

Historical sources for Troy/Ilios

Introduction

Ilios is a form of Iliad. Homer used Troy and Iliad (or) Ilios interchangeably. The Hittite form for Ilios is Wilusa.

A. TROY/ILIOS

New discoveries: In 1995 a bronze seal was found in a one room (office?) at Troy, level VIh, and the seal turned out to be the seal of a Hittite scribe.

Let's look at a treaty between the Hittite king Muwattalli II (c. 1280) and Alaksandu of Wilusa (Ilios):

"Formerly at one time my ancestor the Great Hittite king had made Wilusa a political client (vassal). Later the land of Arzawa waged war (Wilusa was in Arzawa's hegemony and forced to side with Arzawa), but this was a long time ago. But even if the land of Wilusa defected from the land of Hattusha, the royal clan of Wilusa remained on terms of friendship with the kings of the land of Hattusha and regularly sent envoys."

We know where Arzawa lay because its capital was Abasa (Ephesus)

And the letter of the Hittite vassal Manatabarkhunta of Seha

'This letter complains about a certain thug Piyamaradu who lived north of Millawada (modern Miletus) who was threatening Wilusa. In addition, he attacked the island of Lazba which "lies in sight of Wilusa and Seha" and carried off the craftsmen of Lazpa and given them to his son-in-law in Millawada one Atpa "the representative of the king of Achiyawa."

Note the map where Seha lies. Lazba must be the island of Lesbos and note that The Traod is in view of Lesbos too.

Now the Alaksandu Treaty invokes the gods of the Hittites and Wilusa and among the latter gods is the "subterranean watercourse of the land of Wilusa."

A much earlier text, the Annals of Tudkhalia I (c 1375) lists a series of lands conquered by Tudkhalia in the west including

Seha

"The land of Wilusa and Taruisa (l. 19)

And many more

"As soon as I had destroyed the lands of Assuwa, I returned to Hattusha (33) The Hittites called the West Coast Assuwa, from which we get the name Asia.

Conclude that Wilusa = (W)ilius. But what of Taruisa? Can it be Troy *Taruiya

What of the names of the people Homer lists living in Troy:

Dardanos, Erichthonios, Tros, Ilos, Assarakos, Ganymedes, Laomedan, Tithonus, Priamos, Lampos, Klytios, Hiketaon, Kapys, Anchises, Hektor, and Aineias. Of these names, nine, those in Italics are non-Greek.

Also note that of the 3 kings of Wilusa Hittite records mention-Kukunni, Walmu, and Alaksandu-all three are western Hittite (Luwian).

Thus the House of Troy seems to be Anatolian.

This seems confirmed by the seal we 1st mentioned.

Plus 99% of the pottery found from the 13th century BC level VI is Anatolian.

The layout of the city is Anatolian.

B. ACHAYAWA

There are many references to Achayawa in Hittite texts, unfortunately most a rather fragmentary. We do know this:

- a. Achayawa is connected with Millawada.
- b. A certain Attarissayas, a man of Achayawa was attacking Cyprus. Attarissayas is the Hittite form of Atreus
- c. The Achayawa and the people of Lazpa/Lesbos worshipped the same gods.
- d. In the treaty of Tudhalias IV refers to “the kings who are equal with me, the King of Egypt, the King of Babylon, the King of Assyria, and the King of the Achayawa. Thus the Achayawa are a major power.
- e. Homer called the Myceneans Achaiwoi
- f. Much Mycenean pottery has been found at Miletus (a).

Therefore, the Hittite Achayawa are the Myceneans.

Note the Egyptian Pharaoh Merneptah, c. 1208 BC, mentions a AQAYWASA as a powerful enemy “country of the sea.”

Conclusions:

Achayawa (the Myceneans) was a major country lying to the west of the Hittites
North of Seha and Assuwa there were 2 lands: Wilusa and Taruisa
Homer confuses the neighboring lands and uses Ilios and Troy interchangeably.

TROY VIh was an imposing city with walls and towers and was destroyed in 1250 BC

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