Archaeological Museum – April 27, 2018 – Syracuse, Sicily, Italy

By Tom Allin

OK, we have done an archaeological park, a Roman villa with outstanding mosaics so it only makes sense today to do an archaeological museum. It's a short walk from the hotel – like across the street and down no more than a block.

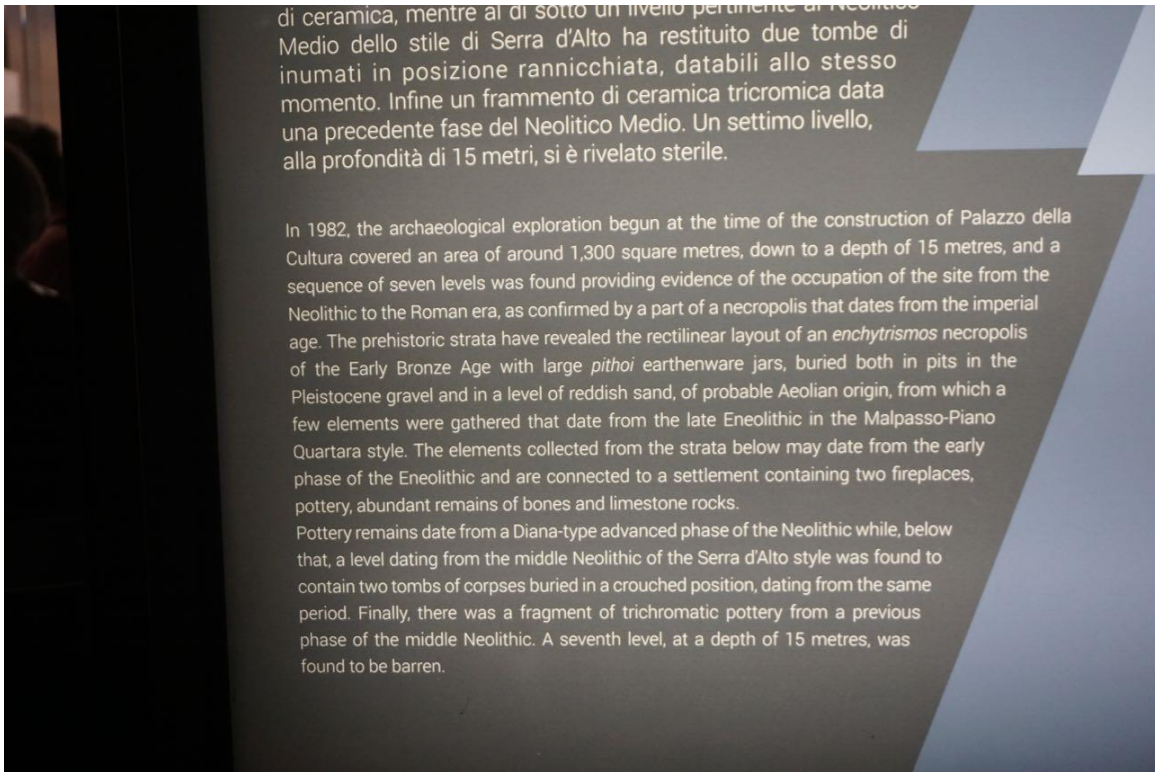
As we were paying for our tickets about 50 young students began their tour of the ground floor. The lady issuing our tickets wisely suggested we go down to the basement floor and take a look at the coins – let the students get ahead of us. Me, I am not big on looking at coins – spending yes.

Anyway, we head down stairs. First thing I noticed was the vault door we had to walk through and the second was the glass door is locked and we have to wait for museum employee to unlock the door and let us in. Once inside it is very apparent why the security – lots of gold and silver coins. Each case has a magnifying glass for your use because some of these coins are very small. Small in these coins may be a third of the size of our dime and maybe smaller.

I can't say looking at coins is something I would go out of my way to do but today's exhibits were interesting.

We walk up to the ground floor and begin our tour of this floor. I know the first thing that caught Nancy's and my attention was the dwarf elephants. I didn't even know this animal had existed.

Nancy and I always spend much more time in a museum than most people. One of the reasons is we read almost all the information provided. The next photograph is one of those signs – a meter is close to a yard.



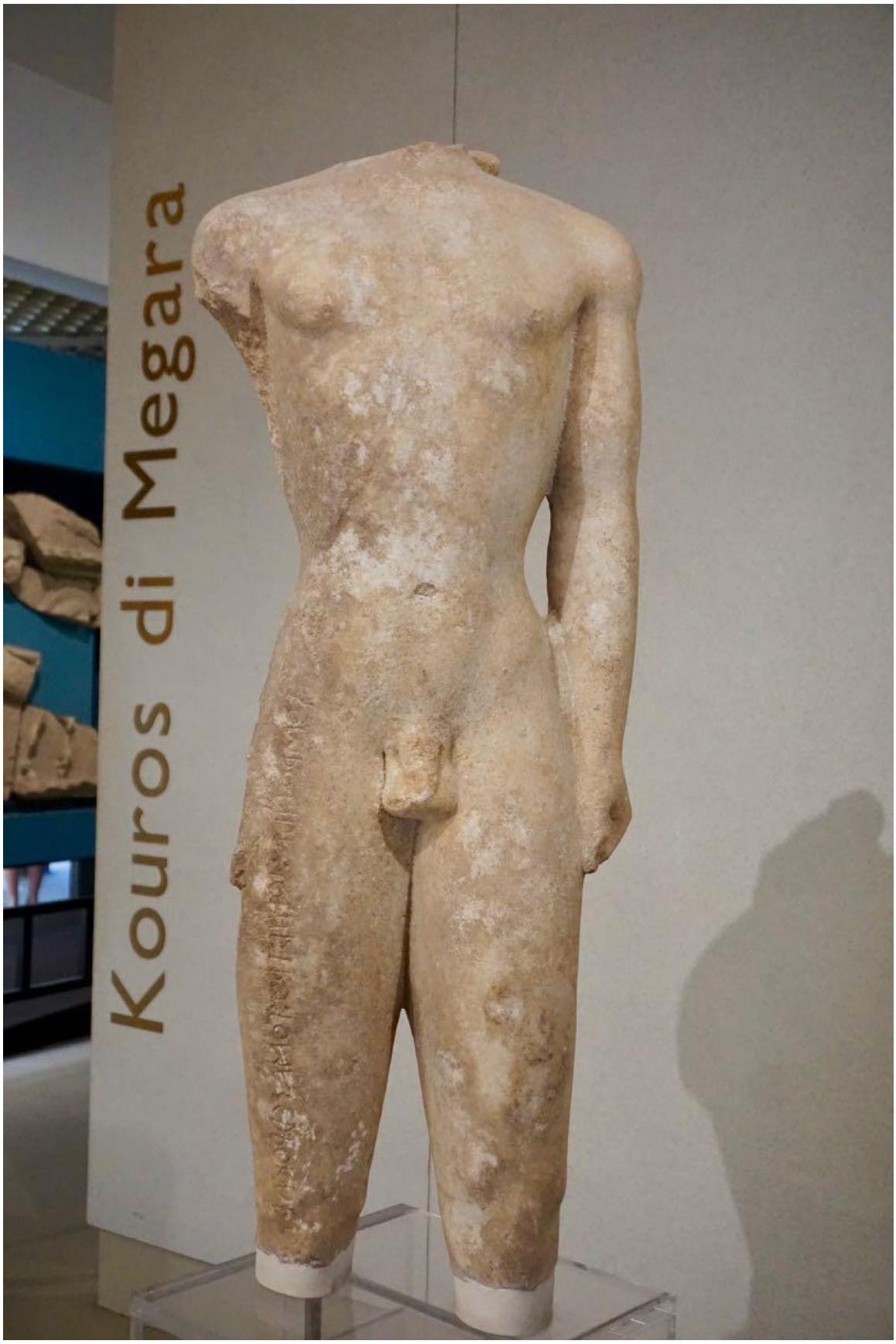
I'll let you research the time periods discussed above but will let you know the European bronze age began about 3200 BC and continued until about 600 BC. It began about 100 years after the Bronze Age had begun in the Near East and South Asia.

Two of the jars found in the above excavation.

I liked the shape of these two East Greek Plastic Vases. The word plastic describes the type of vase not the material of the vase.

The Greeks were a happy and fun *loving* people.

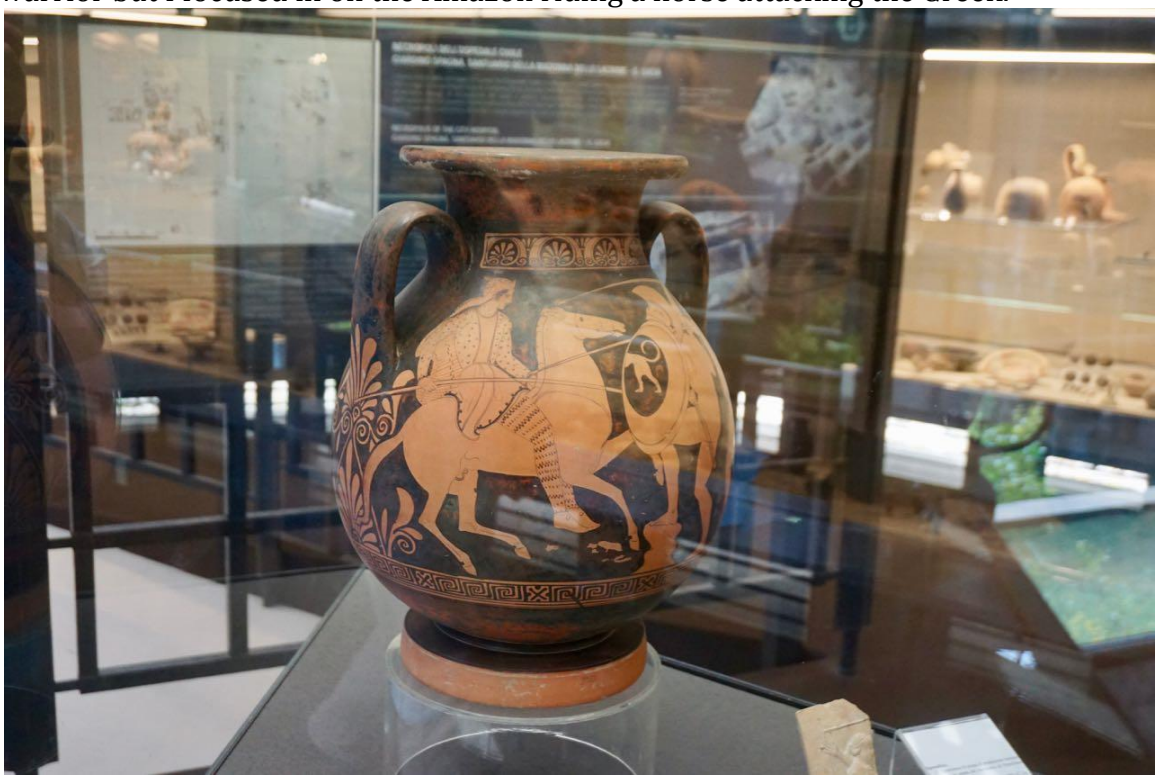
This is a funerary statue of a kouros or young naked male. It is from about 550 BC and an inscription in the Megarian alphabet inscribed on his right leg identifies him as Dr. Sombrotida, son of Mandrokle. This is all a little more than you probably wanted to know but I find it fascinating how an almost 2600 year old statue has survived all these years and someone is able to identify the language inscribed on it and who the person is we are standing before.


Kouros di Megara

This krater or large vase was used to water down wine. "This krater, in the oriental zing subgeometric tradition is almost certainly the work of Argive potters who immigrated to Syracuse. 700 – 670 BC" I thought the horse looked very sleek and similar to some modern art created in the last hundred years.

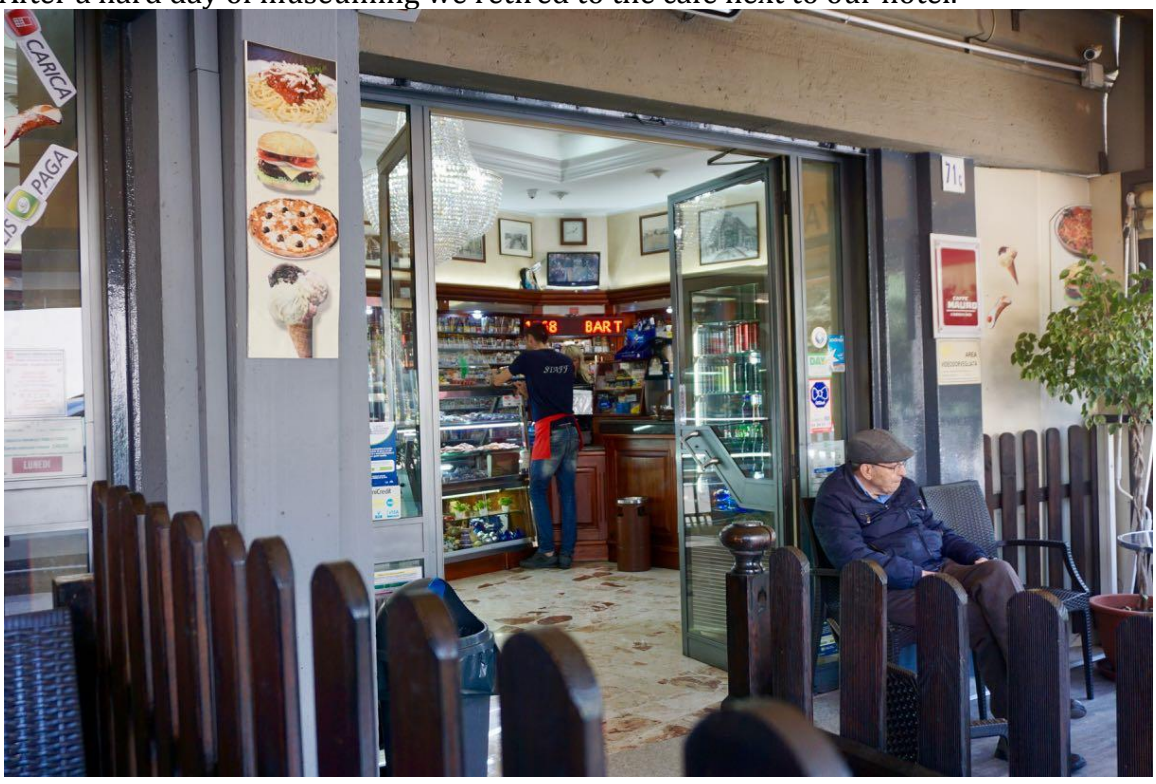
This was horse found in a young boys tomb dating back to 710 BC. It is made of bronze. Again, this sculpture has a very new design look to me.

One of the grave goods found in an adult's tomb. To the right of the vase is a Greek warrior but I focused in on the Amazon riding a horse attacking the Greek.



Two more grave vases that caught my attention. I found the mouth shape and animals especially interesting on the vase to the right.

After a hard day of museuming we retired to the café next to our hotel.



I think we all skipped the sweets and went for the painkiller: beer, wine or Aperol Spritz. Cousins Edmund and Anna and Nancy.

Life is good when one is in a café with drinks, friends, and family.