

Wace and Stubbings

The Principal Homeric Sites (i) Troy by Carl W. Blegen

p.385 If there ever was a Troy (and who can really doubt it?), it must have stood on the hill at Hissarlik.

. . . the view which has since prevailed, that Troy VI was the Homeric citadel. The recent excavations, however, have made it clear that the Sixth Settlement was brought to its end by an earthquake and not by the hand of man. . . .

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Troy VIIa must surely be the Troy of Piran and Hector.

(ii) Mycenae by Alan J. B. Wace

p.387 The site of Mycenae has always been known.

p. 397 Although we now know that the royal graves in the Grave Circle found by Schliemann were not the graves of Agamemnon and his companions, but some three centuries older, yet we must recognize these strong traditions which persisted at Mycenae.

(iii) Ithaca by Frank H. Stubbings

p. 416 We have thus disposed of all the chief landmarks of Homer's Ithaca, and at the same time of all the main features of present-day Ithaki. This complete and satisfactory setting for the story has been arrived at independently by a number of scholars - Leake, Berard, G. Lang, Pavlatos - all with personal knowledge of the island; and anyone who visits Ithaki and re-reads the relevant parts of the Odyssey will need little imagination to fit the events and characters of the setting in the same way.

p. 419 As to Topography, Homer appears to have drawn on local knowledge of the island (whether acquired at first-hand we cannot tell): for the correspondence between the poem and the actual topography is too remarkable for coincidence. Some things, admittedly, do not fit; but they are not too great to be due to that license permitted to poets (but not to archaeologists) of varying, transferring, and combining details to suit an artistic purpose.