

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

Wednesday

February 6, 2013

UC 222

12-12:50pm

From War to Sport, Spears in Ancient Greece: What Effect Did the *Ankyle* have on the Throws?

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Throwing spears was commonplace for the ancient Greeks. To fight their many wars, the ancient Greeks used their military spear, called a *dory*, as both a hand-to-hand combat and missile weapon. In their "crown" games, most notably those held at Olympia,

the ancient Greeks threw the javelin (*akon*) as one of the five events in the pentathlon. Scholars have long known that the ancient Greeks incorporated the use of a leather thong, called an *ankyle* (Greek: γκῶλη, Latin: *amentum*), to aid them with their *dory* and *akon* throws, but the efficacy of the *ankyle* is unknown. Did the *ankyle* help the ancient Greeks to throw the *dory* and *akon* farther during battle and athletic competition, respectively? If so, are the estimates by modern-day scholars concerning the purported distance that could be thrown correct? How were the ancient Greek spears constructed? Was the *ankyle* fixed temporarily or permanently to a spear? These are but a few of the questions that Drs. Murray and O'Roark sought to answer when they undertook several studies investigating the spears of ancient Greece. Come and hear about these studies, how they were designed and conducted, their findings, and the reactions from other scholars within the fields of ancient history, military history, classics, and kinesiology once the findings of the studies were published in academic journals.



Please come with your lunch, bring your faculty and staff colleagues, and enjoy the first presentation of the spring Colloquium series