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Troy is the name of the Bronze Age city attacked in the Trojan War, a popular story in the mythology of ancient Greece, and the name given to the archaeological site in the north-west of Asia Minor (now Turkey) which has revealed a large and prosperous city occupied over millennia. There has been much scholarly debate as to whether mythical Troy actually existed and if so whether the archaeological site was the same city; however, it is now almost universally accepted that the archaeological excavations have revealed the city of Homer's Iliad. Other names for Troy include Hisarlik (Turkish), Ilios (Homer), Ilion (Greek) and Ilium (Roman). The archaeological site of Troy is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Troy in myth Troy is the setting for Homer's Iliad in which he recounts the final year of the Trojan War sometime in the 13th century BCE. The war was in fact a ten-year siege of the city by a coalition of Greek forces led by King Agamemnon of Mycenae. The purpose of the expedition was to reclaim Helen, wife of Menelaus, king of Sparta and brother of Agamemnon. Helen was abducted by the Trojan prince Paris and taken as his prize for choosing Aphrodite as the most beautiful goddess in a competition with Athena and Hera. The Trojan War is also told in other sources such as the Epic Cycle poems (of which only fragments survive) and is also briefly mentioned in Homer's Odyssey. Troy and the Trojan War later became a staple myth of Classical Greek and Roman literature. In the Iliad, Homer describes Troy as 'well-founded', 'strong-built' & 'well-walled'. Homer describes Troy as 'well-founded', 'strong-built' and 'well-walled'; there are also several references to fine battlements, towers and 'high' and 'steep' walls. The walls must have been unusually strong in order to withstand a ten-year siege and in fact, Troy fell through the trickery of the Trojan horse ruse rather than any defensive failing. Indeed, in Greek mythology the walls were so impressive that they were said to have been built by Poseidon and Apollo who after an act of impiety were compelled by Zeus to serve the Trojan king Laomedon for one year. However, the fortifications did not help the king when Hercules sacked the city with an expedition of only six ships. The sacking was Hercules' revenge for not being paid for his services to the king when he killed the sea-serpent sent by Poseidon. This episode was traditionally placed one generation before the Trojan War as the only male survivor was Laomedon's youngest son Priam, the Trojan king in the later conflict. Black-figured amphora (wine-jar) signed by Exekias as potter and attributed to him as painter Troy in Archaeology Inhabited from the Early Bronze Age (3000 BCE) through to the 12th century CE the archaeological site which is now called Troy is 5 km from the coast but was once next to the sea. The site was situated in a bay created by the mouth of the river Skamanda and occupied a strategically important position between Aegean and Eastern civilizations by controlling the principal point of access to the Black Sea, Anatolia and the Balkans from both directions by land and sea. In particular, the difficulty in finding favourable winds to enter the Dardanelles may well have resulted in ancient sailing vessels standing by near Troy. Consequently, the site became the most important Bronze Age city in the North Aegean, reaching the height of its prosperity in the middle Bronze Age, contemporary with the Mycenaean civilization on the Greek mainland and the Hittite empire to the East. Troy was first excavated by Frank Calvert in 1863 CE and visited by Heinrich Schliemann who continued excavations from 1870 CE until his death in 1890 CE; in particular, he attacked the conspicuous 20 m high artificial mound which had been left untouched since antiquity. Initial finds by Schliemann of gold and silver jewellery and vessels seemed to vindicate his belief that the site was actually the Troy of Homer. However, these have now been dated to more than a thousand years before a probable date for the Trojan War and indicated that the history of the site was much more complex than previously considered. Indeed, perhaps unwittingly, Schliemann would add 2000 years to Western history, which had previously gone back only as far as the first Olympiad of 776 BCE. Map of the World of the Iliad, c. 1200 BCE The excavations continued throughout the 20th century CE and continue to the present day and they have revealed nine different cities and no less than 46 levels of inhabitation at the site. These have been labelled Troy I to Troy IX after Schliemann's (and his successor Dorpfeld's) original classification. This has since been slightly adjusted to incorporate radio-carbon dating results from the early 21st century CE. Troy I (c. 3000-2550 BCE) was a small village settlement surrounded by stone walls. Pottery and metal finds match those on Lesbos and Lemnos in the Aegean and in northern Anatolia. Troy II (c. 2550-2300 BCE) displays larger buildings (40 m long), mud-brick and stone fortifications with monumental gates. Schliemann's 'treasure' finds - objects in gold, silver, electrum, bronze, carnelian and lapis lazuli - most likely come from this period. This 'treasure' includes 60 earrings, six bracelets, two magnificent diadems and 8750 rings, all in solid gold. Once again, finds of foreign materials suggest trade with Asia. Map of the Trojan Plain c. 1200 BCE Troy III - Troy V (c. 2300-1750 BCE) is the most difficult period to reconstruct as the layers were hastily removed in early excavations in order to reach the lower levels. Generally speaking, the period seems a less prosperous one but foreign contact is further evidenced by the presence of Anatolian influenced dome ovens and Minoan pottery. The archaeological site of Troy has impressive fortification walls 5 m thick & up to 8 m high constructed from large limestone blocks. Troy VI (c. 1750-1300 BCE) is the period most visible today at the site and is the most likely candidate for the besieged city of Homer's Trojan War. Impressive fortification walls 5 m thick and up to 8 m high constructed from large limestone blocks and including several towers (with the rectangular plan as in Hittite fortifications) demonstrate the prosperity but also a concern for defence during this period. The walls would have once been topped by a mud brick and wood superstructure and with closely fitting stonework sloping inwards; as the walls rise they certainly fit the Homeric description of 'strong-built Troy'. In addition, sections of the walls are slightly offset every 10 m or so in order to curve around the site without the necessity for corners (a weak point in wall defence). This feature is unique to Troy and displays an independence from both Mycenaean and Hittite influence. The walls included five gateways allowing entrance to the inner city composed of large structures, once of two stories and with central courts and collonaded halls similar to those of contemporary Mycenaean cities such as Tiryns, Pylos and Mycenae itself. Outside the fortified citadel the lower town covers an impressive 270,000 square metres protected by an encircling rock-cut ditch. The size of the site is now much bigger than first thought when Schliemann excavated and suggests a population of as high as 10,000, much more in keeping with Homer's grand city-state. Finds at the site point to the existence of a thriving wool industry and the first use of horses, recalling Homer's oft-used epithet 'horse-taming Trojans'. Pottery very similar to that on the Greek mainland has been discovered, principally the Grey Minyan ware which imitates metal vessels. There are also imported ceramics from Crete, Cyprus and the Levant. In marked contrast to Mycenaean palaces, there is no evidence of sculpture or fresco-painted walls. Troy VI was partially destroyed but the exact cause is not known beyond some evidence of fire. Intriguingly, bronze arrow heads, spear tips and sling shots have been found on the site and even some embedded in the fortification walls, suggesting some sort of conflict. The dates of these (c. 1250 BCE) and the site destruction correlate with Herodotus' dates for the Trojan War. Conflicts over the centuries between Mycenaeans and Hittites are more than probable and may well have been the origin of the epic Trojan War in Greek mythology. There is very little evidence of any large-scale war but the possibility of smaller conflicts is evidenced in Hittite texts where 'Ahhiyawa' is recognised as referring to Mycenaean Greeks and 'Wilusa' as the region of which Ilios was the capital. These documents tell of local unrest and Mycenaean support of local rebellion against Hittite control in the area of Troy and suggest a possible motive for regional rivalry between the two civilizations. Intriguingly, there is also a bronze Mycenaean sword taken as war booty and found in Hattusa, the Hittite capital. Troy VIIa (c. 1300-1180 BCE) and Troy VIIb (c. 1180-950 BCE) both display an increase in the size of the lower town and some reconstruction of the fortifications but also a marked decline in architectural and artistic quality in respect to Troy VI. For example, there is a return to handmade pottery after centuries of wares made on the wheel. Once again, this correlates well with the Greek tradition that following the Trojan War the city was sacked and abandoned, at least for a time. Both Troy VIIa and Troy VIIb were destroyed by fires.Page 2 Troya es el nombre de la ciudad de la Edad de Bronce que fue atacada en la guerra de Troya, una historia popular en la mitología de la antigua Grecia, además del nombre dado al emplazamiento arqueológico en el noroeste de Asia Menor, ahora Turquía, que ha revelado una ciudad grande y próspera que ha estado ocupada durante milenios. Los expertos han debatido durante mucho tiempo si la mítica Troya existió realmente y si, de ser así, el emplazamiento arqueológico es el mismo sitio o no; sin embargo, está prácticamente aceptado universalmente que las excavaciones arqueológicas han sacado a la luz la ciudad de la Ilíada de Homero. Otros nombres con los que se conoce la ciudad son Hisarlik, en turco, Ilios, según Homero, Ilión, en griego e Ilium, en latín. El emplazamiento arqueológico de Troya ha sido declarado por la UNESCO como Patrimonio de la Humanidad. Troya en la mitología Troya es el escenario de la Ilíada de Homero, en la que se cuentan el último año de la guerra de Troya en algún momento del siglo XIII AEC. En realidad, la guerra fue un sitio de diez años de la ciudad por la coalición de ejércitos griegos liderados por el rey Agamenón de Micenas. El propósito de la expedición era recuperar a Helena, la esposa de Menelao, rey de Esparta y hermano de Agamenón. Helena había sido secuestrada por el príncipe troyano Paris y llevada como premio por elegir a Afrodita como la diosa más hermosa en una competición con Atenea y Hera. También se habla de la guerra de Troya en otras fuentes, tales como los poemas del Ciclo troyano, de los que nos han llegado varios fragmentos, y brevemente en la Odisea de Homero. Troya y más tarde la guerra se convirtieron en un mito básico de la literatura griega y romana clásica. EN LA ILÍADA, HOMERO DESCRIBE TROYA COMO "BIEN FUNDADA", "FUERTE" Y "DE MURALLAS ROBUSTAS". Homero describe Troya como "bien fundada", "fuerte" y "de murallas robustas"; también hay varias referencias a las almenas, las torres y las "altas" y "escarpadas" murallas. Las murallas debían de ser extraordinariamente robustas para haber resistido un asedio de diez años, y de hecho Troya acabó cayendo mediante el engaño del caballo de Troya en vez de cualquier error defensivo. De hecho, en la mitología griega las murallas eran tan impresionantes que se decían que habían sido construidas por Poseidón y Apolo a los que, tras un acto irreverente, Zeus los obligó a servir al rey troyano Laomedón durante un año. Sin embargo, las fortificaciones no ayudaron al rey cuando Hércules saqueó la ciudad con una expedición de tan solo seis barcos. El saqueo fue la venganza de Hércules por no haberle pagado por los servicios prestados al rey cuando mató a la serpiente marina enviada por Poseidón. Este episodio tradicionalmente se sitúa una generación antes de la guerra de Troya, ya que el único superviviente masculino era el hijo menor de Laomedón, Príamo, el rey troyano durante el posterior conflicto. Ánfora (jarra de vino) de figuras negras firmada por Exequias como alfarero y atribuida a él como pintor Troya en la arqueología Habitada desde el Bronce temprano (3000 AEC) hasta el siglo XII EC, el emplazamiento arqueológico que hoy en día se conoce como Troya está a 5 km de la costa, pero en el pasado estaba junto al mar. Este asentamiento estaba situado en una bahía creada por la desembocadura del río Skamanda y ocupaba una posición estratégicamente importante entre las civilizaciones del Egeo y las orientales, ya que controlaba el principal punto de acceso al Mar Negro, Anatolia y los Balcanes desde ambas direcciones por mar y tierra. En particular, la dificultad de encontrar vientos favorables para entrar en los Dardanelos puede que causara que las embarcaciones de la antigüedad pararan cerca de Troya. En consecuencia, el lugar se convirtió en la ciudad más importante de la Edad de Bronce en el Egeo norte, y alcanzó su apogeo a mediados de la Edad de Bronce, siendo así contemporánea de la civilización micénica de la Grecia continental y el imperio hitita al este. Troya fue excavada por primera vez por Frank Calvert en 1863 EC, y Heinrich Schliemann la visitó, y continuó con las excavaciones a partir de 1870 EC hasta su muerte en 1890 EC; en particular atacó el llamativo montículo artificial de 20 metros de altura que llevaba intacto desde la antigüedad. Los descubrimientos iniciales de Schliemann de joyas de oro y plata y vasijas parecieron respaldar su creencia de que este emplazamiento era realmente la Troya de Homero. Sin embargo, estos hallazgos se han datado más de mil años antes de la fecha probable de la guerra de Troya, e indicaban que la historia del lugar era mucho más compleja de lo que se pensaba. De hecho, y quizás sin querer, Schliemann añadiría 2000 años a la historia occidental, que anteriormente solo llegaba hasta la primera olimpiada en 776 AEC. Mapa de los estados de la Guerra de Troya, ca. 1200 a.C. Las excavaciones continuaron a lo largo del siglo XX EC y siguen en marcha en la actualidad, y han revelado nueve ciudades diferentes y no menos de 46 niveles de habitación en este lugar. Estas ciudades se han denominado desde Troya I hasta Troya IX, siguiendo la clasificación original de Schliemann y su sucesor Dorpfeld. Desde entonces, esta clasificación se ha recalibrado para incorporar los resultados de la datación por carbono de principios del siglo XXI EC. Troya I (c. 3000-2550 AEC) era un pequeño asentamiento rodeado de muros de piedra. Los hallazgos de cerámica y metal coinciden con los de Lesbos y Lemnos en el Egeo y el norte de Anatolia. Troya II (c. 2550-2300 AEC) muestra edificios más grandes (de 40 metros de largo), fortificaciones de ladrillos de barro y de piedra con puertas monumentales. Los hallazgos del "tesoro" de Schliemann, objetos de oro, plata, electro, bronce, cornalina y lapisláculi, probablemente provienen de este periodo. Este "tesoro" cuenta con 60 pendientes, seis brazaletes, dos magníficas diademas y 8750 anillos, todo de oro macizo. De nuevo, los hallazgos de materiales extranjeros sugieren un comercio con Asia. Troya III - Troya V (c. 2300-1750 AEC) es el período más difícil de reconstruir, ya que estas capas se quitaron apresuradamente en las primeras excavaciones para llegar a los niveles más bajos. En términos generales, este periodo parece haber sido menos próspero, pero el contacto con el extranjero es evidente gracias a la presencia de hornos de cúpula con influencias de Anatolia y la alfarería minoica. EL EMPLAZAMIENTO ARQUEOLÓGICO DE TROYA TIENE UNAS IMPRESIONANTES MURALLAS DE 5 METROS DE GROSOR Y HASTA 8 METROS DE ALTURA, CONSTRUIDAS CON GRANDES BLOQUES DE PIEDRA CALIZA. Troya VI (c. 1750-1300 AEC) es el período más visible hoy en día y es la candidata más probable para la ciudad asediada de la guerra de Troya de Homero. Las impresionantes murallas fortificadas de 5 metros de grosor y de hasta 8 metros de altura construidas con grandes bloques de piedra caliza, que también tienen varias torres (de planta rectangular como en las fortificaciones hititas) demuestran la prosperidad del lugar, además de su preocupación por la defensa durante ese periodo. En un principio las murallas habrían estado recubiertas con una superestructura de ladrillos de barro cocido y madera, y con mampostería inclinada hacia adentro; viendo las murallas alzarse, ciertamente encajan con la descripción de Homero de una "Troya robusta". Además, la muralla se va compensando en secciones cada 10 metros más o menos para crear una curva alrededor de la ciudad y evitar así las esquinas, que son un punto débil de las murallas. Esta es una característica única de Troya y muestra su independencia de las influencias micénica e hitita. En las murallas había cinco entradas que permitían el paso al centro de la ciudad, que se componía de grandes estructuras, de dos pisos, con patios interiores y salones de columnas parecidos a los de las ciudades micénicas coetáneas como Tirinto, Pilos y la propia Micenas. Fuera de la ciudadela fortificada, la ciudad inferior cubre unos impresionantes 270.000 metros cuadrados, protegidos por una zanja circundante excavada en la roca. El tamaño del lugar es mucho más grande actualmente de lo que se pensó en un principio cuando Schliemann lo excavó y sugiere una población de hasta 10.000 habitantes, mucho más acorde con la gran ciudad-estado de Homero. Los descubrimientos en el lugar apuntan hacia la existencia de una próspera industria de la lana y el primer uso de caballos, que recuerda el usado epíteto de Homero "Troyanos domadores de caballos". Se ha descubierto una cerámica muy parecida a la de la Grecia continental, principalmente la cerámica minia que imita vasos de metal. También hay cerámica importada de Creta, Chipre y el Levante. En marcado contraste con los palacios micénicos, no hay indicios de esculturas o paredes con frescos. Troya VI fue destruida parcialmente, pero se desconoce la causa exacta, más allá de algún indicio de un incendio. Resulta intrigante saber que se han descubierto puntas de flecha de bronce, puntas de lanza y hondas en el lugar e incluso hay algunas incrustadas en las fortificaciones, lo que sugiere algún tipo de conflicto. Las fechas de estas, en torno a 1250 AEC, y la destrucción del lugar se relacionan con las fechas que sugiere Heródoto para la guerra de Troya. Los conflictos a lo largo de los siglos entre los micénicos y los hititas son bastante probables y bien pueden haber sido el origen de la épica guerra de Troya en la mitología griega. No hay muchos indicios que indiquen una guerra a gran escala, pero la posibilidad de que hubiera conflictos menores es evidente en los textos hititas en los que se reconoce que "Ahhiyawa" hace referencia a los griegos micénicos y que "Wilusa" es la región de la cual Ilios es la capital. Estos documentos hablan de disturbios locales y el apoyo micénico de una rebelión local contra el control hitita en el área de Troya, y sugieren un posible motivo para la rivalidad local entre estas dos civilizaciones. Algo interesante es que también hay una espada micénica de bronce que se ha llevado como botín de guerra encontrada en Hattusa, la capital hitita. Troya VIIa (c. 1300-1180 AEC) y Troya VIIb (c. 1180-950 AEC) ambas muestran un aumento en el tamaño de la ciudad inferior y una cierta reconstrucción de las fortificaciones, pero también una marcada disminución en la calidad arquitectónica y artística con respecto a Troya VI. Por ejemplo, se produce una vuelta a la cerámica hecha a mano tras siglos de artículos hechos en un torno. De nuevo, esto está bien relacionado con la tradición griega de que después de la guerra de Troya la ciudad fue saqueada y abandonada, al menos por un tiempo. Tanto Troya VIIa como Troya VIIb fueron destruidas por incendios. Troya VIII y Troya IX (c. 950 AEC a 550 EC) son los emplazamientos del Ilión griego y el Ilium romano respectivamente. Hay indicios de que la zona estuvo poblada a finales de la Edad Antigua, pero el asentamiento no recuperó un nivel de desarrollo significativo hasta el siglo VIII AEC. Sin embargo, la antigua Troya nunca se olvidó. Heródoto dice que el rey persa Jerjes sacrificó más de mil bueyes en el lugar antes de su invasión de Grecia, y Alejandro Magno también visitó el lugar antes de su expedición en la dirección opuesta para conquistar Asia. Un templo dórico dedicado a Atenea se construyó a principios del siglo III AEC junto con fortificaciones nuevas bajo Lisímaco (c. 301-280 AEC). Los romanos también admiraban Troya e incluso se referían a ella como la "sagrada Ilium". De acuerdo con la tradición romana, el héroe troyano Eneas, hijo de Venus, huyó de Troya y se asentó en Italia, proporcionando así a los romanos un linaje divino. Julio César en 48 AEC y el emperador Augusto (que reinó de 27 AEC a 14 EC) reconstruyeron gran parte de la ciudad, y Adriano (que reinó 117-138 EC) también añadió algunos edificios incluidos un odeón, un gimnasio y baños. El emperador Constantino (que reinó 324-337 EC) llegó incluso a planear la construcción de su nueva capital en Troya, y se iniciaron algunas obras hasta que se eligió Constantinopla en su lugar. Con el tiempo el lugar fue en declive, probablemente porque el puerto se había encenagado y la que una vez fuera la gran ciudad de Troya se acabó abandonando, y pasarían 1500 años antes de volver a descubrirse. ¡Suscríbete a nuestro boletín electrónico semanal gratuito! Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQSign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendationsSign inSuggest an edit or add missing contentYou have no recently viewed pages Geography & Travel Cities & Towns Cities & Towns T-Z Troy, ancient city in northwestern Anatolia that holds an enduring place in both literature and archaeology. It occupied a key position on trade routes between Europe and Asia. The legend of the Trojan War, fought between the Greeks and the people of Troy, is the most notable theme from ancient Greek literature and forms the basis of Homer’s Iliad. Although the actual nature and size of the historical settlement remain matters of scholarly debate, the ruins of Troy at Hisarlık, Turkey, are a key archaeological site whose many layers illustrate the gradual development of civilization in northwestern Asia Minor. The extensive and complex ruins are open to visitors, and there is a museum on the site. There is much potential for future excavations. The ruins of Troy were enrolled as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1998. Ancient Troy commanded a strategic point at the southern entrance to the Dardanelles (Hellespont), a narrow strait linking the Black Sea with the Aegean Sea via the Sea of Marmara. The city also commanded a land route that ran north along the west Anatolian coast and crossed the narrowest point of the Dardanelles to the European shore. In theory, Troy would have been able to use its site astride these two lines of communication to exact tolls from trading vessels and other travelers using them; the actual extent to which this took place, however, remains unclear. The Troad (Greek: Troias; “Land of Troy”) is the district formed by the northwestern projection of Asia Minor into the Aegean Sea. The present-day ruins of Troy itself occupy the western end of a low descending ridge in the extreme northwest corner of the Troad. Less than 4 miles (6 km) to the west, across the plain of the Scamander River (Küçükmenderes Çayı), is the Aegean Sea, and toward the north are the narrows of the Dardanelles. HisarlıkAncient ruins at Hisarlık, the site of historical Troy, in Turkey.The approximate location of Troy was well known from references in works by ancient Greek and Latin authors, including Homer, Herodotus, and Strabo. But the exact site of the city remained unidentified until modern times. A large mound, known locally as Hisarlık, had long been understood to hold the ruins of a city named Ilion or Ilium that had flourished in Hellenistic and Roman times. In 1822 Charles Maclaren suggested that this was the site of Homeric Troy, but for the next 50 years his suggestion received little attention from Classical scholars, most of whom regarded the Trojan legend as a mere fictional creation based on myth, not history. Those who did believe in the existence of a real Troy thought it to be at Bunarbashi (Pınarbaşı), a short distance south of Hisarlık. It took Frank Calvert, a scholarly amateur archaeologist, until 1860 to begin exploratory work on Hisarlık. It was he who persuaded the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann to work at Hisarlık, though Schliemann soon took full credit for adopting Maclaren’s identification and demonstrating to the world that it was correct. (Not until the late 20th century was the full extent of Calvert’s role widely known.) In seven major and two minor campaigns between 1870 and 1890, Schliemann conducted excavations on a large scale mainly in the central area of the Hisarlık mound, where he exposed the remains of a walled citadel. After Schliemann’s death in 1890, the excavations were continued (1893–94) by his colleague Wilhelm Dörpfeld and later (1932–38) by an expedition from the University of Cincinnati headed by Carl W. Blegen. After a lapse of some 50 years, excavations resumed (1988–2005) under the leadership of University of Tübingen archaeologist Manfred Korfmann and continued after his death. National Parks and Landmarks Quiz Questions of Troy’s physical size, population, and stature as a trade entrepôt and regional power became subjects of intense scholarly dispute following the resumption of excavations at Hisarlık in the late 1980s. Although Homeric Troy was described as a wealthy and populous city, by this time some scholars had come to accept the probability of a lesser Troy—a relatively minor settlement, perhaps a princely seat. Beginning in 1988, Korfmann’s team investigated the terrain surrounding the citadel site in search of wider settlement. Korfmann’s findings at Hisarlık, drawn from geomagnetic surveying and isolated excavations, led him to conclude in favour of a greater Troy—that is, a settlement of some size and prosperity. His presentation of this perspective in a 2001 exhibition, accompanied by a controversial model reconstruction of the city, sparked especially intense scholarly debate over the city’s true nature. Before excavations began, the mound rose to a height of 105 feet (32 metres) above the plain. It contained a vast accumulation of debris that was made up of many clearly distinguishable layers. Schliemann and Dörpfeld identified a sequence of nine principal strata, representing nine periods during which houses were built, occupied, and ultimately destroyed. At the end of each period when a settlement was destroyed (usually by fire or earthquake or both), the survivors, rather than clear the wreckage down to the floors, merely leveled it out and then built new houses upon it. The nine major periods of ancient Troy are labeled I to IX, starting from the bottom with the oldest settlement, Troy I. In periods I to VII Troy was a fortified stronghold that served as the capital of the Troad and the residence of a king, his family, officials, advisers, retinue, and slaves. Most of the local population, however, were farmers who lived in unfortified villages nearby and took refuge in the citadel in times of danger. Troy I to V corresponds roughly to the Early Bronze Age (c. 3000 to 1900 bce). The citadel of Troy I was small, not more than 300 feet (90 metres) in diameter. It was enclosed by a massive wall with gateways and flanking towers and contained perhaps 20 rectangular houses. Troy II was twice as large and had higher, sloping stone walls protecting an acropolis on which stood the king’s palace and other princely residences, which were built of brick in a megaron plan. This city came to an end through fire, and Schliemann mistakenly identified it with Homer’s Troy. In the “burnt layer’s” debris were found a trove of gold jewelry and ornaments and gold, silver, copper, bronze, and ceramic vessels that Schliemann named “Priam’s treasure.” The burning of Troy II seems to have been followed by an economic decline; each of the citadels of Troy III, IV, and V was fortified and somewhat larger than its predecessor, but the houses inside the walls were much smaller and more closely packed than in Troy II. Troy VI and VII may be assigned to the Middle and Late Bronze Age (c. 1900 to 1100 bce). Troy at this time had new and vigorous settlers who introduced domesticated horses to the Aegean area. They further enlarged the city and erected a magnificent circuit of cut limestone walls that were 15 feet (4.5 metres) thick at the base, rose to a height of more than 17 feet (5 metres), and had brick ramparts and watchtowers. Inside the citadel, which was now about 650 feet (200 metres) long and 450 feet (140 metres) wide, great houses were laid out on ascending, concentric terraces. Troy VI was destroyed by a violent earthquake a little after 1300 bce. Dörpfeld had identified this stage as Homeric Troy, but its apparent destruction by an earthquake does not agree with the realistic account of the sack of Troy in Greek tradition. Moreover, the city’s date, as indicated by imported Mycenaean pottery found in the earthquake debris, is too early for the Trojan War. The survivors of the earthquake quickly rebuilt the town, thus inaugurating the short-lived Troy VIIa. The ruins were leveled and covered over by new buildings, which were set close together and filled all available space inside the fortress. Almost every house was provided with one or several huge storage jars that were sunk deep into the ground, with only their mouths above the level of the floor. Troy VIIa probably lasted little more than a generation. The crowding together of houses and the special measures to store up food supplies suggest that preparations had been made to withstand a siege. The town was destroyed in a devastating fire, and remnants of human bones found in some houses and streets strengthen the impression that the town was captured, looted, and burnt by enemies. Based on the evidence of imported Mycenaean pottery, the end of Troy VIIa can be dated to between 1260 and 1240 bce. The Cincinnati expedition under Blegen concluded that Troy VIIa was very likely the capital of King Priam described in Homer’s Iliad, which was destroyed by the Greek armies of Agamemnon. The partly rebuilt Troy VIIb shows evidence of new settlers with a lower level of material culture, who vanished altogether by 1100 bce. For about the next four centuries the site was virtually abandoned. About 700 bce Greek settlers began to occupy the Troad. Troy was reoccupied and given the Hellenized name of Ilion; this Greek settlement is known as Troy VIII. The Romans sacked Ilion in 85 bce, but it was partially restored by the Roman general Sulla that same year. This Romanized town, known as Troy IX, received fine public buildings from the emperor Augustus and his immediate successors, who traced their ancestry back to the Trojan Aeneas. After the founding of Constantinople (324 ce), Ilion faded into obscurity. During pregnancy, Godwin was diagnosed with eosinophilic fasciitis, an extremely rare autoimmune disorder with only a few hundred documented cases worldwide. The condition caused widespread inflammation, severe pain and significant physical limitations—including difficulty using her hands and arms. The recovery was long and uncertain. “I was so upset. I was only 21 and I felt like my life was over,” she said. “But I told myself, if I get better, I'm going to go do that thing I was scared to do. And I'm not just going to do it—I'm going to do it well.” And she did. After five years of treatment, Godwin achieved remission in May 2023. She returned to school with a renewed fire to become an interpreter—not just for herself, but to serve others who, like her, had felt isolated, misunderstood or unseen. That determination and heart were recently recognized at the College of Education Honors Convocation, where Godwin was named the Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Interpreter Training. It was a moment that honored her academic excellence, leadership and growth—both personal and professional. Read More