

MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION

MYCENAE

TROY

HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN

- *1822-1890*
- *RICH GERMAN INDUSTRIALIST*
- *EXCAVATED TROY AND MYCENAE*
- *ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF ARCHAEOLOGY*





THREE AEGEAN CIVILIZATIONS—TROY, CRETE, AND MYCENAE

Troy

ASIA MINOR

GREECE

AEGEAN SEA

Mycenae

Tiryns

Pylos

Knossos

CRETE

Mallia

Hagia Triada

Phaistos

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

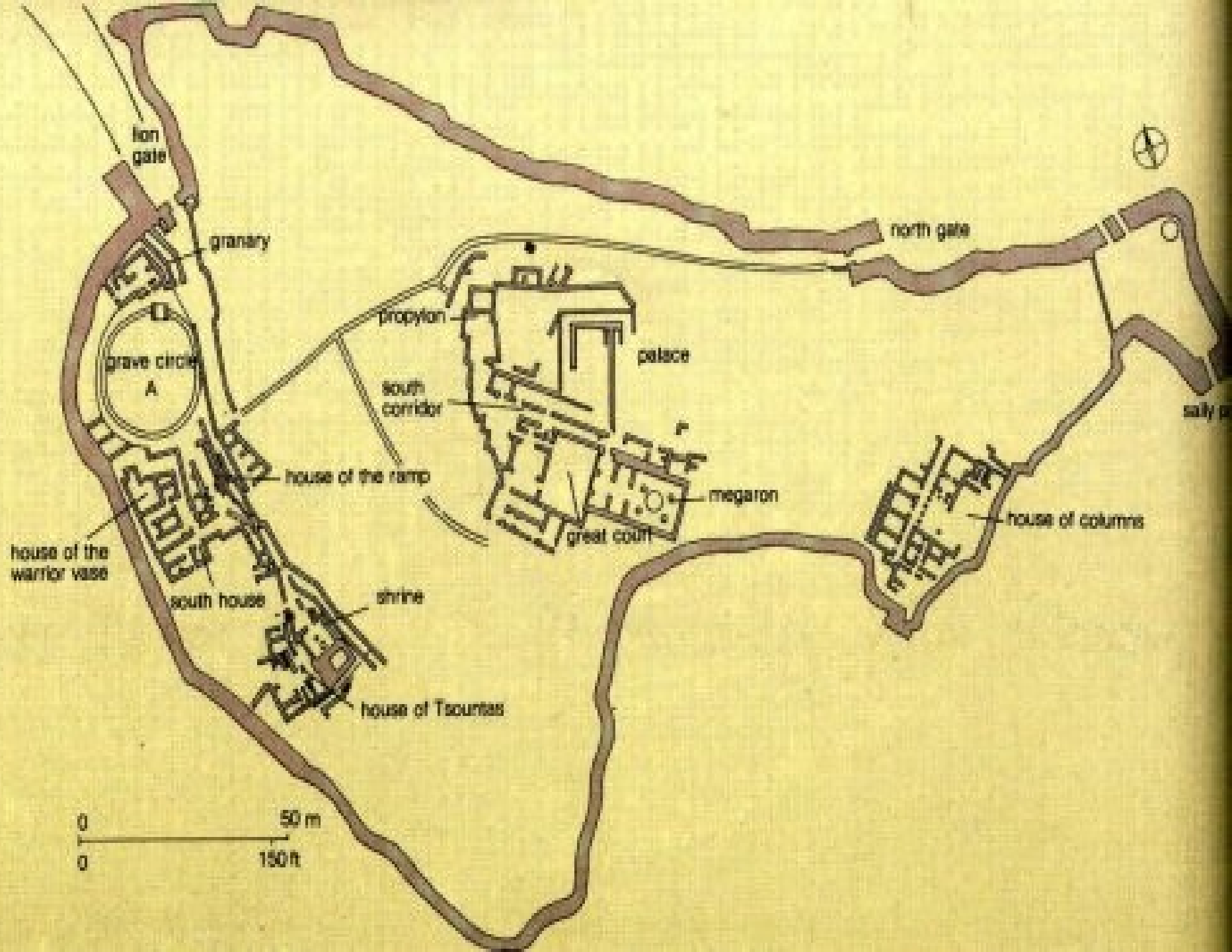
AFRICA

MYCENAEANS

- *INVADED AND SETTLED IN GREECE
2000-1500 B.C.E*
- *CIVILIZATION BEGAN TO RISE
ABOUT THE TIME OF THE END OF
THE MINOAN CIVILIZATION*
- *BUILT LARGE WALLED CITIES*
- *WILL BE CONQUERORED BY THE
DORIANS WHO USED IRON*

MYCENAE

CITY OF AGAMEMNON?



Mycenae ●

Mycivva

THE FORTIFIED PALACE complex of Mycenae, uncovered by the archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann (see p.180) in 1874, is one of the earliest examples of sophisticated citadel architecture. The term "Mycenaean," more properly late Bronze Age, applies to an entire culture spanning the years 1700–1100 BC. Only the ruling class inhabited this hilltop palace, with artisans and merchants living just outside the city walls. It was abandoned in 1100 BC after a period of great disruption in the region.



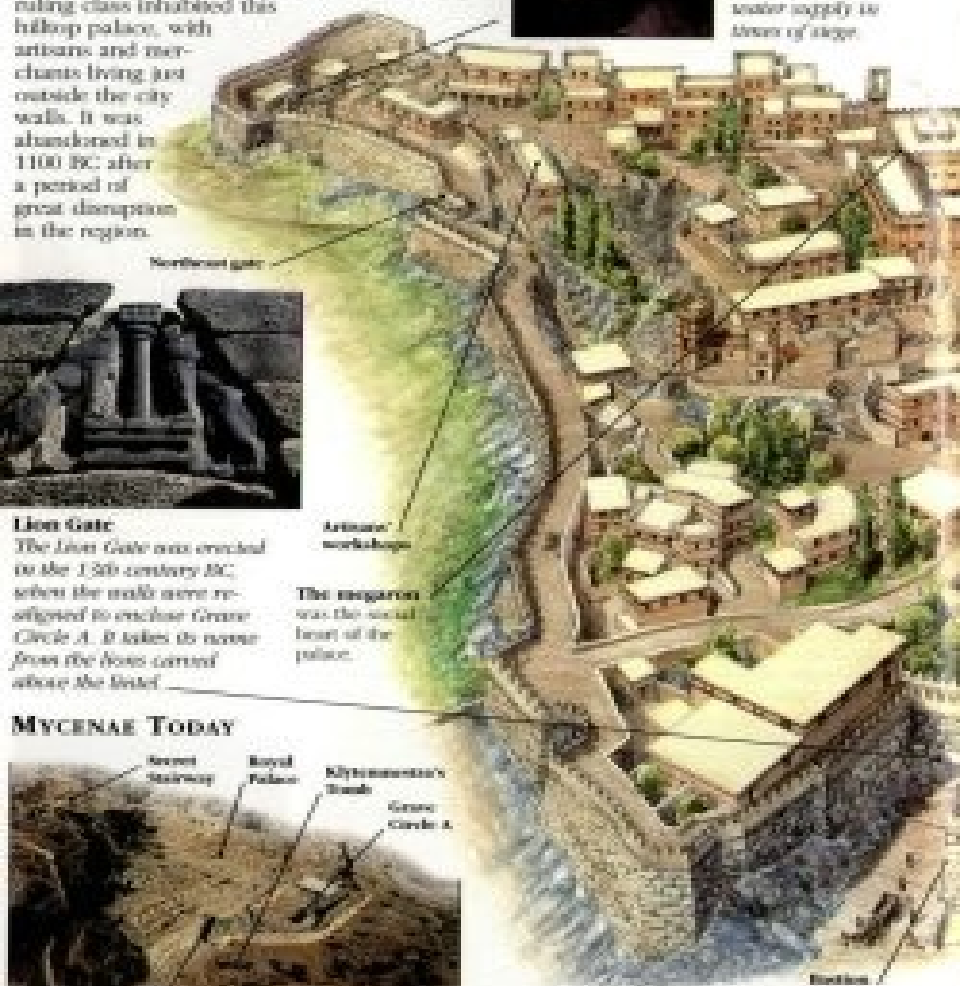
Secret Stairway
A flight of 99 steps drops to a cistern deep beneath the citadel. Connected by pipes to a spring outside, the cistern was added to protect the water supply in times of siege.



Royal Palace
Situated at the acropolis summit, only the floor remains of this central structure. Burnt masonry dating to its destruction in 1200 BC are still visible on the floor.

Visitors' Checklist

2 km (1 mile) N of Mycenae, Peloponnese. Road map 04.
 ☎ 071 26200 ☒ 00
 Access: ☐ Apr–Sep–Oct daily, May–Oct–Nov–Jan daily, Nov–Mar–Apr–Jun daily
 ● Sat 1, Mar 25, Good Friday, Easter Sun, May 1, Sep 29, 30
 ☎ ☒ ☑ Treasury of Atreus only



Northwest gate



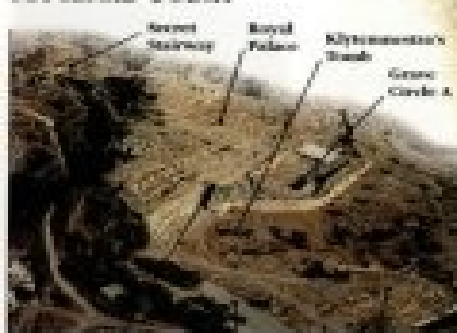
Lion Gate

The Lion Gate was erected in the 1250 century BC, when the walls were re-erected to enclose Grave Circle A. It takes its name from the lions carved above the lintel.

Artisan's workshop

The megaron was the social heart of the palace.

MYCENAE TODAY



Lion Gate Path to the Treasury of Atreus Grave Circle B

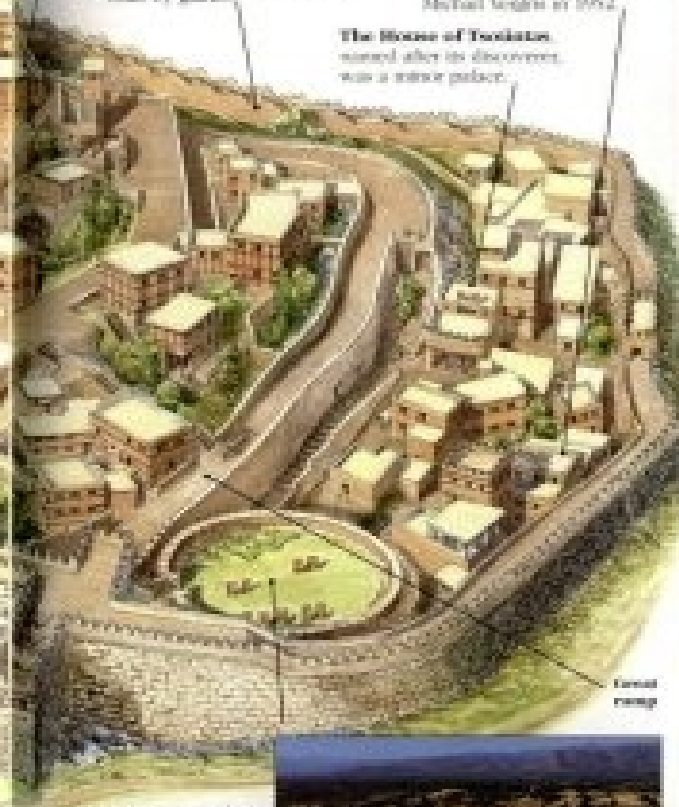
RECONSTRUCTION OF MYCENAE

This illustration shows Mycenae as it was in the time of the House of Atreus and the 1250 BC Trojan War (see pp.54–55). Most tombs lie outside the walls (see p.180).

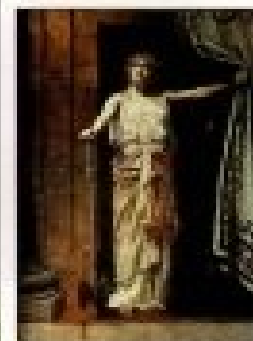
The "Cyclopean" walls, up to 14 m (46 ft) wide, were unbreachable. Later Greeks imagined that they had been built by giants.

The houses of Mycenae yielded a number of tablets inscribed with an archaic script, known as Linear B, deciphered by Michael Ventris in 1952.

The House of Teuklos, named after its discoverer, was a minor palace.



The House of Teuklos, named after its discoverer, was a minor palace.



Mycenaeans, after murdering her husband, Agamemnon

THE CURSE OF THE HOUSE OF ATREUS

King Atreus slaughtered his brother Thyestes's children and fed them to him; for this outrage the gods laid a curse on Atreus and his descendants (see p.180). Thyestes's surviving daughter, Pelopia, bore her own father a son, Agamemnon, who murdered Atreus and restored Thyestes to the throne of Mycenae. But Atreus also had an heir, the energetic Agamemnon, who seized power.

Agamemnon raised a fleet to punish the Trojan Paris, who had stolen his brother's wife, Helen. He sacrificed his daughter to obtain a favorable wind. When he returned he was murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra, and her lover – none other than Agamemnon. The murderous pair were in turn disposed of by Agamemnon's children, Orestes and Elektra.

Grave Circle A
This contained six royal family shaft-graves containing 29 bodies. The 24 kg (53 lb) of gold jewelry goods are on display in Athens (see p.70).









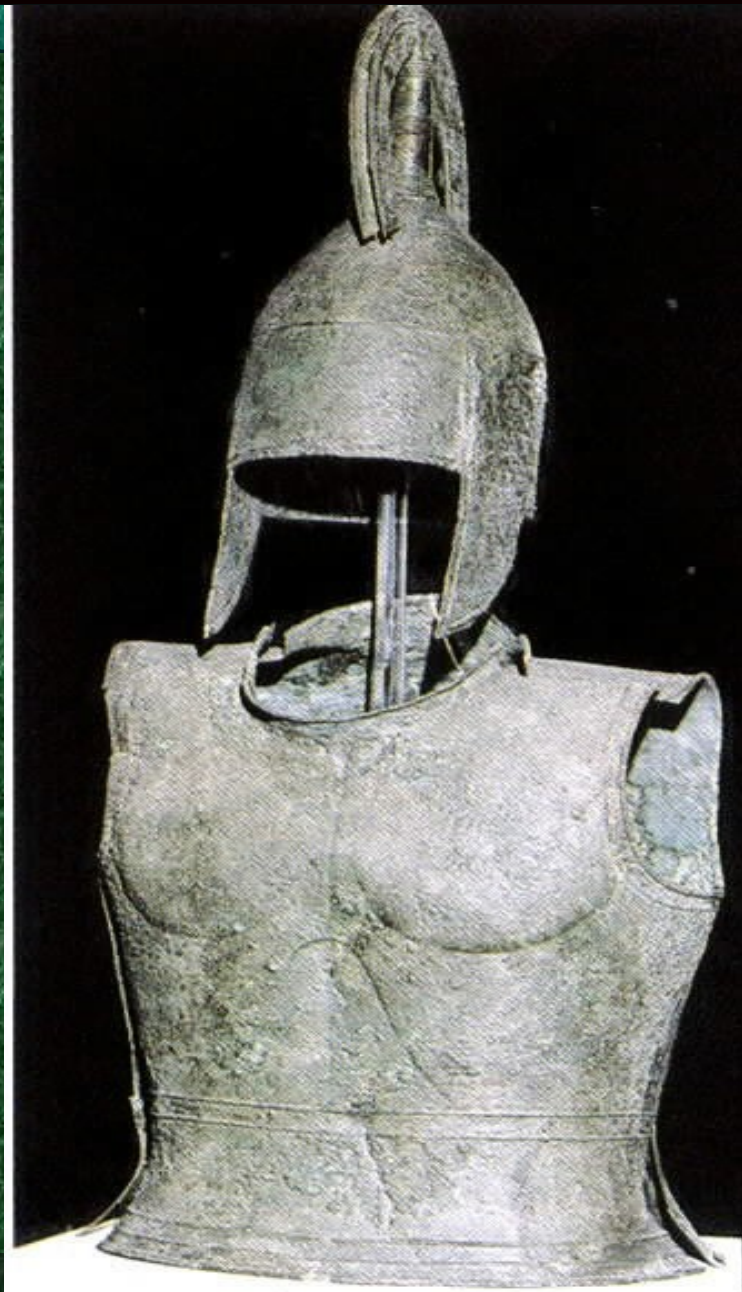








EKDOTIKE ATHENON S.A.,
NAUPLION MUSEUM

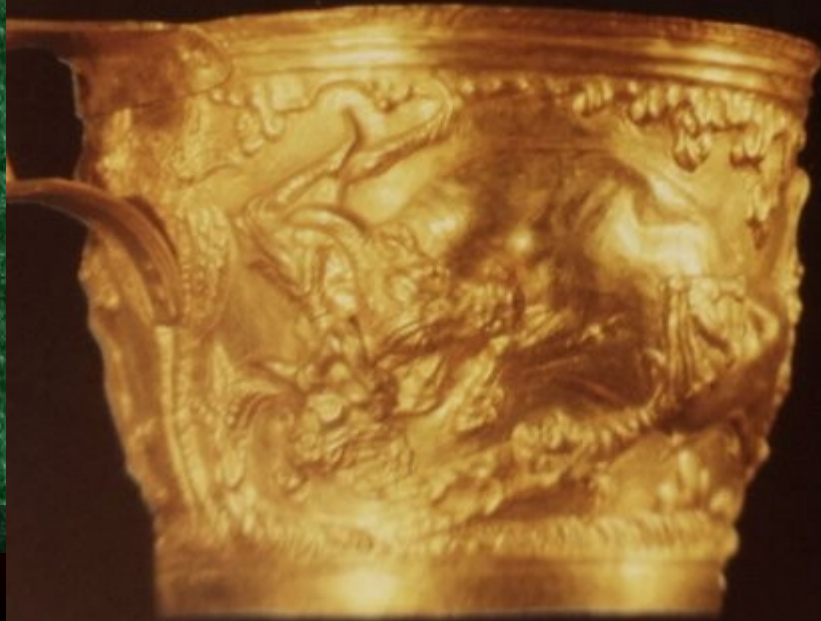




EKDOTIKE ATHENON S.A.,
NAUPLION MUSEUM







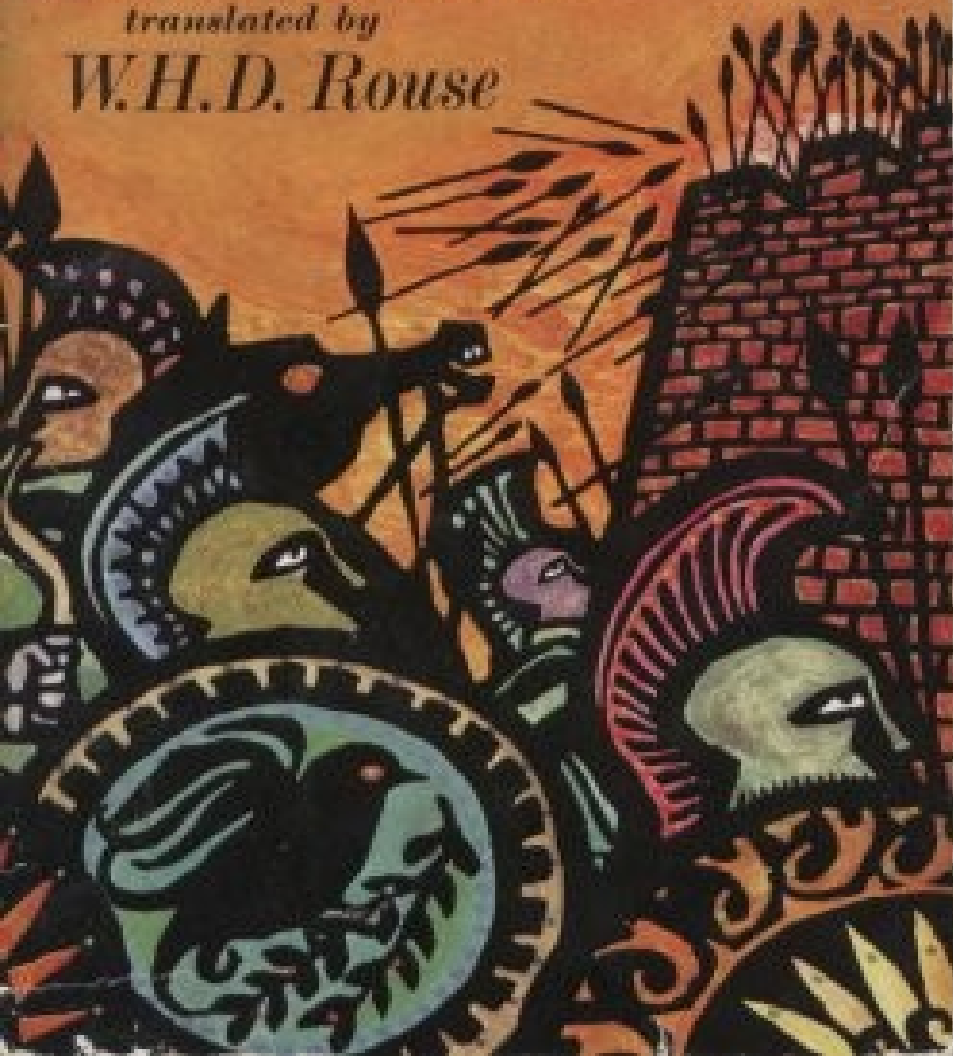
TROJAN WAR

A MENTOR CLASSIC

MP441
60c

Homer
The Iliad

translated by
W.H.D. Rouse

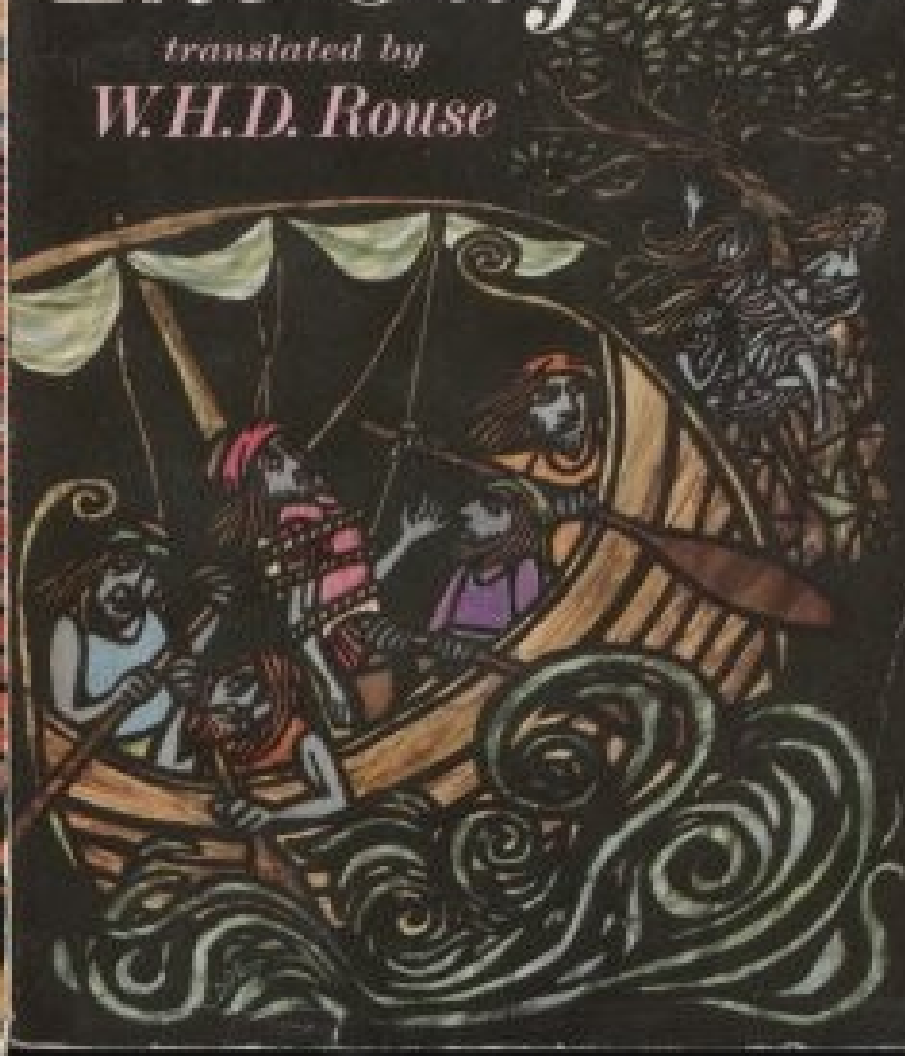


A MENTOR CLASSIC

MP441
60c

Homer
The Odyssey

translated by
W.H.D. Rouse



MT348
75¢

THE AENEID



VERGIL'S GREAT EPIC
POEM CONCERNING THE
ADVENTURES OF THE
TROJAN HERO AENEAS
IN A NEW TRANSLATION
BY PATRIC DICKINSON

A MENTOR CLASSIC

THE WAR AT TROY

What Homer
Didn't Tell

Quintus of Smyrna

Translated, and with an Introduction and Notes,
by Frederick M. Combellack