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In Greek society, the aristocrats wereconsidered to be members of the social elites, who lived in a different way and enjoyed some special privileges than middle class farmers or slaves. The aristocrats seemed to possess more wealth than other people, since they held on to most of the fertile land and were able to buy expensive artworks. However, birth also plays a role in the definition of an aristocrat. People who were born in aristocrat family tend to become a member of the elite society. Sometimes, religion also played a role in the definition of an elite man/woman, since religion is an important part of the polis. Despite all the good land and luxurious lifestyle, wealth and birth played no role in the ranks of the phalanx. The aristocrats had to fight side by side with the middle-classes and farmers, and suffered the horrible condition in Archaic battles. However, most of the tyrants in Archaic Age are highborn, as the result of the fight between aristocratic families. What was interesting is that after having climbed to power, the tyrants usually attack the riches, like Cypselus banished and confiscated most of the Bacchiad aristocrat’s lands.

Most of the achievements in in art and architecture are made for the elites. All the artwork found in the Archaic period depicted the lifestyles of the aristocrats. And from those painting, sculptures, poems and inscriptions, we got a good glimpse into the life of the aristocrats. The symposia, or the male drinking parties, were mentioned multiple times in poetry and paintings. The depiction often includes female slaves and prostitutes, who provide music and entertainment to the elite men. From these artworks, we can also see some eccentric social expectations put on elite men.