

LANGUAGE NOTES BY ELLEN ADAMS

THE FRIEZE

0.15: The frieze (fingerspelled and given sign name) is described in terms of its placement in the British Museum. This is set against the original layout, so we can visually understand how these two contexts compare. Factual information is also given (for example, length) and the voiceover struggles to keep up.

0.35: Continuing the discussion on the nature of the reliefs in the metope clip, we are told about the low relief of the Frieze.

0.48: This section is informative, with 'Panathenaic' fingerspelled and then 'procession' signed as a classifier for 'crowd', palms down and fingers outstretched moving forward (the fingers representing 'many people').

1.01: In terms of representing regular events, the sign for 'every year' is repeated. 'Four years' is mouthed and given points at regular intervals in front of the body, indicating a regular occurrence (for the Greater Panathenaia).

1.14: We are shown where the procession went by 'joining' it, moving through the landscape as set out in the signing space canvas.

1.33: The description of the frieze begins with an outline of figures and numbers.

2.01: At this point, it becomes more theatrical, as Zoë 'becomes' some of the characters depicted on the frieze. The embodied description of the marshal is merged with the visual description of the direction and turn of the frieze.

2.24: At this point, some of the visual subtleties of the frieze are pointed out, such as the rhythm and flow of the line of horses' heads, the 'forest of legs', and a vivid description of one of the remarkable attributes of the frieze, how up to 8 figures were depicted one behind the other on this very low relief.

2.56: It's not easy to describe the issue with perspective in either BSL or English, namely how figures furthest away are not shown any smaller than those in the foreground.

3.20: At this point Zoë describes some of the figures, by 'becoming' them.

4.12: We then reach the gods on the East side. We are told (twice, in different ways) how they are larger than the humans as they are seated, but their heads are at the same height.