

# The Dreamer Who Dug For Troy: A Journey to Discover the Lost City



## The Hero Schliemann: The Dreamer Who Dug for Troy

by Laura Amy Schlitz

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 5881 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 70 pages



Heinrich Schliemann, a German businessman with an unquenchable thirst for archaeology, embarked on a lifelong quest to find the lost city of Troy. Driven by a childhood fascination with Homer's epic poem, the Iliad, Schliemann believed that the legendary city, once the stage of a ten-year war between the Greeks and Trojans, was not merely a figment of the poet's imagination, but a real place waiting to be unearthed.

Born in 1822 into a humble family in Mecklenburg, Germany, Schliemann's early life was marked by poverty and hardship. Despite these challenges, he displayed an insatiable curiosity and a voracious appetite for learning. At the age of 20, he left Germany to seek his fortune overseas, eventually settling in St. Petersburg, Russia, where he amassed a considerable wealth through shrewd business dealings.

Throughout his successful business career, Schliemann never abandoned his passion for archaeology. He spent countless hours studying ancient texts, poring over maps, and engaging in heated debates with scholars about the location of Troy. In 1868, at the age of 46, he finally decided to embark on his lifelong dream of excavating the ancient city.

Schliemann's first excavation site was the hill of Hisarlık in northwestern Turkey, where he believed Troy was located. Despite facing skepticism and resistance from the local authorities, Schliemann persevered, convinced that he was on the cusp of a major discovery. After years of painstaking excavation, he finally unearthed the ruins of an ancient city, complete with massive walls, imposing gates, and a labyrinth of streets and buildings.

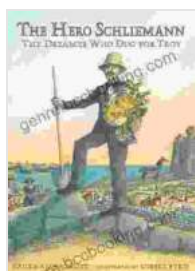
Schliemann's discovery sent shockwaves through the world of archaeology. For centuries, scholars had debated the existence of Troy, but Schliemann's excavations had irrefutably proven that the legendary city was real. His findings not only confirmed the historical accuracy of Homer's Iliad but also shed new light on the Bronze Age civilization of the Aegean.

Schliemann's groundbreaking work at Troy established him as one of the most renowned archaeologists of the 19th century. His meticulous excavation methods and unwavering belief in the power of archaeology inspired generations of future archaeologists. However, his methods were not without controversy. Critics accused him of being too hasty in his excavations, potentially damaging valuable artifacts in his eagerness to uncover the city's secrets.

Despite these criticisms, Schliemann's legacy as a pioneer in the field of archaeology remains unchallenged. His discovery of Troy transformed our understanding of the ancient world and laid the foundation for the modern discipline of archaeology. Today, the site of Troy is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracting visitors from around the globe who come to marvel at the ruins of the legendary city that was once lost to time.

Heinrich Schliemann, the dreamer who dug for Troy, will forever be remembered as a visionary archaeologist whose passion and perseverance changed the course of history. His story is a testament to the power of human curiosity, the importance of pursuing one's dreams, and the enduring fascination with the ancient world.

For those who wish to delve deeper into the life and work of Heinrich Schliemann, numerous resources are available. His autobiography, *Ilios: The City and Country of the Trojans*, provides a fascinating firsthand account of his excavations at Troy. Additionally, several biographies and documentaries have been produced, offering insights into his complex personality and the significance of his archaeological discoveries.



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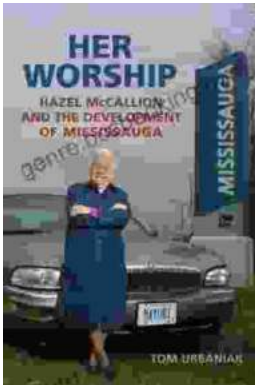
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