforts, and are endangered or extinct
- Many of these horses & ponies are smaller than those seen in modern disciplines like racing or jumping

Famous horses seen in art

- **Balius & Xanthus** - 2 immortal horses used by Achilles during the trojan war gifted by Peleus
- **Hippocampus** - half horse half fish used by Poseidon to pull his chariot
- **Mares of Diomedes/Thrace** - flesh eating mares belonging to Diomedes of Thrace & the 8th of Heracles 12 labors
- **Pegasus** - Winged horse ridden by hero Bellerophon
- **Bucephalus** - horse of Alexander the Great, Thessalian



Mediums of art

Coins

359-336 BCE



Pottery

490-480 BCE



Pyxis
(container)

730-720 BCE



Statuette

750-730 BCE



Phiale (ritual bowl)

300-250 BCE



Olympic winning horse of King
Philip II of Macedon

Quadriga or 4-horse chariots