

**ARGONAUTS
IN FINLAND**

Stuart L Harris

Stuart L Harris

Table of Contents

The four-month voyage of Jason and the Argonauts to fetch the golden fleece at Colchis began in southwest Finland, in the Commune of Perniö, at the harbor of Pegasae, on the Aegean Sea.

The Argonauts voyaged down the Hellespont, up the Sea of Marmara, up the river Bosporos, across three lakes to Lycus, then sped downstream to Colchis near Salo.

When Aeëtes refused to sell the fleece, Jason stole it with the aid of Medea. Her brother Absyrtus pursued the Argo until Medea killed him.

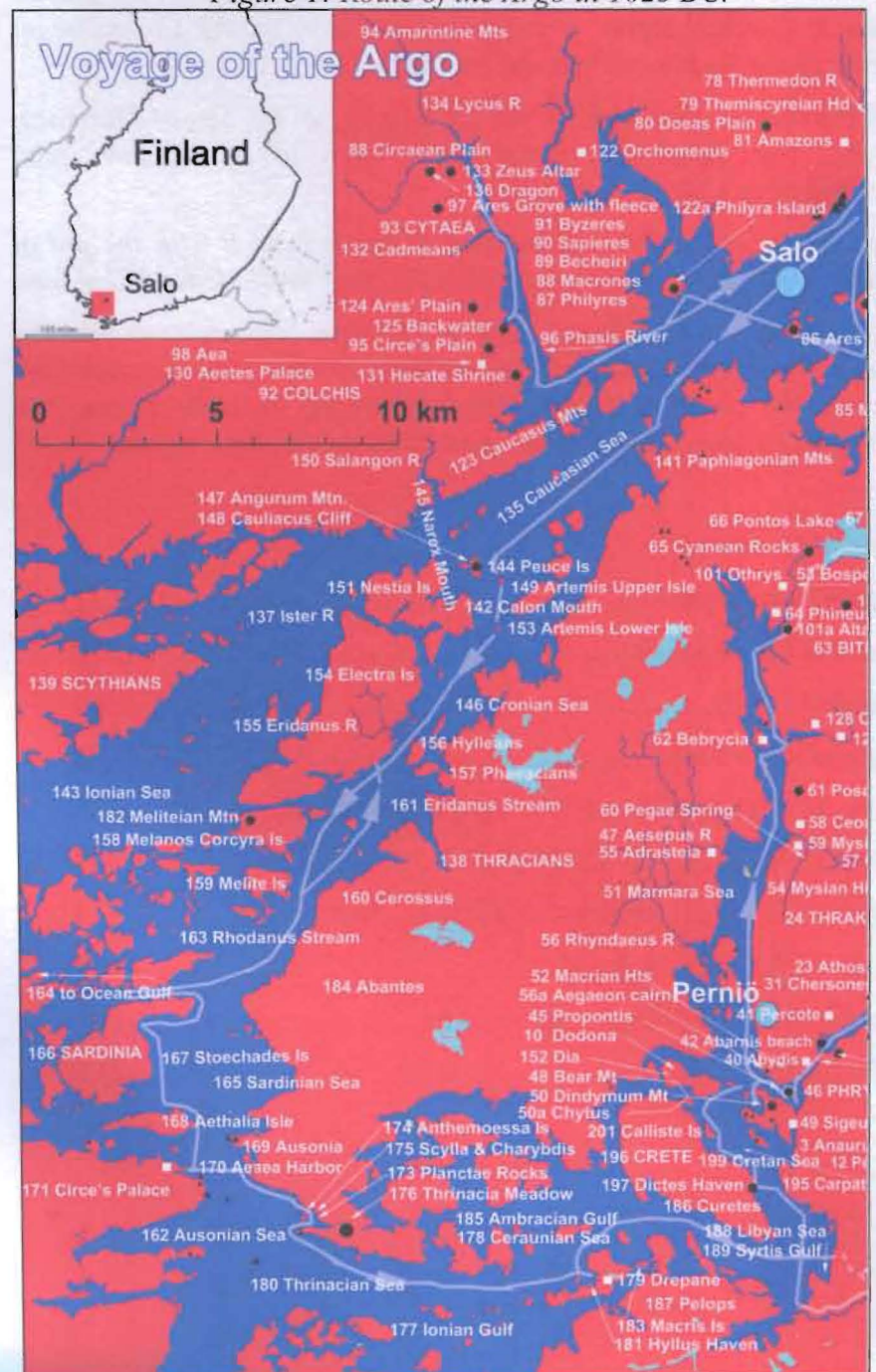
They returned on a different route to Drepane, where Jason married Medea. The Argo had almost reached home when a storm stranded the ship on the coast of Libya. After portaging to Lake Triton, the Argonauts resumed their journey past Crete to the Aegean Sea.

Table of Contents

Argonauts in Finland.....	7
Jason and the Argonauts.....	32
Location of Troy.....	34
Origin of Argonauts.....	36
Book 1: Assembly of the Argonauts.....	43
Book 2: Voyage to Colchis.....	83
Book 3: Defeat of the Earthborn Men.....	129
Book 4: Return voyage.....	159
Appendix I: Index of topographic maps.....	207
Bibliography.....	211

Argonauts in Finland

Figure 1: Route of the Argo in 1023 BC.



Argonauts in Finland

Felice Vinci drew a map of Scandinavia with place names from Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. He matched a hundred modern names with those from the List of Ships in Book 2 of the Iliad. This list of begins north of Stockholm and proceeds counter-clockwise around the Baltic Sea to Finland. Troy was in southwest Finland near Troija. (Felice Vinci, 1995, Homer in the Baltic)

Figure 2: Map of Homeric Greece.



Argonauts in Finland

Stuart A. Munro

11-12

13-14

15-16

17-18

19-20

21-22

23-24

25-26

27-28

29-30

31-32

33-34

35-36

37-38

39-40

41-42

43-44

45-46

47-48

49-50

51-52

53-54

55-56

57-58

59-60

61-62

63-64

65-66

67-68

69-70

71-72

73-74

75-76

77-78

79-80

81-82

83-84

85-86

87-88

89-90

91-92

Argonauts in Finland
4-month voyage
200 places identified
27 cities reconstructed

Stuart L. Harris

Zadar, Croatia
Nis, Serbia
Visoko, Bosnia
Durrës, Albania
Doncaster, England
Carnwath, Scotland
Graz, Austria

September 2024

Argonauts in Finland

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Cover by Stuart Harris, map of the Argo route in red and blue

Other books:

Etruscan Translations (2013)

Val Camonica Translations (2013)

Dale and Eckenrode: American Pioneer Ancestry (2015)

Old European Decipherment (2016)

Pictish Ogham Decipherment (2016)

Glozel Tablets Decipherment (2017)

Argonautica Deciphered (2024)

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Argonauts in Finland.....	7
Table of Contents.....	9
Length of Travel.....	23
About the Author.....	25
Acknowledgement.....	26
Preface.....	27
Jason and the Argonauts.....	32
Introduction.....	32
Location of Troy.....	34
Troy was not in Turkey.....	34
Troy was not in England.....	34
Troy was in Finland.....	35
Origin of Argonauts.....	36
Migration from Portugal.....	36
Copper miners, ship builders and traders.....	37
The Way of St James.....	37
Background of Jason.....	39
1 Pelion, Mount.....	39
2 Cheiron's School.....	40
Book 1: Assembly of the Argonauts.....	43
3 Anaurus River.....	43
4 Iolcos.....	43
66 Pontos.....	43
65 Cyanean Rocks.....	43
5 Pegasae Harbor.....	46
6 Delos.....	46
7 Lycia lake.....	46
8 Xanthos stream.....	46
9 Hellas = Achaea.....	48
10 Dodona.....	51
11 Tisaeon headland.....	52
12 Pelasgia.....	52
1 Pelion Mountain.....	53
13 Sepian Headland.....	53
14.Sciathus island.....	53
15 Magnesia.....	53
16 Aphetæ of Argo beach.....	54
17 Meliboea heights.....	55
18 Homole flats.....	55
19 Amyrus river.....	56
20 Eurymenæ mountain.....	56

Argonauts in Finland

21 Pallene Hills = Phlegra.....	56
22 Canastra.....	56
23 Athos Peak.....	57
24 Thrace.....	57
25 Lemnos.....	57
26 Myrine.....	58
27 Oenoe Island.....	58
28 Aegean Sea.....	61
29 Island of Electra, Samothrake.....	63
29a Black Gulf.....	64
24 Thrace.....	64
30 Imbros.....	64
31 Chersonesus.....	65
32 Rhoeteian Shore.....	65

City of Troy next to Ida.....

33 Ida Mountain.....	66
34 Troija.....	66
35 Scamander River.....	66
8 Xanthos River.....	66
36 Simois River.....	66
37 Ilion.....	66
38 Pohjola.....	66
39 Dardania.....	67
40 Abydus.....	67
41 Percote.....	67
42 Abarnis sandy beach.....	67
43 Pityeia Devine.....	67
44 Hellespont.....	68
45 Propontis.....	69
46 Phrygian mainland.....	69
47 Aesepus River.....	69
48 Bear Mountain.....	69
49 Sigeum.....	70
50 Dindymum.....	72
50a Chytus.....	72
51 Marmara Sea.....	75
52 Macrian Heights.....	75
53 Bosporos.....	75
54 Mysian Hills.....	75
47 Aesepus river.....	75
55 Adrasteia.....	75
56 Rhyndaeus River.....	77
56a Aegaeon cairn.....	77
57 Cios River.....	78
58 Mysians.....	78

Table of Contents

56	59 Pegae Spring.....	79
56	60 Posideian Headland.....	79
57	61 Ceos.....	81
57	Book 2: Voyage to Colchis.....	83
57	62 Bebrycia.....	83
58	53 Bosporos River.....	85
58	63 Bithynia.....	85
61	64 Phineus home.....	86
63	Instructions by Phineus	88
64	65 Cyanean Rocks.....	89
64	66 Pontos.....	90
65	63 Bithynia.....	90
65	67 Rhebas River.....	90
66	68 Thynias Island.....	90
66	69 Mariandyni.....	90
66	70 Hades.....	90
66	71 Acherusia Headland #1.....	93
66	72 Acheron River #1.....	93
66	73 Paphlagonians.....	93
66	74 Helice the Bear.....	94
66	75 Carambis Headland.....	94
67	76 Aegialus River.....	94
67	77 Halys River.....	94
67	78 Thermodon River.....	95
67	79 Themiscyreian Headland.....	95
67	80 Doeas Plain.....	95
68	81 Amazons.....	95
69	82 Chalybes.....	96
69	83 Genetaean Headland of Zeus.....	96
69	84 Tibareni.....	96
69	85 Mossynoeci.....	96
70	86 Stone temple of Ares.....	97
72	87 Philyres.....	98
72	88 Macrones.....	98
75	89 Becheiri.....	98
75	90 Sapeires.....	98
75	91 Byzeres.....	98
75	92 Colchians.....	98
75	93 Cytaea.....	99
75	94 Amarantine Mts.....	99
77	95 Circe's Plain.....	99
77	96 Phasis River.....	99
78	97 Grove of Ares with Fleece.....	99
78	98 Aea (Cytaean Aeëtes).....	99

Argonauts in Finland

End of instructions by Phineus.....100

The Tale of Cyrene and Aristaeus.....100

99 Libya.....100

2 Stone house of Cheiron.....101

100 Athamantian Plain.....101

63 Phthia = Bithynia.....101

101 Othrys.....101

53 Apidanus river = Bosporos.....101

58 Ceos.....101

101 Othrys.....101

Byzantium.....104

101 Othrys - How did it vanish?.....104

101a Altar to the blessed twelve.....106

65 Cyanean Rocks.....106

67 Rhebas River.....107

102 Colone Peak.....107

103 Melaena, Black Headland.....107

104 Phyllis River.....107

105 Calpe Plain.....108

68 Thynias Isle.....108

106 Sangarius River.....109

69 Mariandyni.....109

107 Eastern Lake.....109

108 Acherusian Headland #2.....109

109 Bithynian Lake.....109

110 Acheron #2.....109

111 Lycus Stream.....111

112 Anthemoesian Lake.....111

113 Lycus.....112

114 Idmon Barrow.....112

115 Acheron River #3.....114

116 Callichorus River.....114

117 Sthenelus Barrow.....115

118 Apollo Altar.....115

119 Lyra.....115

120 Parthenius River.....116

75 Carambis Headland.....116

76 Aegialus River.....116

121 Assyria.....117

79 Themiscyreian Headland.....117

78 Thermodon River.....117

82 Chalybes.....119

83 Genetaean Headland.....120

84 Tibareni.....120

85 Mossynoeci.....120

Table of Contents

86 Ares Island.....	120
Ares background.....	121
122 Orchomenus.....	122
98 Aea, Cytaean Aeëtes.....	122
92 Colchis.....	122
86 Ares' Temple.....	123
122a Philyra Island.....	125
88 Macrones.....	126
123 Caucasian Mountains.....	126
89 Phasis River.....	126
123 Caucasus Mountains.....	127
98 Aea.....	127
124 Ares' Plain.....	127
97 Sacred Grove.....	127
125 Backwater.....	128
Book 3: Defeat of the Earthborn Men.....	129
126 Olympos.....	130
127 Mount Olympos.....	130
128 Cypris Palace.....	130
129 Hephaestus Forge.....	130
95 Circe's Plain.....	132
130 Aeëtes Palace.....	133
86 Enyalios Isle with Ares Temple.....	135
Aeëtes test.....	136
124 Ares' Plain.....	136
Medea enlisted.....	137
97 Oak grove above the wooded hill.....	138
Achaean Land - Commune of Perniö.....	139
Medea fears the wrath of her father.....	141
131 Hecate's Shrine.....	143
Medea goes to Hecate's Shrine.....	144
Jason goes to Hecate's Shrine.....	146
131 Hecate's Shrine.....	146
122 Orchomenus.....	148
132 Cadmeians.....	150
Cadmean history.....	150
Preparation for the test.....	153
124 Ares' Plain.....	156
Yoking the bulls.....	157
Battle with Earthborn Men.....	158
Book 4: Return voyage.....	159
Medea joins the Argonauts.....	159
97 Sacred grove of oaks.....	161
133 Zeus's Altar.....	161

Argonauts in Finland

134 Lycus River.....	161
135 Caucasian Sea.....	161
136 Dragon.....	162
77 Halys River.....	164
136a Paphlagonians.....	164

Argus tale of the time before Moon..... 165

Heriä < Hereä 'Abundant' = Poland.....	165
137 Ister River.....	168
138 Thracians.....	168
139 Scythians.....	168
140 Ionian Sea.....	168
141 Paphlagonian Mountains.....	170
142 Calon Mouth.....	170
143 Ionian Sea.....	170
142 Calon Mouth.....	171
144 Peuce.....	171
145 Narex Mouth.....	171
146 Cronian Sea.....	171
147 Angurum Mountain at Peuce.....	171
148 Cauliacus Cliff at Peuce.....	171
149 Artemis Upper Isle.....	172
150 Salangon River.....	172
151 Nestia Island.....	172
152 Dia.....	173
153 Artemis Lower Isle.....	174
154 Electra's Isle.....	176
155 Eridanus River.....	176
156 Hylleans.....	177
157 Phaeacians.....	177

Aigaios River in Norway..... 177

158 Melanos Corcyra, 'Black Corcyra'.....	179
159 Melite Island.....	179
160 Cerossus.....	179
154 Electra Island.....	179
10 Dodona.....	179
161 Eridanus Stream.....	179
162 Ausonian Sea.....	179
163 Rhodanus Stream.....	180
164 to Gulf of Ocean.....	180
165 Sardinian Sea.....	180
166 Sardinia.....	180
167 Stoechades Islands.....	180
168 Aethalia Island.....	181
169 Ausonia.....	181

Table of Contents

170 Aeaea Harbor.....	181
171 Circe's Palace.....	182
127 Mount Olympos.....	184
28 Aegean Sea.....	184
172 Elysian Isles.....	185
173 Planctae Rocks.....	187
174 Anthemoessa Island.....	187
175 Scylla and Charybdis.....	187
176 Thrinacia Meadow.....	188
177 Ionian Gulf.....	188
178 Ceraunian Sea.....	188
179 Drepane.....	188
180 Thrinacian Sea.....	189
181 Hyllus Haven.....	192
Aigaïos River- in Norway.....	192
76 Aegialus River.....	192
182 Meliteian Mount.....	192
183 Macris Isle.....	193
184 Abantes.....	194
185 Ambracian Gulf.....	194
186 Curete Land.....	195
187 Pelops Land.....	195
188 Libyan Sea.....	195
189 Syrtis Gulf.....	195
99 Libya.....	197
190 Portage from sea to lake.....	198
191 Triton Lake.....	198
192 Ladon Plain.....	199
193 Mopsus and Canthus Burial Mound.....	200
194 Triton River.....	201
195 Carpathus.....	202
196 Crete.....	202
197 Dicte's Haven.....	203
198 Salmone Height.....	205
199 Cretan Sea.....	205
200 Sporades.....	205
201 Calliste Island.....	206
Five geographic errors in sequence.....	207
Missing Pages.....	207
Appendix I: Index of topographic maps.....	207
Index of new topo maps.....	207
Index of old topo maps.....	207
Bibliography.....	211

Argonauts in Finland

List of Figures

Figure 1: Route of the Argo in 1023 BC.....	2
Figure 2: Map of Homeric Greece.....	4
Figure 3: The Argonauts traveled four months.....	23
Figure 4: Route of Argonauts used to calculate length of voyage.....	24
Figure 5: Location of Troy in Finland.....	35
Figure 6: The Way of St. James to Poland and Ireland.....	38
Figure 7: The land of Hellas surrounded the Aegean Sea in 1430 BC.....	39
Figure 8: Cheiron's school at Pelasgia.....	40
Figure 9: The Argonauts assembled and Argo was built at lolcos.....	43
Figure 10: Delos and its temple to Leto.....	47
Figure 11: Broad Lycia east of Mount Ida.....	47
Figure 12: Pegasae harbor.....	49
Figure 13: City of Dodona was north of Crete on the island of Dia.....	52
Figure 14: Pelasgia and lolcos cities.....	53
Figure 15: lolcos to Myrine.....	55
Figure 16: Pallene, aka Phlegra, the home of giants, has no palisade.....	57
Figure 17: Lemnos was an island when the Titans founded Phlegra.....	58
Figure 18: Oenoe Island lies a short distance away from Lemnos.....	59
Figure 19: Myrine and Imbros cities.....	60
Figure 20: Myrine to Dardania at Samothrake, where Electra lived.....	63
Figure 21: Kalevala, Samothrake, Dardania.....	64
Figure 22: Dardania to Percote.....	65
Figure 23: Troy, Ilion, and Pohjola.....	67
Figure 24: Percote.....	68
Figure 25: Percote to Sigeum, through the Hellespont.....	69
Figure 26: A tidal channel once connected the two ports of Sigeum.....	70
Figure 27: Bear Mountain resembles the head of a bear with an open jaw.....	70
Figure 28: Sigeum city and citadel.....	71
Figure 29: Sigeum to Dindymum.....	72
Figure 30: Sigeum Promontory view to Bosporos.....	74
Figure 31: Adrasteia had four large homes situated on hilltops.....	76
Figure 32: Dindymum to Mysia.....	77
Figure 33: Mysia beside the Cios River.....	78
Figure 34: Mysia to Bebrycia.....	80
Figure 35: The home of Ceos and Phoebe, now occupied by a church.....	81
Figure 36: Bebrycia, ruled by king Amycus.....	83
Figure 37: Bebrycia to Phineas home on Bosporos took one day.....	86
Figure 38: Phineus home on the Bosporos.....	87
Figure 40: Pontos to Thynias Island.....	90
Figure 41: Pontos to Hades (Helgard).....	91
Figure 42: Helgard, one kilometer from Asgard.....	92
Figure 43: Thynias to Eastern Sea.....	93
Figure 44: Helice the Bear, opposite Carambis Headland.....	94
Figure 45: Carambis Headland to Themiscyrian Headland.....	95

Table of Contents

Figure 46: Thermiscryan Headland to Thermodon River.....	96
Figure 47: Thermodon River to Enyalius Island.....	97
Figure 48: Enyalius Island had a Temple of Ares.....	98
Figure 49: Enyalius Island to Phasis Stream.....	99
Figure 50: Othrys, city of Cronus and Rhea.....	102
Figure 51: Lemnos catastrophes vs. Hekla eruptions.....	105
Figure 52: Altar to the Blessed Twelve.....	106
Figure 53: Athena pushes two rocks apart (Judy Nimtz).....	107
Figure 54: Pontos to Thynias Isle.....	108
Figure 55: Thynias Isle to Eastern Sea.....	109
Figure 56: Eastern Sea to Bithynian Sea.....	110
Figure 57: Bithynian Sea to Lycus.....	111
Figure 58: The city of Lycus.....	113
Figure 59: Bithynian Sea to Callichorus River.....	114
Figure 60: At Lyra, Orpheus dedicated his lyre to Apollo.....	115
Figure 61: Sthenelus Barrow.....	116
Figure 62: Lyra to Thermodon River.....	117
Figure 63: Thermodon River beside the Amazon Headland.....	118
Figure 64: Chalybes Iron-producing bogs; each name ends in -suo.....	119
Figure 65: Enyalius Island with Ares Temple.....	120
Figure 66: Faith Church built on top of Ares Temple.....	124
Figure 67: Enyalius to Phasis.....	126
Figure 68: Phasis River overview.....	127
Figure 69: Argo's secluded harbor on the Phasis river.....	128
Figure 70: Asgard in 6300 BC, future site of Olympos.....	129
Figure 71: Cypris' palace and Hephaestus' forge.....	131
Figure 72: Plain of Circe, Argo anchorage, and Aea.....	133
Figure 73: Aea covered at least five hills.....	134
Figure 74: Aea assembly halls.....	139
Figure 75: Map of Achaean land.....	140
Figure 76: Hecate's Shrine.....	145
Figure 77: Photo of Orchomenus.....	150
Figure 78: Ogygian Thebes map with seven gates.....	154
Figure 79: Hecate's Shrine on Demon Hill.....	155
Figure 80: Plain of Ares where Aeëtes tested Jason.....	156
Figure 81: Golden Fleece was hung in the sacred oak grove.....	159
Figure 82: Sacred grove logged off.....	161
Figure 83: Dragon guarding the Golden Fleece.....	162
Figure 84: Phasis River to Halys River.....	164
Figure 85: Fenno-Scania Ice Sheet in 16 ka BP.....	166
Figure 86: Fenno-Scania ice sheet after 12,424 BP.....	167
Figure 87: Flood level at Zakopane, Poland, was 800 m.....	168
Figure 88: The river Ister divides south of Salo.....	169
Figure 89: Halys River to Artemis Islands.....	170
Figure 90: Three-cornered Isle of Peuce.....	171

Argonauts in Finland

Figure 91: Dia, an island north of Crete.....	174
Figure 92: Lower Artemis to Melite , then back to Electra.....	175
Figure 93: Bronze-age burial mounds at Lista, home of Phaeacians.....	178
Figure 94: Melite Island to Circe's palace.....	181
Figure 95: Circe's palace.....	182
Figure 96: Directions to Elysian Isles and Tartarus.....	186
Figure 97: Circe's palace to Thrinacia.....	188
Figure 98: Thrinacia to Drepane Island.....	189
Figure 99: Drepane, shaped like a sickle.....	191
Figure 100: The Haven of Hyllus at Drepane.....	192
Figure 101: Macris Island east of Drepane.....	193
Figure 102: Drepane Island to land of Pelops.....	195
Figure 103: Land of Pelops to Gulf of Syrtis at Libya.....	196
Figure 104: Gulf of Syrtis to Triton Lake.....	198
Figure 105: Mopsus and Canthus burial mounds.....	201
Figure 106: Triton Lake to Libyan Sea.....	202
Figure 107: Libyan Sea to Crete.....	203
Figure 108: Dicté's Haven in Crete.....	205
Figure 109: Index of old topo maps.....	208
Figure 110: Index of new topo maps.....	209
Figure 111: Index of new aerial photos.....	210

List of City Plans

.....174
.....175
.....178
.....181
.....182
.....186
.....188
.....189
.....191
.....192
.....193
.....195
.....196
.....198
.....201
.....202
.....203
.....205
.....208
.....209
.....210

- 2 Cheiron's School
- 4 Iolcos
- 6 Delos
- 10 Dodona
- 12 Pelasgia
- 21 Pallene-Phlegra
- 26 Myrine
- 29 Samothrace
- 30 Imbros
- 34 Troy
- 37 Ilion
- 38 Pohjola
- 41 Percote
- 49 Sigeum
- 55 Adrasteia
- 58 Mysia
- 61 Ceos
- 62 Bebrycia
- 70 Helgard
- 98 Aea
- 101 Othrys
- 113 Lycus
- 126 Olympos
- 128 Cypris palace
- 129 Hephaestus Forge
- 179 Drepane
- 181 Hyllus Haven

Argonauts in Finland

List of Sites

Abantes.....	184	Ausonia.....	169
Abarnis beach	42	Ausonian Sea	162
Abydus	40	Backwater	125
Acheron River #1	72	Bear Mountain	48
Acheron River #2 ...	110	Bebrycia.....	62
Acheron River #3 ...	115	Becheiri	89
Acherusian Hd #1	71	Bithynia	63
Acherusian Hd #2 ..	108	Bithynian Sea.....	109
Adrasteia.....	55	Bosporos	53
Aea	98	Byzeres	91
Aeaea Harbor	170	Cadmeians	132
Aeëtes Palace	130	Callichorus River ...	116
Aegaeon cairn	56a	Calliste Island	201
Aegean Sea	28	Calon Mouth	142
Aegialus River	76	Calpe Plain.....	105
Aesepus River	47	Canastra Hdld	22
Aethalia Island	168	Carambis.....	75
Altar to the 12	101a	Carpathus Island.....	195
Amarantine Mts.	94	Caucasian Mtns.....	123
Amazons	81	Caucasian Sea	135
Ambracian Gulf	185	Cauliacus Cliff	148
Amydis Sea.....	107	Ceos.....	61
Amyrus River.....	19	Ceraunian Sea	178
Anaurus River	3	Cerossus Mtn	160
Angurum Mt	147	Chalybes	82
Anthemoeisian L....	112	Cheiron's School.....	2
Anthemoeissa Is	174	Chersonesus Spit.....	31
Aphetae Beach	16	Chytus beach.....	50a
Apidanus River	53	Cios River	57
Apollo Altar	118	Circe's Palace	171
Ares Grove.....	97	Circaean Plain	95
Ares Plain	124	Colchians	92
Ares stone Temple ...	86	Colone Peak	102
Artemis Lower Is ...	153	Corcyra Island.....	158
Artemis Upper Is....	149	Cretan Sea.....	199
Assyria.....	121	Crete	196
Athamantian Plain..	100	Cronian Sea.....	146
Athos Peak+--	23	Curete Land	186

Table of Contents

Cyanean Rocks	65	Lemnos.....	25
Cypris Palace.....	128	Libya	99
Cytaean	93	Libyan Sea.....	188
Dardania.....	39	Lycia lake	7
Delos Island.....	6	Lycus palace	113
Dia Island	152	Lycus River	134
Dicte's Haven	197	Lycus Stream.....	111
Dindymum	50	Lyra tomb.....	119
Dodona Oracle.....	10	Macrian Heights	52
Doeas Plain.....	80	Macris Isle	183
Dragon	136	Macrones.....	88
Drepane	179	Magnesia	15
Eastern Sea	107	Mariandyni	69.
Electra land.....	29	Marmara Sea	51
Electra Isle.....	154	Melaena, Black Hd	103
Elysian Isles	172	Melanos Corcyra ...	158
Enyalios Island	79	Meliboea heights	17
Eridanus River.....	155	Melite	159
Eridanus Stream ...	161	Meliteian Mount....	182
Eurymenae Mtn	20	Mopsus Mound.....	193
Genetaean Hd	83	Mossynoeci	85
Hades	70	Myrine.....	26
Halys River.....	77	Mysian Hills	54
Hecate's Shrine.....	131	Mysians	58
Helice the Bear	74	Narex Mouth	145
Hellas = Achaea.....	9	Nestian	151
Hellespont	44	Oceanos Gulf.....	164
Hephaestus Forge ..	129	Oenoe Island.....	27
Homole flats	18	Olympos.....	126
Hylleans	156	Olympos Mount....	127
Hyllus Haven.....	181	Orchomenus	122
Ida Mountain	33	Othrys.....	101
Idmon Barrow	114	Pallene Hills	21
Ilion citadel.....	37	Paphlagonian Mts ..	141
Imbros	30	Paphlagonians (1) ...	73
Iolcos.....	4	Paphlagonians (2) .	136a
Ionian Gulf	177	Parthenius River ...	120
Ionian Sea.....	143	Pegae Spring.....	59
Ister River.....	137	Pegasae Harbor	5
Ladon Plain	192	Pelagian	12

Argonauts in Finland

Pelion Mtn	1	Stoechades Islands ..	167
Pelops Land	187	Syrtis Gulf	189
Percote	41	Themiscyreian Hd	79
Peuce	144	Thermodon River	78
Phaeacians	157	Thrace	24
Phasis River	96	Thracian	138
Philyra Island	122a	Thrinacia meadow ..	176
Philyres	87	Thrinacian Sea	180
Phineus home	64	Thynias Island	68
Phlegra	21	Tibareni	84
Phrygian mainland ...	46	Tisaeon headland	11
Phyllis River	104	Tritonian Lake	191
Pityeia Devine	43	Tritonian River	194
Planctae rocks	173	Troijs	34
Plegades rocks	65	Xanthos stream	8
Pohjola	38	Zeus's Altar	133
Pontos Sea	66		
Portage to lake	190		
Posideian Hd	60		
Propontis	45		
Rhebas River	67		
Rhodanus Stream ...	163		
Rhoeteian Shore	32		
Rhyndaeus River	56		
Salangon River	150		
Salmones Height	198		
Sangarius River	106		
Sapeires	90		
Sardinia	166		
Sardinian Sea	165		
Scamander River	35		
Sciathos island	14		
Scylla, Charybdis ...	175		
Scythians	139		
Sepian Headland	13		
Sicinus Island	27		
Sigeum	49		
Simois River	36		
Sporades Islands	200		
Sthenelus Barrow ...	117		

Table of Contents

Length of Travel

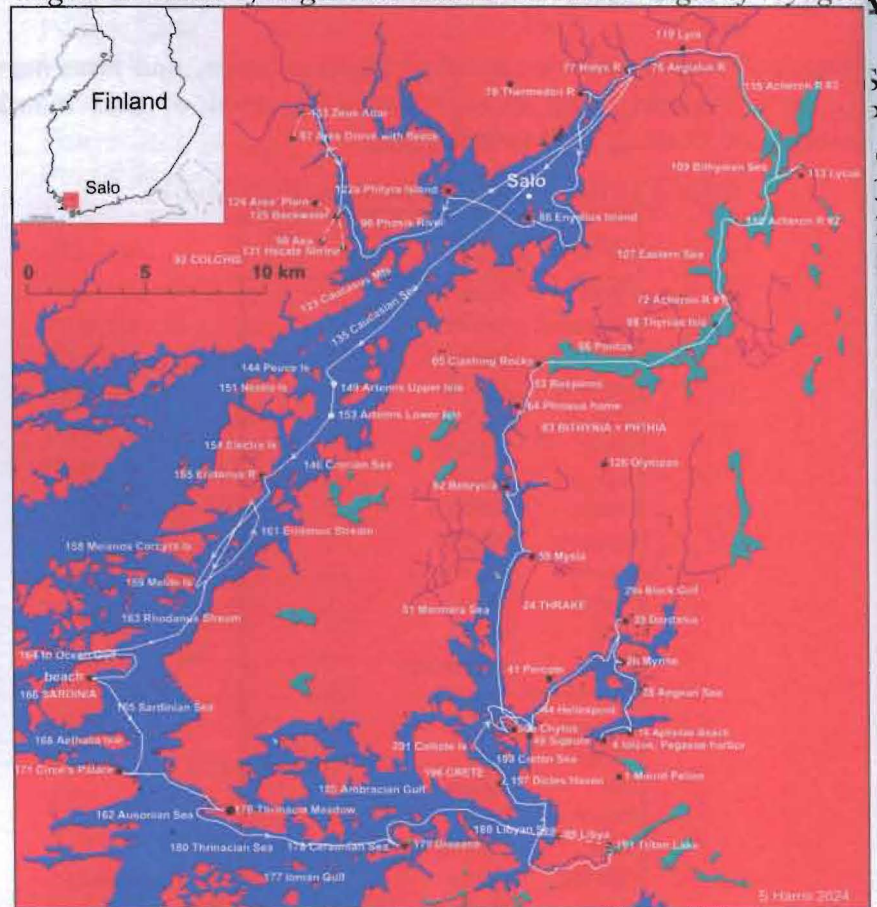
Argonautica records how many days between stops, and how many days the Argonauts spent at each stop. The total of four months eliminates all routes in the Mediterranean.

Figure 3: The Argonauts traveled four months.

From	To	Travel Days	Stay Days
Iolcos	Aphetae	1	2
Aphetae	Myrine	3	7
Myrine	Dardania	1	0
Dardania	Sigeum	2	0
Sigeum	Chytus	1	0
Chytus	Sigeum	1	15
Sigeum	Mysia	1	0
Mysia	Bebrycia	1	1
Bebrycia	Phineus	1	4
Phineus	Thynias	1	2
Thynias	Lycus	1	12
Lycus	Lyra	1	1
Lyra	Thermedon	1	0
Thermedon	Enyalios	2	1
Enyalios	Philyra	1	0
Philyra	Aea	1	3
Aea	Fleece	0	0
Fleece	Halys	3	0
Halys	Artemis	2	1
Artemis	Electra	1	0
Electra	Melite	1	0
Melite	Electra	1	0
Electra	Sardinia	1	0
Sardinia	Circe	1	1
Circe	Thrinacia	1	0
Thrinacia	Drepane	1	7
Drepane	Libya	9	1
Libya	Triton	12	1
Triton	Dicte	1	1
Dicte	Hippuris	1	0
Hippuris	Calliste	1	0
Calliste	Iolcos	3	0
Total		59	60
Gr Total	days	119	
Gr Total	months	4	

Argonauts in Finland

Figure 4: Route of Argonauts used to calculate length of voyage.



page.
About the Author

Stuart L. Harris graduated from Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and Stanford University. An interest in ancient history led to the decipherment of Linear A, followed in rapid succession by Owners Marks, Old European, Indus Valley, Linear Elamite, Val Camonian, Etruscan, Iberian, Tartessian, Glozel, Pictish Ogham, Chinese pots, Clovis, Australian, and a host of other related scripts, all in Finnish.

A parallel interest in archaeology led to the discovery of a series of catastrophic floods, usually triggered by a close pass of planet Nibiru every 1200 years. With Emilio Spedicato, exact dates for these events were gradually established, which created a framework on which to separate one catastrophe from another. The immense gravity of Nibiru could yank a mountain chain into the air leaving jagged peaks. The world suffered repeated mega floods, one of which deposited five million mammoths along the Siberian coast, another created Great Salt Lake, another flooded the interior desert of Australia, another flooded the Sahara Desert, another the Caribbean.

A third interest was the discovery of Troy in Finland by following directions from Felice Vinci. At the same time, it became possible to recreate ancient cities by visualizing post holes in aerial photographs. This led to the discovery of the Norse civilization in Finland centered around Asgard in the Commune of Perniö.

Combining these interests led to a detailed map of the spread of Celtic civilization throughout Europe, identification of the sunken islands of Atlantis and Aldland, destruction of India that ended the Younger Dryas, solution to what terminates each ice age, and decipherment of an early voyage to America on four ships charted from Atlantis.

Argonauts in Finland

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to:

Felice Vinci of Rome, who discovered that Troy was in Finland.

John Cato of National Geographic, who helped me find Troy.

Kaj Rekola and Anita Stewart, who examined Troy with me.

Olli Kuusari, who recognized that black spots on photographs were spruce trees.

Maria Tammi, who showed me the foundation stones of the Sampo grain mill.

Emilio Spedicato of Bergamo, who helped track the migration routes of the Trojans and provided dates for catastrophes.

Jyrki Lämsä of the National Mapping Center of Finland, who constructed five ortho photos.

Christine Pellech, who posted my Finnish decipherments on her website migration-diffusion.

Kenny Harris, who suggested that the Way of St James was the migration route of Gaia and Ouranos.

Bohdan Chomut, who compared the movie and text versions of the Argonauts.

Wiktionary for providing declensions of Finnish words.

Erkki Itkonen, who compiled a huge number of old Finnish words.

Vieno Alanne, who compiled a dictionary of Finnish words.

Sandy, Mark, Marija, Kenny, and Judy Harris, who partly funded my research.

G. Norwood Comly, my great uncle, mentor, and genealogist.

Preface

This book presents two original concepts:

- The route of Jason and the Argonauts through Finland in 1223 BC.
- Reconstruction of cities from aerial photographs by identifying spruce trees growing in old post holes.

It solves a great mystery of Classical Greek – the impossible geography. No amount of twisting and turning can fit the voyage into four months. What critics could not understand must be a fable.

But it is not; 200 places appear in the same sequence as presented by Apollonius Rhodius. Except for soldiers who sprouted from a plowed field, the rest is real, even the dragon that never sleeps, a giant figure carved into the landscape.

One other discovery was how Greeks constructed their puzzling names. A separate book *Argonautica Deciphered* translates every proper name based upon an algorithm described by Homer.

Many readers will be familiar with the Argonauts, but not the location of their voyage. In 1995, Felici Vinci proved conclusively that Homer's Trojan War took place in the Baltic Sea, not the Mediterranean Sea. He identified a hundred place names in sequence from the List of Ships in Book 2 of the *Iliad*. The list begins north of Stockholm, proceeds counter clockwise around the Baltic, and ends in northern Finland. Accordingly, the Aegean Sea moved from Greece to Finland. This move allows a straight-forward reconstruction of the route of the Argo, with 200 identities accompanied by 27 city plans along the route. This route is compact, entirely within 30 miles of Olympus, which allows its completion in the allotted four months, beginning in June of 1223 BC.

In the summer of 2003, photographer John Cato joined me and my wife Sandy in Finland to look for Troy. Finnish archaeologists were convinced that Finland lay empty during the Bronze Age. Despite finding 1500 huge Bronze-age cairns spread across the land, they estimated a total population of fifty people at any one time. This absurd conclusion contrasted with the dense populations of Denmark and Sweden, but diligent searches had found no foundation stones, no tells, no garbage dumps, no bridges, no pottery, no metal, no burials,

Argonauts in Finland

no sacred springs, no cave deposits, no sunken ships, all of which were heat. A in abundance in the Mediterranean.

As we discovered, Finnish archaeology differs drastically from that of the Mediterranean. They built bridges and buildings out of wood without foundation stones. Wood buildings burned or rotted and left no tells. They used birch-bark baskets, wood cups and plates, and copper cauldrons instead of pottery. The dead were cremated, not buried. In Finland's acidic soil, organic refuse does not survive, so there are no garbage dumps. Plankton blooms profusely in the Baltic Sea, which prevents divers from seeing past their hand, so they have found very few wrecks. The average Finn lacked metal because copper traders, who left Bell Beakers as a calling card, went no further east than Denmark. Yet they had metal, but took it with them when they migrated south after the fall of Troy. There are no caves in Finland, yet a constant reference to caves in the *Iliad* is misleading because a cave meant a stone building. Most of the immense foundation stones of the walls of Troy, half the size of a VW bus, were stolen and sold to developers by the farmer who owns the land.

In the fall of 1180 BC, ten years after the Trojan War, a catastrophic fire, flood and cold caused many survivors in the Baltic to migrate south with what little metal they possessed. Some built new ships and sailed to Egypt. Called Sea Peoples, they invaded Egypt in 1177 BC; a prisoner told Pharaoh that they had suffered heavily from fire and flood.

After the fall of Troy in 1190 BC, rather than become slaves to Achaeans from Denmark, most Finns loaded their belongings on sleds pulled by cattle and crossed the frozen Baltic to Poland, then continued across the Hungarian Plain to Turkey. They followed an ancient route along the Danube used by Prince Scamander, who came from a Cretan settlement at Cappadocia in Turkey. Called Trojans, they had survived widespread incineration at the time of Exodus by hiding in the underground city of Cappadocia. Scamander's name means 'Big settlement underground' and the root word TUR means 'conquer' in Sanskrit.

To their astonishment, the migrants from Finland found that Turkey, Greece, Italy, and most of the eastern Mediterranean were nearly deserted. Rather than smoking ruins from pillaging, they encountered bare stones walls, whose upper surface had been melted by extreme

Table of Contents

heat. A satellite of Mars had broken apart and incinerated a vast area on the night of the Passover in March of 1185 BC, which ended the Bronze Age.

Without locals to advise them, these immigrants named geographic features after similar ones in the Baltic, thus giving rise to a parallel set of names and endless confusion. Cremation replaced burial in central Europe.

Afterward, Finland lay vacant for nearly 400 years. When new people returned to start the Iron Age, they had forgotten their heritage. Names were lost. Instead of building immense hexagonal palaces, they erected small log homes and buried their dead. However, Bronze Age history survived in Greek mythology. Homer's geography in the *Iliad* makes perfect sense in the Baltic, but not in Greece.

This book hopes to dispel the perception that Finland was a backwater during the Bronze Age. It presents detailed images of city after city visited by Jason and the Argonauts during their four-month voyage. Jason started at Pelasgia, next to Mt. Pelion. Its present name, 'Old Man Hill', refers to Zeus, who founded Olympos around 1900 BC, 700 years before the Argo set sail.

While following the voyage of the Argo, I discovered that many Greek deities had perished in 1940 BC, when Hekla in Iceland erupted and spewed deadly hydrogen fluoride across Finland. At that time, Cronos and Rhea lived at Othrys on the Bosporos and died there along with many other Titans. However, none of their children were in Finland at the time, and they survived. Construction of buildings at Othrys and Lemnos ended around 1940 BC.

The reconstruction of Jason's route was made possible by a brilliant insight from Felice Vinci of Rome (Homer in the Baltic, 1993, 1995, 2005). Based on scraps of evidence, he deduced that the List of Ships in Book 2 of Homer's *Iliad* proceeded counterclockwise around the Baltic Sea beginning north of Stockholm. In short order he found a hundred matches, in sequence. In this list, Troija appears near Toija, 15 km east of Salo. Troy lies 10 km away, at an intersection named *Yli-kulma* meaning 'high corner'.

Across the road was the famous settlement **Pohjola** in the Finnish epic *Kalevala*, which was composed by Väinämöinen between 1430 and 1420 BC. In this epic, Väinämöinen is the same as the legendary bard

Argonauts in Finland

Iason; his brother Ilmarinen is the same as Dardanus. Dardanus and his wife Bateia founded Dardania on land she owned near Pohjola. Later kings changed the name to Troija in honor of Bateia and her brother Teucer, who died within a year of each other. Burial mounds of both brothers Dardanus and Iason lie on twin islets four kilometers south of Troija, next to Lemnos.

Kalevala, *Iliad*, *Argonautica*, and Greek mythology describe the Commune of Perniö during the Late Bronze Age. Sea level was 15-20 m higher because the land had been depressed by an ice sheet a kilometer thick. The route of the Argonauts began at Iolcos, near Mount Pelion. Like Homer's *Iliad*, Apollonius Rhodius' *Argonautica* invents interaction with the younger gods who survived the calamity of 1940 BC.

The text and images concentrate on place names along the route and reconstruction of cities, rather than the exploits of men, women and mythical beasts that have been profusely illustrated.

Several fundamental errors occur in typical depictions of *Argonautica*:

- Cities were fortified with a high palisade, not stone walls.
- Houses were immense, 100 to 150 m across, post-and-beam with sod-over-birchbark roofs, plank walls, plank floors.
- Men and women were taller than today, while the bravest heroes were the size of Goliath or larger.
- Titans and other gods were 18 to 24 ft tall; the first Hercules ate an entire ox at one sitting. Giants were something else, over 30 ft tall.
- Their ships resembled Viking longboats, not triremes with a ram in the bow.
- The language was Finnish, not Greek.
- There was very little pottery, by choice.
- Fabric was woven on a 4-heddle horizontal loom. A spinning wheel spun yarn. A vertical loom was impractical, which Ulysses' wife Penelope used to her advantage.
- A variety of carriages, wagons, carts, sledges, and sleighs were available, pulled by horses, cattle, and reindeer.
- Mead, beer, and cider were stored in kegs.

Table of Contents

- Women wore veils on special occasions.
- Children were responsible for many adult tasks, such as herding, cooking, and cleaning.
- Medicine was collected, stored, proscribed, and administered by women except for Cheiron.

One other discovery was how Greeks constructed their impossible names. A separate book deciphers each proper name in *Argonautica*, some 800. Names are composed of the first one or two letters of every word in a sentence spoken by a grandparent to a grandchild. For example, Troija comes from 'Fetch some groats from your father in a grain basket'.

As an aside, the Commune of Perniö where the voyage began should be a national park. At least 20 cities surround the ancient Aegean Sea, a region called Hellas.

Argonauts in Finland

Jason and the Argonauts

Introduction

Contrary to popular belief, the Argonauts' quest for the Golden Fleece began in Finland, not in Greece (Figure 1). This book follows the voyage related in *Argonautica* by Apollonius Rhodius (3rd c. BC), translated by Robert Cooper Seaton in 1912.

They followed a circle route whose geographical features match the Finnish landscape.

200 places along the route are identified on topographic maps.

In Finland: 27 cities are reconstructed from aerial photographs including Iolcos, Pelasgia, Troy, Kalevala, Sigeum, Bebrycia, Mysia, Othrys, Olympos, Lycus, Aea, and Drepane.

In Poland: the Heriä civilization from 12,500 years ago is identified from details provided in one tale.

In Sweden: Thebes and the Delphi oracle are identified and mapped.

In Estonia: Tartarus, the Elysian Isles, and the river Styx are identified.

This location for the quest of the golden fleece solves a puzzling geographical problem: no amount of fiddling, swapping lines of text, adding extra years, can fit the voyage of the Argo into the Mediterranean landscape. For example, a recent translation by Peter Green (1997) spends several pages justifying why he swapped this or that line of text to fit the "actual" geography.

The location of Troy in Finland began in 1995 when Felice Vinci of Rome made a startling discovery. He recognized that the 'List of Ships' in Book 2 of Homer's *Iliad* proceeded counter-clockwise around the Baltic Sea, beginning north of Stockholm. In his book *Homer in the Baltic*, Vinci identified a hundred place names, in sequence, which matched the sequence of names in the 'List of Ships'.

Homer's list places Troy near the village of Toija, 25 km southeast of Salo. A search of nearby place names found the river *Siimaioja*.

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Table of Contents

'North farm', a legendary town in the Finnish epic *Kalevala*. Here Trojans under Prince Scamander lived before Dardanus founded **Dardania**, later renamed Troija. The closest city is Perniö, 10 km west, on Route 50, the King's Highway.

Since then, many other cities, rivers and mountains have been identified by following directions in *Kalevala*, *Iliad*, *Argonautica*, and other Greek histories.

Jason was schooled at Pelasgia, south of the river Anaurus. He began his quest for the fleece at Iolcos, a major ship-building center north of Anaurus. Along the river, a dozen workshops constructed ships; one shop at the harbor of Pegasae built the Argo.

As the voyage began, the mother of Achilles waved goodbye while holding her baby son in her arms. At the age of 15 he joined the Achaean fleet. By the time the Trojan War began in 1200 BC, Achilles had been with the Achaean fleet for 8 years and was now an admiral and a king. He was therefore 23 years old, which gives a date of $1200 \text{ BC} + 23 = 1223 \text{ BC}$ for *Argonautica*.

At that time, relative sea level graded from 15.5 m asl at Perniö to 19.5 m asl at Salo. Inland lakes connected by the river Acheron varied from 25 m to 32.5 m asl.

The Argonauts' journey rests largely upon the research of Apollonius Rhodius, who composed *Argonautica* around 248 BC at the age of twenty. Like Homer, he added contributions from the younger gods as they followed this epic journey. The most inspired addition was the transformation of Medea by an arrow of love from Cupid.

Sacred Texts publishes a translation by R. C. Seaton (1912) with line numbers to simplify cross-checking. The version herein compresses text to concentrate on geography and the turmoil of Medea.

A separate book translates every proper name using an algorithm described by Homer in *Odyssey*.

Location of Troy

Before the route of Jason and the Argonauts can be established, Troy must be located. Once Troy is found, then the route began a few kilometers south of Troy at Mount Pelion.

Argonauts in Finland Troy was not in Turkey

Troy was not at Hissarlik in Turkey. Its late archaeologist, Mannfred Korfmann, denied this location for the following reasons:

- It was called Wilusa instead of Troy by Hittites.
- It was built of stone instead of wood.
- It was thousands of years old instead of hundreds.
- Its dead were buried instead of cremated.
- It was 32 km from Mt Ida instead of on the slope.
- It was too small to hold tens of thousands of Trojans.
- No trace exists of a nearby fortification for the Achaean army and their fleet.
- A defensive ditch surrounded Wilusa but not Troy.
- It had suffered many destructions and subsequent rebuilding instead of one.

Troy was not in England

Iman Jacob Wilkins theorized that Troy was in England because a handful of rivers near London have the same names as those from the *Iliad*. In addition, a Bronze Age army was found buried near London with hundreds of soldiers dressed in full military equipment.

However, the geography does not match Homer.

Instead, early settlers came from Troy. Geoffrey of Monmouth deciphered an ancient text about the first king of England, who arrived after a catastrophe had decimated the local population. Brutus and Emogen landed in Britain three generations after the Trojan War. They led a fleet of 324 ships carrying 18,000 Trojan refugees, most of whom had just been liberated from slavery in Greece. At that time, Greece was Homer's name for Denmark and Scania, inhabited by Achaeans. These immigrants then named local rivers around London after those from around Troy.

Troy

In 1994
location
Homer
beginning
identification
sequencing
Finland
In 2000
Nation

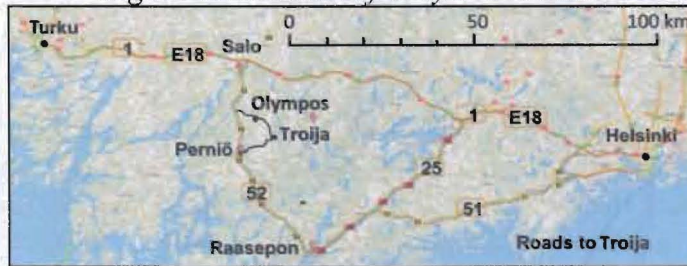
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Troy was in Finland

In 1995, Felice Vinci of Rome made a startling discovery about the location of Troy. He recognized that the 'List of Ships' in Book 2 of Homer's *Iliad* proceeded counter-clockwise around the Baltic Sea, beginning north of Stockholm. In his book *Homer in the Baltic*, Vinci identified a hundred place names, in sequence, that matched the sequence of names in the 'List of Ships'. In this list, Troy was in Finland near the village of Toijja.

In 2004, by following directions from Felice Vinci, John Cato from National Geographic and I found Troy, 10 km east of Perniö.

Figure 5: Location of Troy in Finland.



Subsequently, I discovered how to reconstruct buildings from aerial photographs by mapping dark spruce trees growing in old post holes in geometric alignments.

The Troy site is a low hill covered with spruce trees. By connecting those spruce trees growing in geometric arrays with beams, an entire city emerged, having a palisade, gates, houses, stables, meeting halls, store rooms, roads and much more.

The farm that Troija is on is called Pohjola after a legendary city in the Finnish epic *Kalevala*. Pohjola is where most Trojans lived when they first arrived in Finland.

When I last visited the site, a few immense foundation stones remained, the rest having been sold by the farmer to local developers. The citadel of Ilion occupies a flat area above a cliff at the southwest corner. The lower slope of Ida begins at the east wall, the river Scamander flows past the north wall, and the river Xanthus flows past the east wall. The hot spring that Homer mentions was a joke, the result of urine flowing down a ditch from a string of horse stables.

Argonauts in Finland

The Achaean army built an immense palisaded fortress a kilometer southwest of Ilion by the shore of the Aegean Sea. The owner of this farm declined to talk with me, but other farmers said they had found numerous artifacts from that era. One farmer found four Danish bronze swords in perfect condition, now displayed at the Archaeological Museum in Helsinki.

Origin of Argonauts

Migration from Portugal

According to Greek mythology, Gaia and Ouranos came from a place called Chaos on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean. Chaos is a Finnish word meaning 'far away', which does not help. Greeks called them Protogenoi meaning 'first born'.

The Frisian manuscript *Oera Linda Boek* begins with a great flood in 2194 BC, when the island of Aldland ('Old Land', Greek Hyperborea) sank beneath the sea. Its tsunami drowned Ireland and England. Many mountain peaks of Aldland remain above water, called the Faroe Islands.

One hundred years later, in the early summer of 2094 BC, a large migration arrived at the Rhine River from somewhere south. Fierce Saxon warriors stopped their migration. Frisian spies watched the group debate what to do. They decided to divide, one half going west to Ireland, the other half east to Poland.

The group going to Poland arrived at the Baltic near Gdansk and erected log homes. Over the winter they built ships, and the next summer spread out to eastern Sweden, Finland, and Estonia, all of which were thinly inhabited.

A Frisian asked Gaia who they were. She responded in Finnish, "*Ma Gaia, aare*" meaning 'I am Gaia, messenger'. Afterwards, Frisians called them Magyarar. This exchange signifies that Gaia spoke Finnish and Frisians did not quite understand her.

According to *Irish Annals*: 100 years after a great flood, Chichol Grenchos led 600 men and women to Ireland. Called Fomorians, they arrived at the Bay of Dublin in six longboats of 100 each, only to find that Ireland was deserted, no animal left alive. To make matters worse,

Table of Contents

rustlers apparently stole their livestock waiting for transport in Normandy. Nor was any livestock left alive in England. Thus, for the next 200 years, they lived on fish and fowl.

Fomorian potters made an unusual pot with holes around the rim. Only one other place makes this pot, the coast of Portugal between Porto and the mouth of the river Douro that divides Spain from Portugal.

Copper miners, ship builders and traders

Douro is famous for copper, with mines located in the mountains at the headwaters of the river Sil that empties into the Douro. Under Roman occupation, these mines were the most productive in the Roman Empire.

Copper salesmen left a unique calling card, a Bell Beaker, copper colored, with horizontal bands. The first Bell Beaker was apparently made at Naqada in Egypt by copper merchants around 3500 BC, now in the Archaeological Museum of Rome. An inscription on the pot says, "New primary pot I forged to bring the headman; a wide lip at the top."

From the cemetery near where this beaker was found, archaeologists recovered four huge obsidian knives, possibly belonging to the traders. The point is, the people under Gaia and Ouranos were big smiths and navigators who built cargo ships to transport copper.

The Way of St James

The route taken by these migrants is enshrined in a reverse pilgrimage called 'The Way of St. James'. One branch begins in Poland, the other in Ireland. Both end at Santiago de Compostella in Galicia, which may come from Campo de Estela meaning 'Field of stele'. If there was a stele, a cathedral marks the spot where it was erected by the migrants prior to embarking on their journey. This stele may be incorporated into the church foundation. Medieval pilgrims built a church or chapel at every river crossing (Figure 6).

These, then, were the ancestors of the people who lived in and around Hellas and made up the crew of the Argo. Their kings were big: Achilles threw a horse on Patroclus' funeral pyre; Hector's spear was 16 ft long; the shield of Ajax was made from seven bull hides and a layer of bronze; Hercules rowed the Argo by himself.

Table of Contents

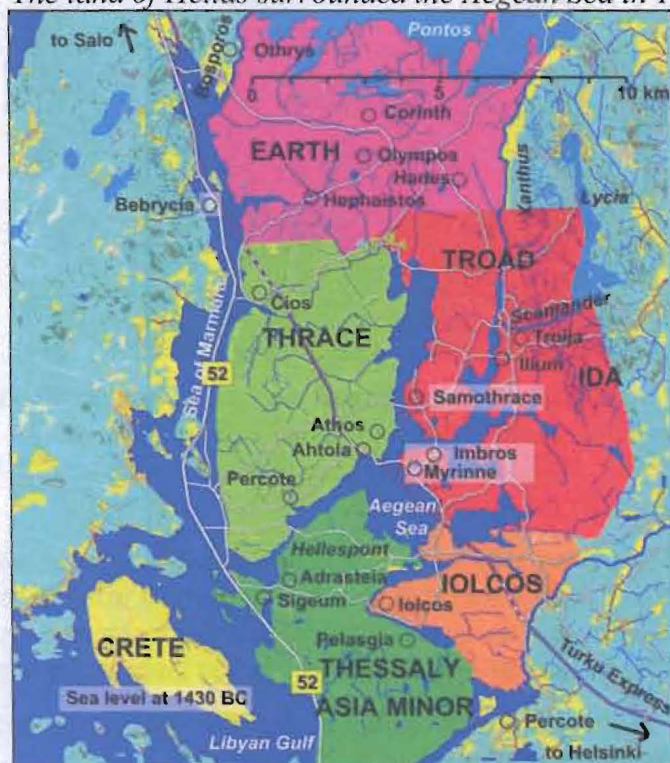
Background of Jason

1 Pelion, Mount

Pelias, son of **Poseidon**, seized the **Iolcan** kingdom from **Aeson**, the rightful heir. Aeson's wife **Alcimedea** bore him a son. Knowing that Pelias would destroy the baby without mercy, Alcimedea devised a clever ploy. She gathered her kinswomen to weep and wail over the child as if it had been still-born, then smuggled the child out of the city to **Mount Pelion** to be reared by the centaur **Cheiron**.

Hellas comprised six regions plus the island of Crete around the Aegean Sea, all within the Commune of Perniö. Many more cities existed in addition to those mentioned in Argonautica.

Figure 7: The land of Hellas surrounded the Aegean Sea in 1430 BC.



2 Cheiron's School

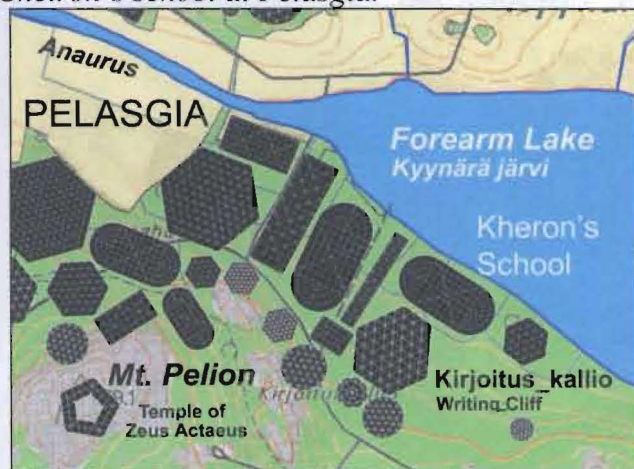
Alcimedea entrusted Cheiron the **centaur** and famous teacher to his upbringing, and named him **Jason**. Jason grew up to be a peerless

Argonauts in Finland

warrior. Under the expert tutelage of Cheiron, Jason learned archery, swordsmanship, horsemanship, and oratory. But most of all, he mastered the art of leadership. When the time was right, Cheiron revealed to Jason his true identity and instructed him that it was his birthright to claim back the Iolcan throne from Pelias.

Cheiron's school occupied land between Mt. Pelion and Forearm Lake, named because it was only a forearm (cubit) deep. Close to the school, students practiced writing on a cliff face named 'Writing Cliff'. Cheiron lived in a stone building called a 'cave' that would not appear on aerial photos because it had no post holes.

Figure 8: Cheiron's school at Pelasgia.



Pelias had been warned by an oracle that he would be deposed by a man wearing one sandal. Jason attended a feast arranged by Pelias to honor his father Poseidon. While crossing the muddy creek **Anaurus** to enter **Iolcos**, he lost his sandal.

As he paid respects to the king, Pelias noted that the young man lacked a sandal on one foot. Pelias decided to give Jason a mission that would prove impossible for the young man to complete: go and recover the fabled Golden Fleece from Colchis, which was guarded by a dragon.

Jason rose to the challenge, built his ship the Argo, and assembled a crew. Argus, the Thespian, built a 50-oared ship at **Pegasae**, a harbor of **Iolcos**, with seasoned pine timber from **Mount Pelion** and an oak keel with an insert from **Dodona**.