



Harrow and Merchant Taylors' Schools - Monday April 30 2007 at 17:30

Where was Homer's Ithaca?



Robert Bittlestone - Chairman, Metapraxis Ltd.

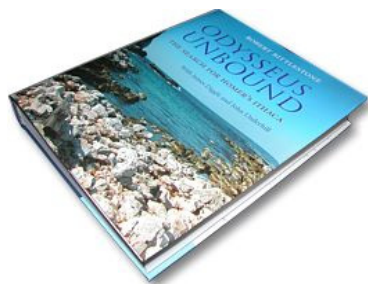
James Diggle - Professor of Greek and Latin at Cambridge and Fellow of Queens' College

John R. Underhill – Professor of Stratigraphy at the Grant Institute of Earth Science, University of Edinburgh

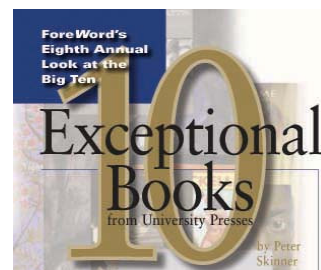


It's the oldest marine adventure in the world. It was already ancient history when Aristotle and Socrates were in the cradle. It has spawned a hundred spin-offs and inspired writers and artists, philosophers and poets, statesmen and soldiers for the last three thousand years. It's the original *Odyssey*: a Bronze Age blockbuster and a cornerstone of Western civilisation. And not surprisingly, most people have presumed that Odysseus' homeland of Ithaca is as imaginary as Ithilien in *Lord of the Rings*.

Robert Bittlestone, James Diggle and John Underhill think they're wrong. On Monday April 30 the authors of *Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca* will present their proposal and the latest discoveries on the island of Cephalonia that can help us decide on whether it really is the island that Homer described in the *Odyssey*. This is a joint event between Harrow School and Merchant Taylors' School, to be held at Harrow. Parents and also students and staff from other schools with an interest in classics, ancient history, geology and computer science are warmly invited to attend, subject to capacity. There is no charge for admission and the seminar will take place at 5.30 p.m at Harrow School, 5 High Street, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 3HP. For further details and to register, contact **Judith Affleck: jpa@harrowschool.org.uk**



Odysseus Unbound: The Search for Homer's Ithaca by Robert Bittlestone, with James Diggle and John Underhill. 618 pages, 340 colour illustrations. Cambridge University Press ISBN 0521853575. RRP £25.00. The book will be available for purchase at the special price of £20, signed by the authors.



www.odysseus-unbound.org

"This curious, spellbinding book is a masterpiece of writing for the general public. The geological argument in particular is first-class and leaves me in no doubt about the possibility of the theory being proposed."

"This book is a gem. Its reconstruction of prehistoric Ithaca has a convincingly Homeric 'look and feel' to it. Reading the *Odyssey* is unlikely ever to be the same again."



"*Odysseus Unbound* has made the final link between real location and Homeric description."



"Paliki-as-island is a sensational hypothesis."

"The account of how he reached his conclusions is clear, engaging, funny, wonderfully illustrated."

"He has had the benefit of expert advice from James Diggle, probably the greatest living Hellenist, and John Underhill, professor at the University of Edinburgh (well known to football fans: he referees)."

"I've just finished reading *Odysseus Unbound* and I have to say that the experience was utterly enthralling from start to finish."



"A fascinating and compelling book."

"I can feel that Odysseus was a real person, and that some sort of journey took place. It was just so amazing and I highly recommend it for anyone who loves Greece, Homer, or the *Odyssey*."



"If the author is correct, this will be one of the most important archaeological discoveries since Schliemann's uncovering of Troy in the late 19th century."



"Scholars will now have to think again about received wisdom on the *Odyssey*."

"Shines a light on the past and its scholarly achievement must be acknowledged."



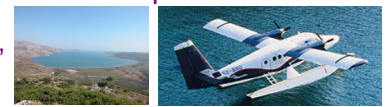
"The photos are beautiful, the logic is elegant, the science is very educational, and the conclusion is convincing."

"This is my recommendation for the 2005 book of the year."



"Lavishly illustrated, *Odysseus Unbound* uses 21st-century technology to affirm the genius of the past."

"The reader's reward is truly thrilling detection supported by breathtaking illustration."



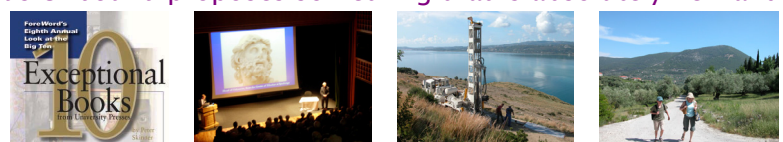
"This wonderfully enjoyable archaeological detective story...teaches us more about Homer than a whole shelf of Classics commentaries."

"I have never read anything anywhere that made me so well understand the awful power of Poseidon."



"A remarkable book by any standards...has opened up a fascinating path for others to follow further."

"There is no doubt whatever that, in its essence, *Odysseus Unbound* proposes something that is absolutely new and of permanent value."



"Epic begets epic: stupendous and thought-provoking."

"It is not possible in a short review to convey how methodically both textual and topographic evidence are harmonized in the author's riveting argument."

"This beautifully produced book, illustrated throughout in colour, chronicles the author's full-scale, ultimately convincing attempt to prove this thesis."



"*Odysseus Unbound* presents a highly readable personal account of what can happen when an enthusiast with a compelling synthetic vision glimpses a solution no specialist has seen."

www.odysseus-unbound.org

"The account of his attempt to prove his thesis by use of geological evidence, by walking the ground and by consulting the philological background for which he had scholarly help, is riveting."

<http://www.cambridge.org/uk/0521853575>
IRIS readers- 20% discount code: 11869Z

"His theory is fundamentally simple...and it is almost certainly correct. This confirmation of literary inference by the heavy weapons of modern science and technology is a major triumph."