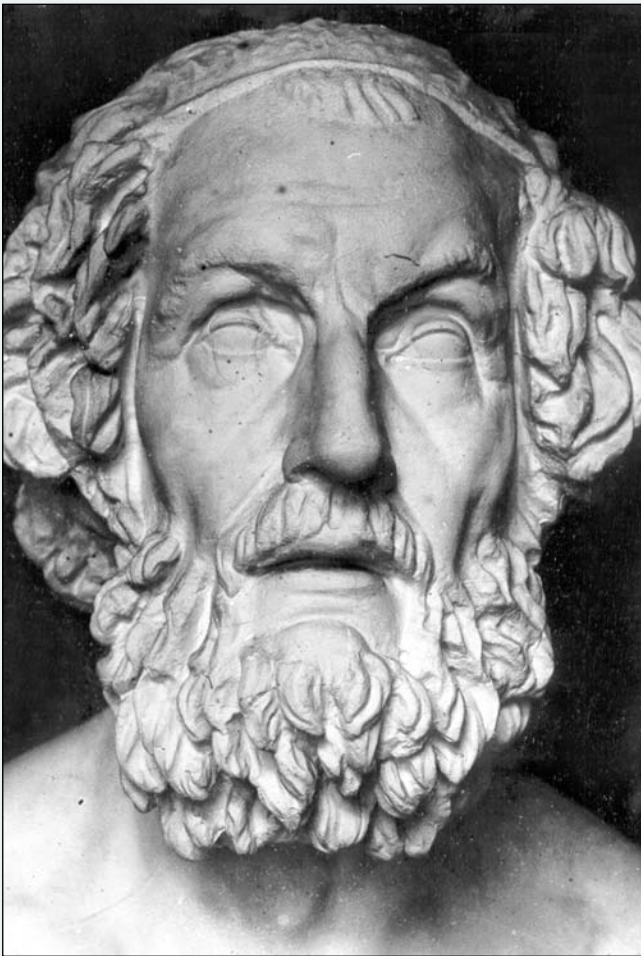


NEW EVIDENCE INDICATES LEGENDARY GREEK TALES TOOK PLACE IN THE BALTIC



Some have said that there were many “Homers” and that the name “Homer” is not a name at all but simply means “blind man” or “hostage.” It has been much questioned whether the same poet was responsible for both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, which seem to be written in notably different styles. Certainly both are the result of a tradition of ancient oral sagas. The bust of Homer shown above is in the typical classical Greek style.

WHEN WE READ HOMER'S *ILIAD* AND *ODYSSEY*, (which just about every schoolchild in America has been asked to do for generations) we naturally assume them to be largely tall tales, set in the eastern Mediterranean area. However, while there are elements of the fantastical in these epics, there is also a solid historical core. That may not surprise TBR readers, but what is surprising is that the setting of the events is not in the modern areas of Greece and Turkey at all (forget about Heinrich Schliemann). According to a growing number of thinkers, these events happened even earlier than we might have thought, and far to the north, in the lands we think of as the home of the Vikings. Sound far-fetched? Read on . . .

BY JOHN TIFFANY

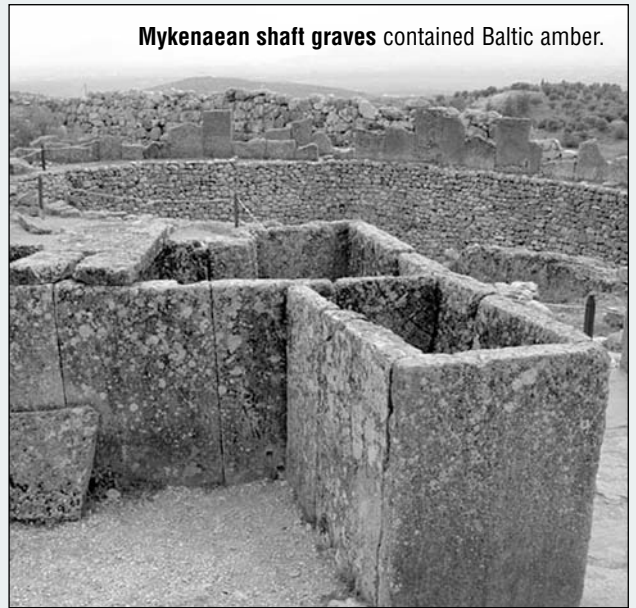
The idea that the Mykenaens had a northern origin is not really a new one, although it may come as a novelty to most TBR readers. It may also come as a surprise to learn that the “Troy” (actually at least nine Troys at what is today Turkey's Hisarlik) discovered by Heinrich Schliemann may not have been the original Troy of Homer.

Consider the region of Troy. In the *Iliad* it is stated to be located along the Hellespont, which is systematically described as being a “wide” or “boundless” sea. We can therefore exclude the notion that it refers to the Dardanelles, where the city found by Schliemann lies. The identification of this city with Homer's Troy continues to raise doubts among the cognoscenti. One of the first critics was Moses Finley in his famous *The World of Odysseus*.

Amazingly, evidence has now emerged to make a convincing case that Homer's Troy was in what today we call Finland, and the ancient Achaeans, as the forerunners of the Mykenaens are called, resided, at the time of the legendary Trojan War, in the region of Scandinavia.



Impressive passageway at Tiryns.



Mykenaeen shaft graves contained Baltic amber.

Above, Mykenaeen shaft graves from the 16th century B.C. Two groups of shaft graves were discovered at Mykenae (southern Greece) in different parts of a large cemetery area. The burials in them seem to have ranged over a period of 150 years, from shortly before about 1600 B.C. to the middle of the 15th century. Each group was eventually surrounded by a circular enclosure wall. The wealthy burials belonged to leading, if not royal, families of the culture that would eventually supplant Knossos as the chief center of the Aegean. A fantastic array of gold and silver cups, jewelry, and dress ornaments had been placed with the dead, especially in one area of graves. Golden diadems and elaborate hairpins decked the heads of women. Beads in necklaces were of amethyst, probably from Egypt, and amber, from the Baltic. Structures in Tiryns, also in southern Greece (upper left, lower

Were the Mykenaeans from the Baltic?



Secondary entrance gate at Tiryns.

left) show the unusual “cyclopean” type of architecture, reminiscent of pre-Incan Peru. Cyclopean architecture (so called because of the classical Greeks’ belief that only the mythical Cyclopes had the strength to move these enormous boulders) is a type of stonework, built with huge limestone boulders, roughly fitted together with minimal clearance between stones and no mortar. The most notable examples of cyclopean masonry are found in the walls of Mykenae and Tiryns. The style is characteristic of Mykenaeen fortifications. Apart from the Tirynthian and Mykenaeen walls, other cyclopean structures include some “tholos” (beehive-shaped) tombs in Greece and the fortifications of a number of Mykenaeen sites, such as at the famous Gla. Right, samples of grave goods from the shaft graves of Mykenae included precious stones (shown) and some fine Baltic amber. Amber, a fossilized tree resin, has been found at Neolithic sites far from its source on the shores of the Baltic Sea. There is strong evidence for the theory that the Baltic area during the advanced civilization of the Bronze Age was in fact the source of most amber in Europe. For example the amber jewelry found in graves from early Mykenaeen Greece has been found to originate from the Baltic coast, specifically from the Samland area. Did the Achaeans bring it with them when they migrated from Scandinavia to become the Mykenaeans? Amber was mentioned frequently by ancient writers, including Homer.



Right, samples of grave goods from the shaft graves of Mykenae included precious stones (shown) and some fine Baltic amber. Amber, a fossilized tree resin, has been found at Neolithic sites far from its source on the shores of the Baltic Sea. There is strong evidence for the theory that the Baltic area during the advanced civilization of the Bronze Age was in fact the source of most amber in Europe. For example the amber jewelry found in graves from early Mykenaeen Greece has been found to originate from the Baltic coast, specifically from the Samland area. Did the Achaeans bring it with them when they migrated from Scandinavia to become the Mykenaeans? Amber was mentioned frequently by ancient writers, including Homer.

Swedish historian Martin P. Nilsson was one of the first to come out with this amazing thesis that the Mykenaeans had a Nordic origin. In *Homer and Mycenae* and *The Minoan-Mycenaean Religion and Its Survival in Greek Religion*, Prof. Nilsson reports on archeological evidence uncovered in Mykenaeans sites in Greece that supports the theory that the Achaean population came from the north. Examples: the presence of large amounts of Baltic amber in the most ancient Mykenaeans tombs in Greece (but not in the later ones), the Nordic features of Mykenaeans architecture and the racially Nordic skulls found in the Kalkani necropolis.

Between 13,000 and 8000 B.C. the vast glaciers of the last ice age melted, and the levels of the world oceans rose by 360 feet, submerging vast areas of what we now call the continental shelves of the world. The effect of this glacial melting and sea level rise on archaic European life marked the end of the Paleolithic and the beginning of the Neolithic era. Much of the civilization of that time may have been in areas that are now under the sea.

One needs further to realize that the climate in northern Europe, including Scandinavia and the Baltic area, was significantly milder in the Bronze Age, until the second millennium B.C., than it is today. This period of warmth, from 8000 B.C. up till 500 B.C., is known as the postglacial climatic optimum (we will call it the PGCO), which can in turn be broken down into four phases. Here we are concerned with the warmest of these, which is called the Atlantic phase. This was quite long lasting, from 5500 B.C. until 2000 B.C.—over 3,000 years, which allows plenty of time for civilizations to arise, flourish and fall.

During this time, the winters were mild and humid; the red fir, alder and hazel forests of the cooler phases preceding it in the Baltic area gave way to mighty oaks, which require warmer climate. The climate then began to cool off again, and beech

trees and firs began to prevail during what is called the Sub-Boreal phase of the PGCO. Research on pollens proves beyond doubt that these changes in climate and vegetation actually occurred, as Mario Pinna, professor of earth sciences at the University of Turin, explains in his traits on climatology.

Before the Atlantic era came the Recent Pre-Boreal (RPB; 8000-7000 B.C.) and Boreal (7000-5500 B.C.) periods.

Homer's works may well have had their real-life setting in the Sub-Boreal period.

According to scholar Pia Laviosa Zambotti, the Atlantic period, peaking about 2500 B.C., was "the best climatic period Scandinavian countries have ever known, which justifies the high cultural level achieved in Scandinavia around 2500 B.C. . . . This long, favorable climatic period saw the development of northern cultures, including the Maglemose and Ertebølle civilizations, and Bronze Age culture, and the construction of dolmens and 'passage grave' tombs."

Zambotti reports of the Sub-Boreal era: "[T]he temperature dropped. . . . Beech trees spread, and leafy flora migrated from northern Sweden to more southern areas. . . ."

The idea that the Atlantic era Baltic area was the homeland of Homer's heroes is most recently set forth by a magisterial new book, *The Baltic Origins of Homer's Epic Tales*, by Felice Vinci.

But is this just another crank theory, some of which may appear convincing at first sight? On the contrary, Vinci—a nuclear engineer with an extensive background in Latin and Greek studies, who has been researching his theory on the northern origin of Greek mythology for many years, has done his homework well. Nearly every page of his 370-page book offers additional evidence for this remarkable theory.

But probably the most convincing single piece of evidence concerns place names, which often serve as "fossils" that tell the

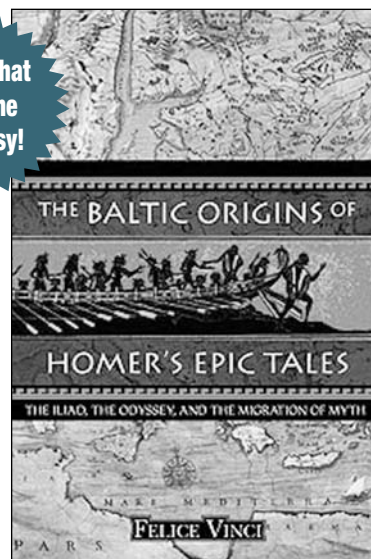
"It may come as a surprise to learn that the 'Troy' (actually at least nine Troys in what is today Turkey) discovered by Heinrich Schliemann may not have been the original Troy of Homer."

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THE BALTIC ORIGINS OF HOMER'S EPIC TALES

HERE IS COMPELLING EVIDENCE that the events of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* took place in the Baltic and not the Mediterranean. Reveals how a climate change forced the migration of a people and their myths to ancient Greece and identifies the true geographic sites of Troy and Ithaca in the Baltic Sea and Calypso's Isle in the North Atlantic Ocean—following Homer's own geographic descriptions. For years scholars have debated the incongruities in Homer's famed works, given that his descriptions are at odds with the geography of the areas he purportedly describes. Inspired by Plutarch's remark that Calypso's Isle was only five days sailing from Britain, Felice Vinci convincingly argues that Homer's epic tales originated not in the Mediterranean, but in the northern Baltic Sea. Using meticulous geographical analysis, Felice Vinci shows that many Homeric places, such as Troy and Ithaca, can still be identified in the landscape of the Baltic. Vinci offers a key to open many doors that allows us to consider the age-old question of the Indo-European diaspora and the origin of the Greek civilization from a new perspective. Softcover, 384 pages, #456, \$22.95 minus 10% for TBR subscribers. Add \$3 per book S&H inside the U.S. Add \$6 per book S&H outside the U.S. Send payment to TBR BOOK CLUB, P.O. Box 15877, Washington, D.C. 20003 using the form on page 64 of this issue. Call TBR toll free at 1-877-773-9077 to charge to Visa or MasterCard.

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SOLVING THE DULICHIUM MYSTERY

The geography of the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad*, while it seems to be internally consistent, has always given rise to confusion. The poet names and describes cities, countries and other topographic features with considerable detail. But those names and descriptions make for only a partial match-up with the known places in the Mediterranean world, or fail to match up at all.

These glaring anomalies are not merely the result of chance or sloppiness, considering their consistency throughout the two poems.

As an example, the *Iliad*, 625, section 13 tells us: "And those from Dulichium and the Echinae, the holy isles, that lie across the sea, over against Elis, these again had as leader Meges, the peer of Ares, even the son of Phyleus, whom the horseman Phyleus . . . begat—he that of old had gone to dwell in Dulichium in wrath against his father. And with Meges there followed 40 black ships."

But where is Dulichium? This has long been a puzzle to scholars who try to find the setting of the *Iliad* in the Mediterranean Sea.

Dulichium, the "Long Island" (*"dolichòs"* means "long" in Greek), which is located by the *Odyssey* in the vicinity of Ithaca, is repeatedly mentioned in the *Iliad* as well, but no such island can be found in the Mediterranean.

According to Dr. Felice Vinci, however, Dulichium is clear on the other



This dolmen on Ristinge Klint, on a tiny, narrow peninsula clearly visible from the sea, is situated on the west of Langeland. Is Langeland the fabled Dulichium?

side of Europe, in Denmark. If you look to the south of the Kattegat, you will see three or four large islands, and lots of smaller ones. The westernmost of the large islands is called Fyn, and southeast of it is a small island that may or may not be labeled on your map. This elongated island running mostly north to south is known today as Langeland—obviously meaning "long land."

To the west of Langeland (Dulichium) is the island of Tåsinge, which Vinci has identified with Homer's Zacynthus. Southwest of that is Aerø, or Homeric Same (Samos). To the north of the west end of Aerø is Avernako, or what Homer calls Asteris, where Penelope's suitors tried to waylay Telemachus. And just west of Avernako is Lyø, which to Homer is Ithaka.

You may remember how the Phaeacians took Odysseus to Ithaka, located on the far side of an archipelago Homer talks about in detail. A series of precise parallels makes it possible to identify this group of Danish islands, in the south of the Baltic Sea, as corresponding exactly to all Homer's indications.

It is astonishing how Lyø coincides with the indications of the poet, not only insofar as its position is concerned, but also its topographic and morphological characteristics. One can, for example, identify the ancient "Phorcys's Harbor" and the "Crow's Rock" (corresponding to a Neolithic dolmen standing in the west of the island).

investigator what sort of people once lived in an area, because quite often the names they give to local features persist long after the people themselves, and even the memory of them among the modern locals, have vanished from the region. (This is quite obvious from our own country, the United States, which still has thousands of place names based upon old American Indian languages.) Vinci gives example after example of how supposedly Greek place names correspond with place names in the Baltic area.

Often an ethnic group when it migrates from one region to another, will take their place names with them and apply them to what seem appropriate features in their new, adopted homeland.

But could the correspondences cited by Vinci be caused by mere coincidence? The catalog of ship names proves there is more to this situation than coincidence alone.

The reason: if you read the list of ship names as given in Homer's *Iliad* starting with *Iliad* 2.494 to 97 and 507-10 (266 lines of verse, known collectively as The Catalog of Ships), which present us with 29 Achaean fleets that took part in the Trojan War, and match them as best you can with the place names of Greece, you find they skip all over the region. Neither is the sequence hierarchical. For example, the commander-in-chief, Agamemnon, who "was the most eminent; he led a great many troops" (*Iliad* 2.580), is listed ninth.

Yet when you match them to places in the Baltic area, you can go down the list, item by item, and they correspond not to random locations in the Baltic; rather they proceed in stately

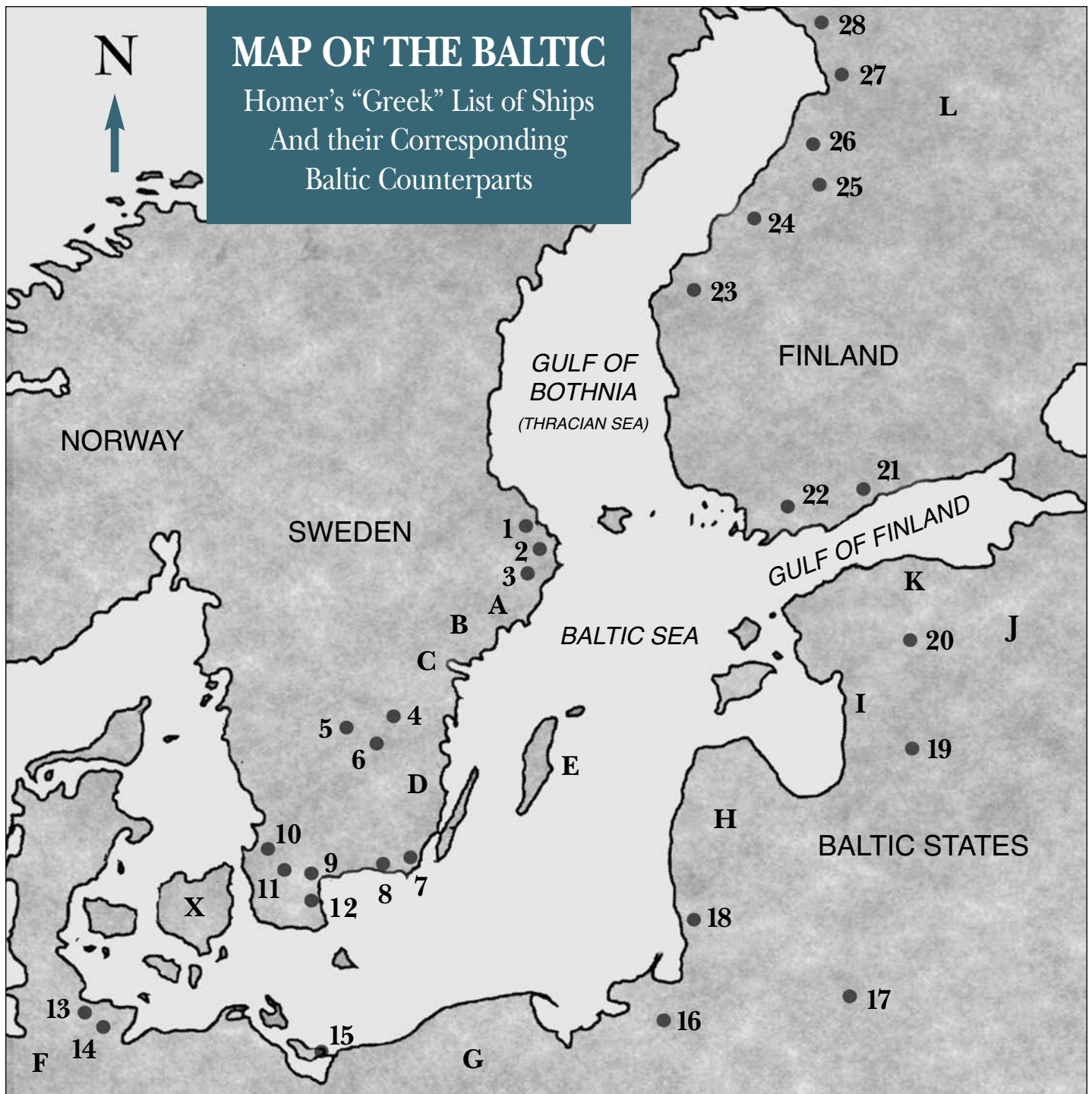
fashion in a counterclockwise direction around the Baltic Sea. (This is a traditional way of ordering things that goes back into the mists of time; Vinci gives several examples.)

Vinci provides the reader with a map of the Baltic showing the exact, counterclockwise progression of places and peoples listed in Homer's Catalog of Ships (see page 8):

Hyrie (modern Herraeng), in Sweden, Aulis (Norrtälje), Thebes (Taeb), Boeotia, Minyhae, Phoci, Crisa (Kisa), Thronion (Tranas), Tarphe (Torpa), Locris, Euboea (Oeland), Callarius (Hallarum), Athens (Karlskrona), Asine (Asum), Tiryns (Tyringe), Troezen (Traene), Calydon (Kiel), Pylene (Ploen), Olenus (Wolin), Aetolia (Jutland), Crete, Rhodes (Rodniki), Lindus (Lida), Crapethus (Klaipeda), Curetes (Kurland), Casus (Cesis), Libya (Livonia), Cos (Koeo), Phthia, Helias, Thessalus (Teissala), Troy (Toija), Pherae (Voera), Iolcus (Jolkka), Titanus (Tiitonranta), Meliboea (Myllyperae), Pelion (Paljakka), Oloosson (Oulu), and Cyphus (Kuivniemi).

In many cases, the similarity of the ancient and modern names is obvious even to the layman. Such a neat sequence could not happen by accident.

The Achaean migration from the Baltic to what is today called Greece fits in with the diaspora of other Indo-European populations in the first half of the second millennium B.C.: the Hittites in Anatolia, the Cassites in Mesopotamia, the Tocharians in Turkestan and the Aryans in India. As to the latter, it is remarkable that Bal Gangahar Tilak, a Hindu scholar, found traces of the probable Arctic origin of the Aryans in the Vedic hymns. This squares with clues emerging of a still earlier loca-



MAP OF THE BALTIC: Using Homer's Catalog of Ships from the *Iliad* and the nations from whence they originated, and progressing counterclockwise around the Baltic Sea, here are the Greek locations and their Baltic counterparts: 1) Hyrie (modern Herraeng); 2) Aulis (Norrtälje); 3) Thebes (Taebý); A) Boeotia; B) Minyae; C) Phocis; 4) Kisa (Crisa); 5) Thronion (Tranas); 6) Tarphe (Torpa); D) Locris; E) Euboea (Oeland); 7) Callarius (Hallarum); 8) Athens (Karlskrona); 9) Asine (Asum); 10) Tiryns (Tyringe); 11) Troezen (Traene); 12) Kivik; 13) Calydon (Kiel); 14) Pylene (Ploen); 15) Olenus (Wolin); F) Aetolia (Jutland); G) Crete; H) Curetes (Kurland); 19) Casus (Cesis); I) Libya (Livonia), 20) Cos

(Koeo); J) Phythia; K) Helias; 21) Thessalus (Teissala), 22) Troy (Toija), 23) Pherae (Voera); 24) Iolcus (Jolkka); 25) Titanus (Tiitonranta); 26) Meliboea (Myllyperae); L) Mt. Pelion (Paljakka); 27) Oloosson (Oulu); and 28) Cyphus (Kuivniemi). The Island of Zealand (X) is identified as the Peloponnesus. The Gulf of Bothnia corresponds to the Thracian Sea and the Gulf of Finland to the Hellespont. When comparing this map to a map of the Mediterranean, one can see the amazing similarities in geography, placing the southern end of Sweden as the Greek peninsula. One would expect to find some type of significant ruins at Toija (22), which author Felice Vinci says is the real Troy, but these have yet to be discovered. There are large megalithic structures in Scandinavia, however.

tion of the Achaeans, connected to the mythical world of the gods, even more northerly than the Baltic one, in the Lappish area and even the coast of the Arctic Ocean.

In fact, Vinci finds Olympus, with the name almost unchanged from Achaean times, when it was called Oulympos, in Finland, where it is now called Oulankajoki. (Interchanges between p and k are common in Greek dialects. There is, for example, *pou* and *kou* for “where” and *pote* and *kote* for “when.”)

Homer writes of a journey by the goddess Hera, from Olympus to Lemnos. Along the way she passes through Pieria (Lapland), then travels along the Gulf of Bothnia’s west side from north to south (Emathia and Thracia to the Achaeans), and finally cuts across the sea toward Lemnos (modern Lemland). This, says Vinci, confirms the location in Sweden of Homeric Thrace, which is also where the Norse god Thor lived.

Bronze Age artifacts are frequently found by Scandinavian farmers plowing their fields, although we hear little about this.

Vinci points out many similarities between the region of the Finnish Toija and Homer’s Troy, which can be verified by any visitor to Finland. Aerial surveying of the area of Toija and Kirkkojaervi gives us a good picture of where the ancient Trojan War may well have taken place. (We anxiously await more focused and in-depth archeological investigation.)

It is interesting to note that when Homer speaks of the Styx, he never refers to it as a river. Instead he uses the expression “the waters of Styx” (*hydor Stygos*). “Styx” means “hateful” and its root, *styg-*, is very similar to the Norwegian *stygg*, meaning “ugly.” Vinci identifies the Styx as the lakes Kitka and Livojaervi, one of which flows into the White Sea while the other flows into the Baltic, based on what Homer says about the Styx.

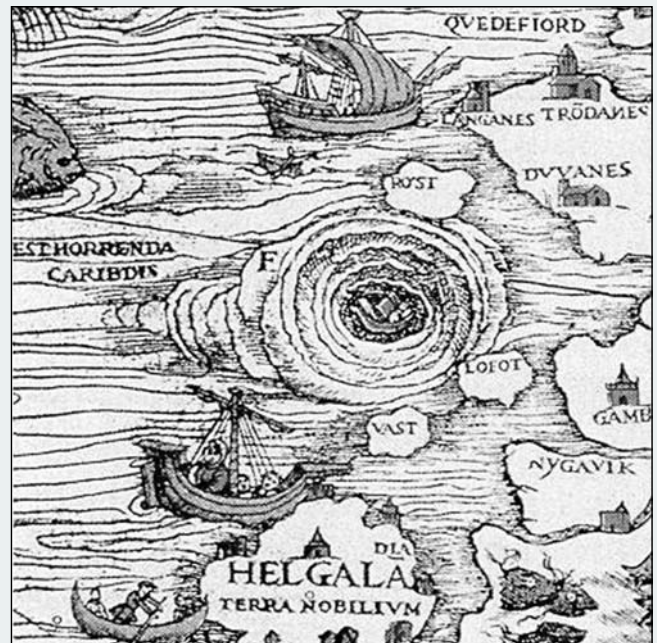
Homer also writes about a murderous whirlpool. There is nothing like this in the Mediterranean, but there is such an eddy in the Lofoten archipelago of Scandinavia. It is known as the Maelstrom, or, in Norwegian, *Moskenstraumen*. For centuries, there have been tales of ships being swallowed up in this region. The British Admiralty advises sailors to steer clear of it.

In short, from all the converging information magisterially summarized by Vinci, the *Urheimat*, the original homeland of the Indo-Europeans, emerges as an Arctic land. It lay in the northernmost part of Scandinavia, or rather, the area stretching from Lapland to the Kola Peninsula. Five or six thousand years ago, the primordial Indo-European civilization developed there, thanks to the favorable climate of that era.

It seems remarkable to think that nowadays the Finns spend their time skiing on their native slopes, unaware that they may be trampling with their ski boots the very ground where lay the “fragrant altar” of the shrine of the king of the gods, Zeus, and where Paris awarded the golden apple to divine Aphrodite.

Whether you are a fan of Greek civilization or simply an Aryan buff, you will find much of interest in Vinci’s tome, recently translated into English from his native Italian. ❖

JOHN TIFFANY is the assistant editor of THE BARNES REVIEW. Tiffany has been active in Revisionist history and the freedom movement for decades. He lives in historic Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, with his wife, Rhonda, who graciously helps out at THE BARNES REVIEW offices.



THE MAELSTROM

Håja is, according to Dr. Felice Vinci, the island of sorceress Circe, where there is the midnight sun. Circe is the daughter of Helios, the Sun (like the Lapps, who call themselves the children of the Sun) and is the granddaughter of “the River Okeanos,” a phrase Vinci equates with the Gulf Stream. One can imagine the disorientation of Bronze Age sailors finding themselves in a region, and at a time of year, when there was no point on the horizon at which the Sun set.

It was Circe who warned Odysseus as he left her island to beware a deadly whirlpool, created by a fearsome sea monster, Charybdis, sucking in the sea water beneath.

Dr. Felice Vinci identifies the horrifying whirlpool of Charybdis with the Scandinavian Maelstrom. Located in the Lofoten Islands, there is, in the Mediterranean, nothing remotely as powerful as this nightmarish Scandinavian “eddy.”

For years there have been tales of ships being swallowed up by this whirlpool.

Circe advises Odysseus to get through the strait between two rocks (one of which is topped by a many-armed beast called Scylla) by “sailing quickly close to Scylla’s rock” (Odyssey 12.108) so as not to be sucked under by the powerful whirlpool, which extends beyond the islet.

It is notable that, many centuries after Circe’s directions, the British Admiralty recommends the same course to sailors plying these waters: “It is advisable to keep near to Lofotodden.” ❖

Above, Olaus Magnus’s Carta Marina of 1539 shows the “Maelstrom” sucking down a ship off the Island of Lofot (Lofoten, i.e. Lofotodden). To the left we clearly see the words “Est Horrenda Caribdis,” indicating that, as far back as the 1500s, mapmakers were associating Homer’s words with the Lofoten whirlpool.