

AGAIN ON GENUINE TROY

A lecture given at “Getica” on November 18, 2006 as revised and enlarged

Subsequent upon a common toponymy, “TROY”, of the Bronze Age and the Ovid’s *Tomis*, this erudite and unequalled Poet of the Augustan age, whom I have been dealing with since I was in the University, I have put, studied, and published both topics side by side. In fact, Ovid encouraged me to deal with the genuine TROY, since the port town Tomis, where Ovid stayed for six years at least (P.IV, 10, 1-2) was located in the most northern point of the Taurica Peninsula (present-day Crimea), just outside the Burg ACHILLEION, erected after Trojan hero Achilles’ death, to his honour, also in the most northern point of the PHANAGOREIA Peninsula with the homonymous capital; in 1986 I finished an essay relating to the Roman Geto-Dacian poet PUBLIUS OVIDIUS NASO.

In November 1995 I have roughly finished a research on the city of TROY, and in February 1997 Macarie Publishing House in Târgoviște have published German and Romanian short versions thereof. In charge with the edition and also the one who made an afterword was Prof. Dr. Ghe. Petre Bârlea, a younger trade fellow of mine.

In late June 1997 I took part in the 22nd Edition of the ARA International Congress (Târgoviște, 28-30 June) where I gave a presentation of that little book published just four months before. The Head of Archaeology and History, Prof. Dr. Nicolae Ciachir, taking the floor, appreciated quite positively its contents, adding that He, upon being invited by the Black Sea Admiral, has had the honour to take part in the “fishing” of the Trojan hero Achilles’ tomb pedestal back in 1985 when there was the one hundredth anniversary of it having been discovered by some fishermen.

I would outline that my research is in essence based on *toponymy* and corroborated by epigraphic and archaeological data and, of course, historical and geographical data, observing especially the wise saying by the French historian Jules Michelet (1798-1874) namely, “history means first of all, geography”; so, I have paid special attention to historical geography in the very concreteness of such notion.

An element of crucial consistency: Achilles’ tomb pedestal was discovered just where all the ancient authors have pointed to be the place where the hero has fallen, that is outside Troy, against which he fought in ferocious rage and not far from it he was buried, and to his memory a temple

was erected, the Burg *Achilleion*, brought to light by archaeologists, Russian in the case, more than two centuries earlier. Some ancient authors, among which Herodotus (IV, 18) and Strabo (VII, 23), have shown such location to be *Hecates Lucus* (a forest/ dale of Hecate (daughter of Tauri King Perses, who gave it to her), located at about 40 km. south-west from Očakov, the Ekaterinoslav gubernia. Please note that as early as the olden times, that is before the Trojan War and until present-day such topos survived unaltered, in every inscription corpora it being featured as such, including that of Gruterus and Th. Mommsen, including I.O.S.P.E. (= *Inscriptiones Orae Septentrionalis Ponti Euxini*, where in volume IV, between pages 28-30 the inscription #63 is published as engraved on the pedestal, it being of special importance in clearing up a datum of world history and civilization, the Trojan War, that is a correct localization of the genuine city of TROY, certifying the historicity of that war. Here is the inscription: Ἀχίλλει τοῦ βοῦμον καὶ τὸ κέδρον, which translates: “Here lies Achilles in a cedar-wood coffin.”

From Michail Rostowtzev’ large book, *Skythen und der Bosporus* (a Russian historian and archaeologist involved in the research of the southern Russia, a Getic land in olden times, who after the 1918 revolution fled to Federal Germany and published the outcome of his research), I learned that Achilles’ sarcophagus had been used to cover a portion of Church Santa Maria di Chiara in Rome’s entrance steps. (The cedar-wood has become proverbial for its hard essence.)

The Troy unearthed by Schliemann in 1871 in the region of Hisarlik is just one of the many homonymic cities built by a group of survivors of the siege of the genuine one. And we know as a fact that the archaeological team from Freie Universität Berlin, lead by Prof. Dr. Manfred Korfmann, who for decades carries on diggings, has discovered nothing yet to verify the historicity of the Trojan War. (That was the HOMERIC TROY, as Schliemann let him carried away by a line of the Iliad before starting the diggings there.)

I proceeded in searching the genuine Troy, urged by such complex issue belonging to historical geography, brought before us by the very texts of the elegies written in exile by the erudite poet PUBLIUS OVIDIUS NASO, whom I have been dealing with for decades, that is why I do repeat myself, such topics as TOMIS and TROY will be ever correlated in my research. Therefore, the topos Porthmium is located outside the burg Ἀχιλλέιον to the north of the Phanagoreia-Taman Peninsula on a map drawn by E. Minns after Ptolemy, which in Herodotus IV, 12 and IV, 45 calls Πορθμειον Κιμμερικον, and in Strabo VII, 2,2 and XI, 2,5 calls Κιμμερις/

Κιμμερική, termed Cimmerium in Latin; through Theophanes Confessor (Chronography 14-28) I learned it had called *Tomis* in the local language, from the verb *temno* = to cut to pieces, since it was there that Medea slaughtered her brother Absyrtus, to fly with Jason to Colchis, in search of the Golden Fleece; a truth verified by a historical element, Absyrtus' grave being a fact in the 2nd century too, since Arrian accounts of in his *Periplous Ponti Euxini*. There, in that Tomis by the Cimmerian Bosphorus the sensitive and bright Sulmonan scholar has stayed the longest time, at least six years, as he confesses in P. IV, 10, 1-2: *Haec mihi Cimmerio bis tertia ducitur aestas/littore pellitos inter agenda Getas. (This is the sixth summer since I am here at Zegrini/ Among Getic warriors apparelled in skins.)* I said ZEGRIN, according to the Alba Julia Pontics Manuscript (By referring to many other sources I learned it also called/ calls ACZEGRIM/CIMMERIUM (like in the Burmannian edition of Ovid's exile works) CHERSON/CZEGRIM/CEDREN..., and ZEGRINUS, all these names etymologically referring to the Cimmerian population, since there, by the Cimmerian Bosphorus the Cimmerians had a great kingdom stretching beyond Cuban and Caucasia and having had its thriving period between the centuries 6 and 3 BC.

Based on the fact that there again, in Phanagoreia, the capital of the homonymous Peninsula, there also was a residence/ one of them of the Byzantine emperors, a second one was in Constantinople, I suspect, according to a millenary custom, and welcome most of the time, I deem it to have been erected on the old ruins, that is of the genuine city of TROY. My theory is also supported by fragment of Theophanes Confessor's *Chronography* (15-27) recounting that emperor Justinian, accompanied by two of his generals only, slinked away from his *Phanagoreia* residence, crossed the Cimmerian Bosphorus-Kerč straits through its most northern point, and also the narrowest one (by the burg Αχιλλειον) and arrived at the port town *Tomis* (which regulated the navigation between the Black Sea and Azov Sea); there he hired a six row boat on which travelled (by the sea shore) to Symbolon-Balaklava, then farther to the mouth of the River Borysthenes (Dnepr), then to Tyras (Dnestr), so... saving his life, as being warned that an attempt at his life has been prepared.

From such architectural monument, ACHILEION, located in the most northern point of the Phanagoreia Peninsula, just outside the port town TOMIS, PORTHMION [(on Ptolemy's map) also located in the most northern point of the Taurica Peninsula (present-day Crimea), as V. F. Gajdukevič says (*Das Bosphoranische Reich*, Berlin, Akademie Verlag, 1971, 1974), the most

involved historian and archaeologist, for 40 years in the research of Meridional Russia, former a Getic land) construction engineers and other new building artisans supply themselves with materials.)]

From toponymy again, an eminent science supporting history is, besides Achilleion, - *cursa/tendra/cursus/dromos Achilleus*, a leg of land stretching from the bay Karkinitis-Precop to the mouth of the River Borysthenes (Dnepr), where the famous hero Achilles trained (sports contests took place too), before every battle, according to Herodotus (IV, 55 and 76), Strabo (VIII, 1, 9) and Gajdukevič (l.c.p.33).

Not far from there, a little to the north, there is the *Island Achilleus*, located outside the colony Olbia -Borysthene and which in olden days called Island *LEUKE/ BEREZAN*, that is *ALBĂ* (i.e., white) (because it was inhabited by white *storks*; *barză* (i.e., stork) is an old Romanian, i.e., *Getic* word (HECATES LUCUS is between A. *cursus* and the Island Leuke); please look at the map (p. 170) drawn by E. MINNS, after Ptolemy and Latyshev.

In the same region, the European Sarmatia, there were discovered many other inscriptions, besides the one on the pedestal of the famous Trojan hero's tomb, yet dedicated to him, too, in which A. is named holy (*σεβαστος*) and god of the seas (*πονταρχης*) etc. Dion Chrysostomus, in his treaty on the Getae [(*De Geteraum origine et rebus gestis/Getica*), presumed lost, since several quotations have still preserved in later authors, we are not entitled to overlook it], the inhabitants of Colony Olbia –Borejsthene's respect is stated for the rhapsode Homer and the Trojan hero, who had died in that region and there too was he buried; more clearly and very extensively, Dion recounts it in the Speech 36 to the Borysthenits (in paragraph 17 Dion has portrayed Ovid physically and spiritually, without naming him, according to the Roman conduct of *erasio memoriae* of those unwelcome, the case of the exiled, in the case.) In Speech 11 called also *TROJAN*, Dion, speaking of Achilles and other heroes, criticizes Homer, unveiling the fakes slipped in those two rhapsodies, especially in the *Iliad*, Dion had at hand, of course, the *Trojan War Ephemeris* by Dictys Cretensis and Dares Phrygius (included in Diodorus Siculus' *Bibliotheca Historica*, between Books V and XI, but its discovery and translation into Latin was of a more recent time, that of Dictys were discovered inside his Knossos grave by some shepherds, in the 13th year of Nero's reign (A.D. 54-68)). Fallen into the hands of the emperor, he ordered to have them translated into Latin. Dion Chrysostomus was exiled by Domitian to king Decebalus' court and, thru 84-96 he lived also at the Cimmerian Bosphorus; he lived among the Getae, learned their language (like Ovid 65 years before him) and, being a

great erudite (a native of Prousa, Bithynia) he wrote, as a local historian that he became, since more than a decade, very accurately about the Getae's origin and acts (*De Getarum origine et rebus gestis.*)

Therefore, by the end of the 1st century BC, the diaries of those two participants in the Trojan War, Dictys and Dares, while the Homeric poems, brought to light during the reign of tyrant Pisistratus (VII-VI centuries B.C.), they were known already for more than eight centuries: be they ever full of errors, like Dion has noticed, it is quite the work of a rhapsode, skilful, it is right, but not a historian.

Upon Idomeneus' order, under whose command those two participants fought and so, eye witnessed the Trojan War, they wrote down day by day everything that happened outside Troy, Dictys in Gr. with Phoenician letters, Dares in Greek, each of them six books amounting to more than 300 pages. They were translated by librarians, editors in the work BIBLIOTHECA HISTORICA of Diodorus Siculus, between Books V and XI.

Please note, the first editions of such work state right in their titles the state of affairs, giving also certain inscriptions from Dictys' tomb in Knossos, while the later editions overlook those two genuine authors of the history of the Trojan War, as they were in fact. I have used the oldest edition existing at the *Landes -und Universitätsbibliothek* in Düsseldorf, printed in Basel in 1559 which reads: *DIODORISICULI Bibliotheca historica libri XV, hac est quoque Graecae extant de quadraginta, quorum quinque nunc primum in Latine eduntur de quibus in praefatione edoceberis. Adiecta hic sunt ex iis libris qui non extant, fragmenta quaedam Sebastiano Castiglione totius operis corectore partim interprete. Praeterea interiecta est Dictys Cretensis et Daretis Phrygii de bello Trojano historia ad supplemendum lacunam quinque librorum qui inter quintum et undecimum librorum desiderantur. Cum gratia et privilegio Basileae, 1559.*

Castor and Pollux too, took part in the Trojan War, known also under the name of Dioskouroi, that is the sons of Zeus. On their way home, as a gratitude to the gods for being victorious, they founded a city on the ruins of which, according to archaeological diggings carried out by Russians with international participation, the town SUCHUMI was established: on the right down side of the map.

Achilles was born in Achaea Phthiotis, shown by ancient authors and supported by inscriptions to be south of Gorgippia -Anapa, in Caucasia, present-day Georgia [(where beautiful Helen and Clytemnestra were born,

too) a land regarded nowadays too as having the most beautiful people on earth according to Herodotus (II, 43 and Dion 61, 10-11)]. In Caucasia there were born also the Amazons taking part in the Trojan War on the side of Troy, under their beautiful Queen Penthesilea, killed by Achilles (according to inscriptions 6125, 6126 of C.I.G.)]

In the opuscle *Dacii la Troia* (i.e., Dacians At Troy) by V. Pârvan (which I have republished at an 80-year space and also edited an English version), the Romanian scholar concluded the *Homeric Troy* unearthed by H. Schliemann in 1871 must have been of a much recent time than the Trojan War and the work of the Thraco-Dacians, as the manner of construction he found to be very similar to theirs.

In support of such theory I bring forward the great Greek Historian Thucydides, of Thracian descent, who in C. I, cap.12 of the *Peloponnesian War* clearly asserts the majority of the Hellenic cities in his time (centuries 5-4 BC) to have been built after the Trojan War and not always on the same spot, since because of repeated uprisings, sieges, revolts, refuges, transhumances took place, everyone running away with fear.

We know it from the ancient, including Virgil, after the siege of the genuine one, a first city of TROY was erected by Aeneas and his Trojan troops in Sicily, where it preserved to be seen today, as Prof. Dr. Eugen Cizek acknowledged it in the fall of 1997; to the memory of their lost fatherland, out of nostalgia, they named TROY the new built city. We also know it from Pliny the Elder, he was born in Troy, a city which at the time accounted of by him called *Patavium*, then *Padua*; located to the north of Italy, in Lombardy, it was built by a group of survivors from the siege of the genuine Troy under the Thracian king Antenor, as the most valiant among those over ten Thracian princes, who took part in the Trojan War (his name meaning just *indefatigable*), that's why we see him defending especially the famous Skaean Gate (Σκαίαί Πύλαι).

Strabo, who died in 29 AD (11 years after Ovid), accounts (II, 2, 32) of another city named TROY build on the banks of the River Nile by a group of Trojan prisoners taken by Menelaus; after they rose up repeatedly, Menelaus let them finally to build a city that, out of nostalgia for their lost fatherland, was named TROY; another city of TROY, also built by a group of survivors from the siege of the genuine one is that unearthed by Schliemann in 1871, called the HOMERIC TROY. The resemblance outlined by Pârvan between the HOMERIC TROY and certain Dacian cities in Transylvania may also have another, completing explanation: the Trojans were not Greek (but Thracian instead?) and however the PHTHIOTIC

ACHAIA, where Achilles was born, was the homeland of the *first Hellenians*, the genuine ones, as Thucydides tells us (I, 12) and that was in Georgia, where *Dacia antiqua* would appear later on medieval maps.

I have quoted a couple of homonymous cities of TROY, all of them built after the destruction of the genuine one, as recounted by ancient authors, however I am sure they are a lot more; there is also a town called Trojan in the Teleorman county.

From the northern scholars, which I am dealing with for more than a decade, I have learned that, before writing a history or geography book, they used to undertake study trips for 10 to 15 years, and they *obeyed neither any preconceived ideas nor the politics*; that the city of Uppsala had too, a Skaean Gate made of gold and ivory, that the Trojan law was the same as the Getic and Sueonic ones; so, it is quite possible that the Trojans were a Cimmero-Pelasgo-Wallacho-Geto-Dacian population, like the oldest European populations, that the Trojan War was caused by *Envy* and *Hatred*, and not by Helen being abducted.

According to Herodotus (*De genere Vitaque Homeri*, Cologne, 1552), Homer was born in 1017 and died in 913 BC, reaching 104 years of life; so Homer was born 168 years after the fall of Troy, when a number of cities, including the Hisarlik one, have been already built by some Trojans, survivors from the siege of the primary Troy, i.e. of the genuine one, and that certain cities appeared in other places, in different stages, it is already explained by Thucydides (quoted here above), it is the case of Phthia, too.

The Belgian-German scholar Gerhard Mercator in his work CHRONOLOGIA gives data that help us assess with certain accuracy that TROY was sieged in 1185 BC, TROY didn't survive but 270 years, the Trojan War took ten years six months and twelve days; from Dictys and Dares we learn that 670,000 died on the Trojan side and 880,000 on the Greek side, so Troy wasn't a simple city, but rather a state, a country with over *one million inhabitants*.

That Dares of Phrygia would have died before having the time to write those six Trojan War history books, *De excisio Troiae historia*, it's an error strongly denied by his books populating several libraries, including the one of the Romanian Academy, sharing a volume with Homer and Dictys, in another Dictys and Dares alone, even in a French translation are the both authors of the Ephemeris of the Trojan War.

As a conclusion, the genuine Troy, that of the Bronze Age, has existed in the Meridional Russia, in Antiquity a Getic land. Since there and not anywhere else there were found the most tangible proofs of such historic

truth. It is right, my research is predominantly toponymical, and the significance of that eminent science supporting history should be clear for everyone attending “GETICA”, a scientific society lead by scholars among which the geologist Prof. Nicolae Ticleanu. Please note, my toponymical research is supported by *epigraphical and archaeological data* and, of course, *historical and geographical*, and *history* means first of all, *geography*, since a historical fact must be accommodated in a certain territory at a certain time. (Please look where Bulgaria Magna was before having been placed where it is now: *beyond* the Volga River). So in the present-day southern Russia, I do repeat it for the millionth time, in Antiquity - Getia, had existed TROY, the one around which the well-known and bloody Trojan War was carried out, since there it is where all the proofs are: *historiographic, geographic, epigraphic, and archaeological*. While the archaeological team from Germany, I mean the one led by Prof. Dr. Manfred Korfmann of Freie Universität Berlin, who has carried out diggings in the region of Hisarlik for decades, has discovered *nothing* yet to verify the historicity of the Trojan War. See also the book *Anatolien in der Frühen und mittleren Bronzezeit*, Wiesbaden, 1994. The Swiss scholar Eberhard Zangger, a professional geologist also undertaking a research at Hisarlik, rejects neatly the theory of the genuine city of TROY for the same reasons stated in several books: I only have studied the one published in 1994 in Munich, *Ein neuer Kampfum Troia* at Droemer Knaur publishing house in Munich.

Those two eyewitnesses who took part in the Trojan War, Dictys Cretensis and Dares of Phrygia, whom some “persons” deny without giving any reasons, wrote their *Ephemeris* (diaries), Dictys being ordered by Idomeneus under whose command he had fought, Dictys six books, Dares five, are to be found at B. A. separately too, numbering over 300 pages together with Homer and also intercalated between books 5 and 11 in Diodorus Siculus’ *Bibliotheca historica*: the work signed by Diodorus counts 15 books, I have looked for information in the 1573 and 1595 editions. Dictys and Dares, when listed the chieftains who took part in the Trojan War, among which Castor and Pollux, the ones who built the city of Dioscuri in present-day Caucasia, with 42 ships, sons of Asclepius, Machaon and Podalirus id.... etc. (unfortunately they failed to specify the number of fighters accommodated inside one ship, in any case, of the order of hundreds, - I think, since it is hard to believe they came to Troy in some little boats, over several seas!)

In a letter of Cornelius Nepos to Sallustius Crispus it is said: “Dares, who with his own hand wrote *De excisio Troiae historia* (5 books) *ipsius manu scripsit* [in the Introduction to Diodorus’ *Bibl. Historica* (in fact, a

universal history *compilation*) it is said: *Dictys enim Cretensis et Dares Phrygius ipsi bello interfuerunt...res gestas exposuerunt..*)], and *King Bella II's notary chronicle*, in the second sentence he puts Dares of Phrygia: as I, a little student was learning from my masters about the Trojan history from Dares Phrygius' books (*olim in scholari studio sicut a magistris meis audiveram ex libris Daretis Phrygii ceterorumque autorum*), likewise I pledge to commit to paper the acts of the Hungarian kings.

Dion Chrysostomus, the author of a Treatise on Getae - *Getica* (*De Getarum origine et rebus gestis*, presumed lost, yet preserved partially by quotations in later writers, i. a. Jordanes, we are not entitled to elude; he relates i. a. that in such region of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, where he lived a good deal, *it was forbidden to say something dirty about Homer or Achilles*, since it was deemed to be their homeland (see Speech 36 dedicated to the *Borysthenits* and Speech 11 called also the Trojan (he wrote 80 speeches, partially also rendered, all of them however preserved.)

From the Russian and Soviet historians and archaeologists involved in the research of the Meridional Russia, I would quote just a few names: Jurij Latyšev: *Inscriptiones Orae Septentrionalis Ponti Euxini*, 1892; Michail Rostowzew: (*Skythen und der Bosphorus*, 1931; *A history of the ancient world; Iranians and Greeks in Southern Russia*, 1922), to enumerate only a few of his books, the ones appeared after the Revolution in Germany, where he fled after 1918; Ion Suruceanu, in whose museum the Pedestal of Achilles' tomb was preserved a longer time; V.F. Gajducevič, head of the chair of History and Archaeology of the Leningrad University, who for about forty years has led the archaeological team undertaking diggings/researches in the Meridional Russia, and published their outcomes, i. a. in the leading book *Das Bosporanische Reich*, Berlin Akademie Verlag, 1971 and 1974. I say it again, I only have mentioned a few names of Russian and Soviet scholars. To them should be added the British scholar Ellis H. Minns who concentrated the result of his research, extremely accurate, in a large treatise, *Scythians and Greeks. A Survey of Ancient History and Archaeology on the North Coast of the Euxine*. Cambridge, At the University Press, 1913, a date at which, we learn it from that book filled with unnumbered illustrations, the Pedestal of Achilles' tomb is displayed in a London museum; and in 1985, I learned it from Prof. N. Ciachir, in 1997 in Târgoviște, under the said circumstances, it was back home again, presumably displayed in the Museum "Ion Suruceanu" in Kishinev.

Also from Ellis Minns' book I took an excerpt with a map drawn by him after Ptolemy however, i.e. from the 2nd century BC, so this makes it a

valuable document. On it we can also see on the left bank of Lake MAIOTIS = Sea of Azov the rivers *Lycus* and *Sagarus* mentioned by Ovid in P.IV, 10, line 47 as the ones flowing nearby Tomis by the Cimmerian Bosphorus -Kerč, where He, according to his own confessions, had stayed the longest time, at least six years:

*Haec mihi Zegrino bis tertia ducitur aestas
litore pellitos inter agenda Getas*

(= This is the sixth summer since I am here at Zegrin (=Cimmerium/ Porthmion/ Cherson/ ACZEGRIM/ CEDREN/ ZEGRIN/ TOMIS... ZEGRIN)/ Among Getic warriors appparelled in skins (comp. Tr. III, 12, 1-2)

*Frigora iam Zephyri minuunt, annoque peracto
Longior antiquis visa Maeotis hiems*

(= The Zephyr thaws the frost, this winter's taking leave
For me this winter by the Sea of Azov

Much harder than in the other years seemed to be)

In Tr. III, 9, Ovid accounts of the origin of the name of the port town Tomis by the Cimmerian Bosphorus -Kerč: the Legend of the Argonauts.

*Sed vetus huic nomen positaque antiquius urbe
Consat ab Absyrto caede fuisse loco*

(= And the old name of the place before the town to be founded comes, as known, from the murdering of Absyrtus (v.5-6).

And, after having summarised the Legend of the Argonauts in lines 1-32, the Sulmonan concludes in lines 33-34 ending the elegy:

*Inde Tomis dictus locus hic quia fertur in illo
Membra soror fratris consecuisse sui*

(= Therefore, that land was named Tomis because this sister murdered her brother who pursued her (to prevent her from going with Jason to Colchis, in search of the Golden Fleece.)

The expedition of the Argonauts took place before the Trojan War, since among those 50 bold men onboard the ship ARGO, under Jason's command, there were also the Dioscuri, Castor and Pollux.

Maria Crişan
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