

LOCATION OF TROY

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Carpenter, Rhys, Folk Tale, Fiction and Saga in the Homeric Epics. U. of Calif., 1946

p.48' And since this exists nowhere else in the Trojan plain except at Bunarbashi beneath the Bali Dag, and exists there to a degree spectacular for such a situation, Homer (to my thinking) has told us unequivocally and beyond argument where his imagination localized the legendary city of his poem.

p. 49,50 Before Schliemann dug, competent visitors to the Schamander were in pretty general agreement that Homer's Troy lay on the Bali Dag above Bunarbashi. After Schliemann dug, opinion veered; in the end, the world came to accept Schliemann's site so decisively that those who still argue the matter are treated as perverse and contentious nuisances. Yet there are obvious indications* that Hissarlik does not agree with the situation demanded by the Iliad . . .

When confronted with these discrepancies, some of the Schliemannites ignore them or brush them aside . . . But a very considerable group, . . . admit the topographic problems to be serious and try to find some method of reconciling them with the actual terrain. The violence - one might almost say, impertinence- of some of these solutions is chiefly interesting as proving that there really is something amiss with the conventional identification of Hissarlik with Troy.

p. 51 . . . we are left with the uncomfortable suspicion that there is something wrong either with Schliemann's Troy or with Homer's, but that there is nothing much to be done about it. Yet there is something very simple to be done; and that is to examine the grounds for thinking that the identity of the poet's site for his city can be established by digging in the soil. For it is a thesis as truthful as it is simple, that Saga vivified by Fiction - by which we mean Homer's epic - belongs in a wholly different category from history reclaimed by archaeology.

The Schliemannites demand: " . . . Why should Homer arbitrarily have set local knowledge aside and invented a Troy of his own?"

He might have done so through ignorance or by deliberate design. Through ignorance, if it be considered that, unlike Schliemann, Homer did not dig. If perchance he was a Greek poet living in Greek times, what would he(or could he) have known of the invisible and largely destroyed contents of the bramble-grown and probably deserted hill which we call Hissarlik? But it is far more probable that the selection of a site for Troy on the spacious and commanding height of Bali Dag was deliberate, because by Homer's time the Troy saga had swollen to legendary size.

***- Persistently presented and examined with undeviating conviction by Charles Vellay in recent years.