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The Life and Status of Women in ACHAEMENID PERSIA

Erika Mikkelson
Andrews University

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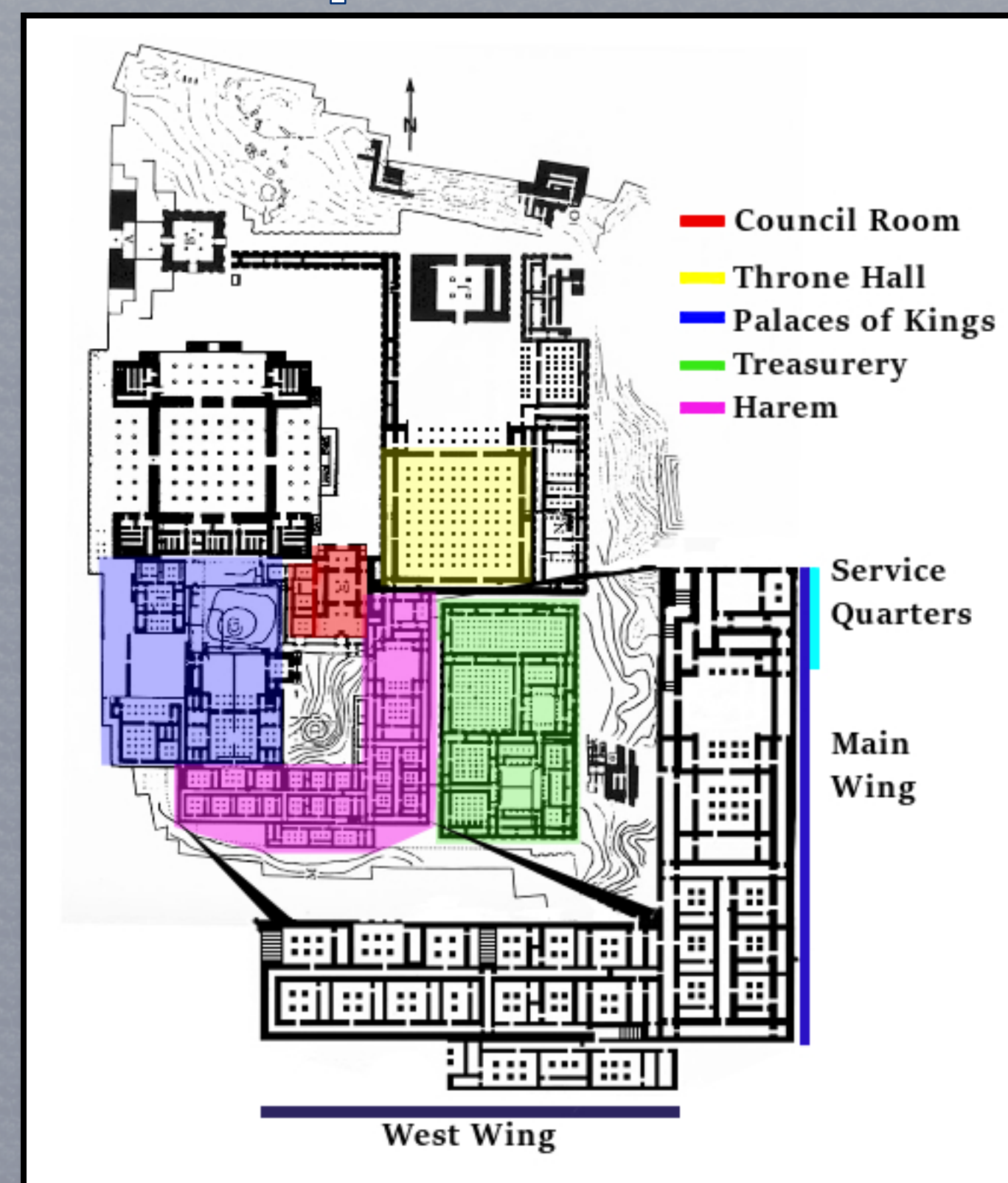
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WOMEN IN ACHAEMENID PERSIA

Erika Mikkelsen, Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, School of Health Professions
Adviser: Constance Gane, Ph.D., Department of Old Testament, Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary

Persepolis Harem



The Harem is interconnected with the Throne Hall, Treasury, and the Council Hall via stairs.

There's a stairwell on the far West wing that connects the Harem with the Kings' Palaces.

A drainage shaft was found in the western wall of a room near the Council Hall which is connected to the drainage canal leading away from the Harem court yard.

King Xerxes is depicted wearing informal attire on the walls of the central section of the Main Wing. This is apparent because no additional imprints of previously attached jewels are in the painting. Everywhere else in the palace Xerxes is extravagantly dressed.

The queen's quarters are presumed to be at the central section of the Harem or even one of the Palaces known as G or H.

Persepolis Fortification Tablets



PF 684
17.6 *marrīš* (of) wine, supplied by Ušaya, (the woman) Radušnamuya received for Rations. (For) a period of 4 days. She carried a sealed document of the king. 23rd year, twelfth month.

- This tablet shows that women were trusted with important documents.

PF 737
236 *marrīš* (of) wine, supplied by Marriya, was expended in behalf of (the woman) Irdabama. (At) Susa. In the 22nd year.

- Irdabama ordered the largest amount of wine out of the entire royal family, including King Darius. (2360 quarts of wine)

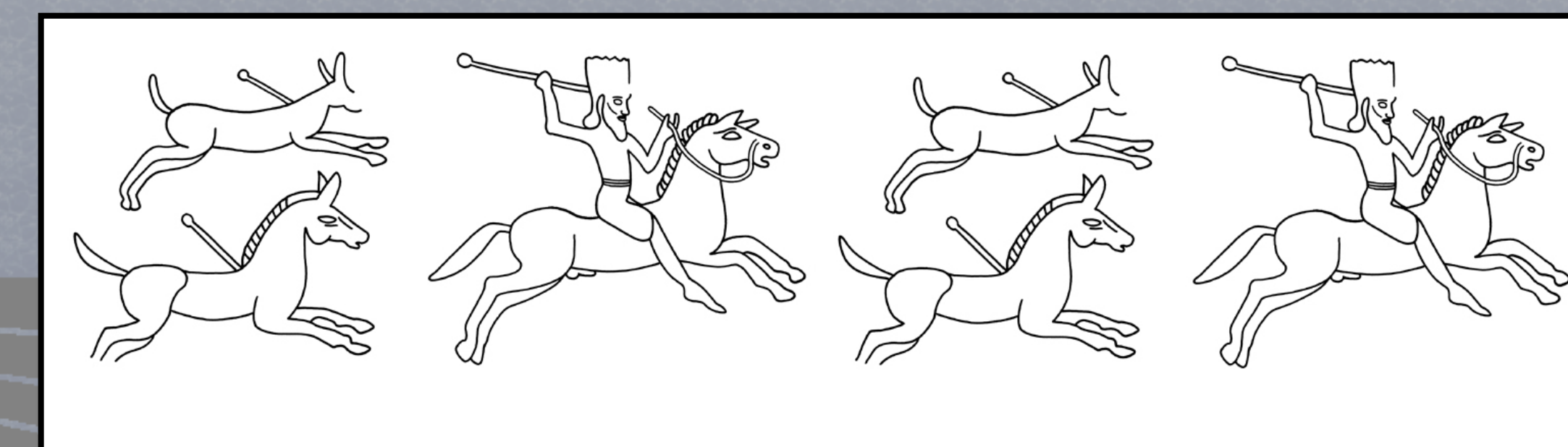
PF 870
12 (BAR of) grain, supplied by Umayya from (the place) Uzamannaš workers subsisting on rations, *Harrinup* (women at) Uzamannaš, received as rations. (For) 1 month, the intercalated(?) twelfth, 22nd year. 1 man 3. 1 woman 3, 3 women 2. Total 5 workers. Seal 30

Seals

Irdabama Seal #51 "Hunter Gatherer"



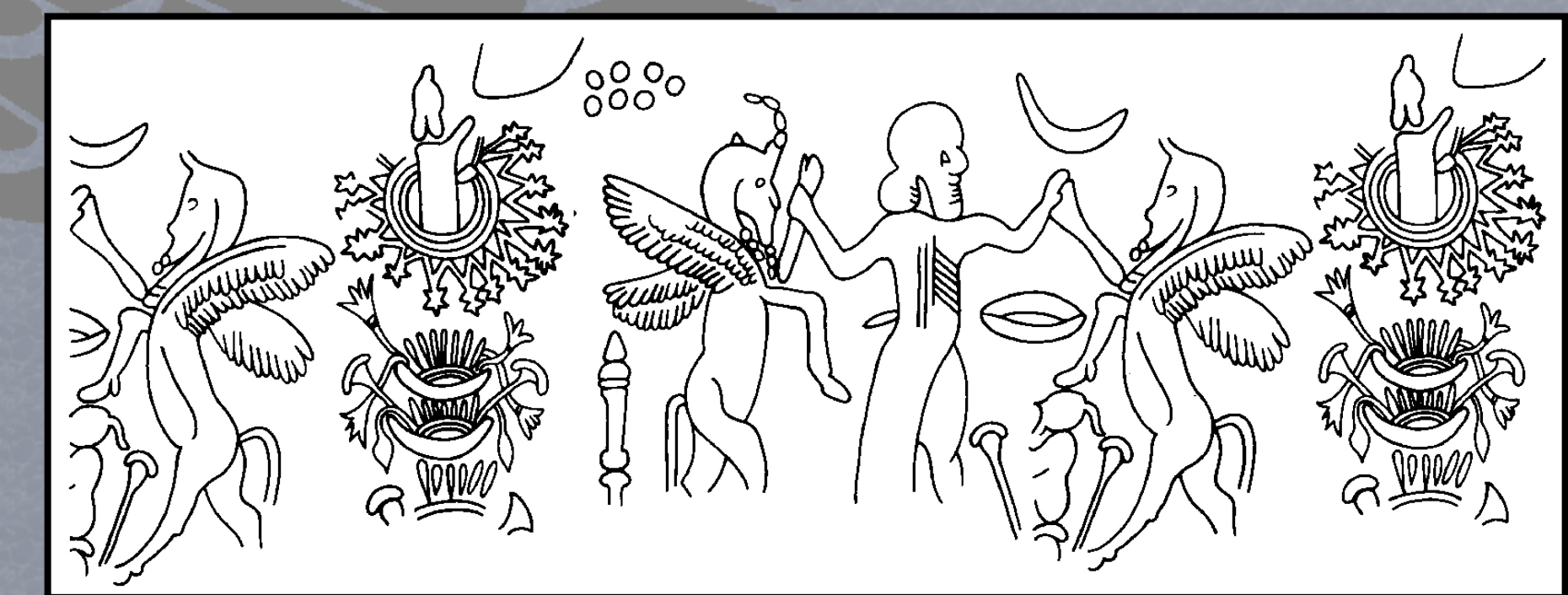
PF 736



Artystone Seal #38 "Heroic Control"



PF 1835



Seal Types:
Stamp and Cylinder



Chalcedony Stamp Seal
"Persian Royal Hero"
The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Photograph © The Trustees of the British Museum.



Chalcedony Cylinder Seal of the Harem
Scene or Adoration of Goddess Anahita

Artystone is the daughter of Cyrus II and King Darius I married her to legitimate his right to the throne. She is also the favorite wife and Darius ordered a statue of her to be made out of gold. She owns at least 3 estates.

Irdabama is a member of the royal family but her relationship to the king is unknown. She is also known as the *abbamuš* and has two scribes working for her.

Occupations Of Women

Estate Owners: Such as Artystone, Irdabama, and Amisitri. Owning an Estate meant that these women were responsible for people, goods, and land.

Pašap: is a work group made mostly of women and children and on a few occasions men.

Harrinup: is a work group that is mostly women and sometimes a few men.

Araššara: is a female who is in charge of the *pašap* and is a single specialized woman worker.