Classical Humanities Society of South Jersey December; 1997
Bmce Routledge (University of Pennsylvania): How Hazael's Horse-Bridle Got to Greece

In Iliad 23:740-745, Achilles takes near sensuous pleasure in gifting an

booty.

Another bronze-cheek piece with an identical Aramaic inscription was excavated in the Temple of Apollo at Eretria in Euboea at the turn of the last

made.

The Levant was then an important center for the production of luxury goods in precious metals, bronze and ivory. The Phoenicians, active & accomplished in sailing & sea-trade, had already sent out colonists to Cyprus & Crete by the 9th century BC. But the most potent, strategically brutal, & best organized military force the world had seen up to that -time was in Assyria, now northern Iraq.

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Eastern states like Egypt, Babylon & perhaps even Judah.

How does the complex history of our Bronze. Bridle relate to these large-scale events & what can the various meanings attached to this piece by those who possessed it tell us
about social & historical developments in general? Let us begin with the Bridle's
manufacture in the kingdom of 'Umqi.

Horses, metals & ivory were three of the most important commodities during the Iron
Age of the Near East, linked not merely as useful & pretty things but rather a.s a package
connected to royalty. Horses in particular were part of an iconographic package in which
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god or goddess; rarer finds such as our horse bridle are usually older than the context in which they are used.

Based on the initial publication of our bridle, in which the text was mistranslated to suggest that it may have actually been sent directly by Hazael to Samos, some scholars have suggested the Near Eastern rulers may have made offerings directly to Greek deities in these temples .. Herodotus indicated that both Lydian & Late Egyptian kings did make offerings

at Greek temples. Finds from the Temple of Hera at Samos show that oH0 0 12(temples)T

with whom she is often equated. Furthermore, by the Iron Age, Astarte seems to have been defined as the wife of Ba 'al the st-0rm god