



## **TROY DREAM AND REALITY**

**16 November 2001 to 17 February 2002**

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. the poet Homer created the 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey' grand epics, marking the beginning of Western literature. Ever since then, Troy has characterized more than just a city of antiquity in Asia Minor. As a legend it has captured people's imagination for over centuries and continues to be referred to by artists, poets and writers, even today. In 1998, Troy was declared world cultural heritage by UNESCO.

For the first time an exhibition has been dedicated to presenting this exciting theme comprehensively. Placed within a dynamic relationship between dream and reality, the exhibition provides the visitor with the opportunity to explore a many-faceted and fascinating view of Troy. Homer and his Iliad, Troy and the Trojan War as well as the treatment of this theme by authors, poets and artists of antiquity, the middle ages as well as modernity represent the dream vision of Troy. This is contrasted by its real prehistoric geographic position as a city built on a hill situated in the Dardanelles, and as it has become presented to us through archaeological evidence produced by Heinrich Schliemann and the up-to-date research undertaken by the international archaeological team lead by Manfred Korfmann since 1988. Today, the research on the city of Troy is not concerned with the romantic vision of discovering the true site of the Trojan War. It is about determining the strategic importance of the city's location at the strait between the Aegean and the Sea of Marmara and its relevance in the Hittite-Mycenaean world of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century B.C.

In this exhibition the Iliad's world of Gods and Heroes will come alive through precious original manuscripts, written records and depictions on antique ceramics and sculptures. Medieval manuscripts, paintings of the modern age, prints and applied art objects show that the fascination with this theme has remained unbroken throughout history and art history, enjoying further popularity in modern advertising and caricature.

The archaeological section presents unique finds which have never been seen before outside of Turkey: a man-sized storage vessel, fine tableware used by the nobility as well as precious jewelry and weapons, among other things.

The exhibition, which has been on view in Stuttgart and Braunschweig, has been augmented by a few highlights for its presentation in Bonn, which includes the cast of a unique Hellenistic Polyxena sarcophagus and replicas of Priamos' 'treasure' discovered by Heinrich Schliemann. A particular attraction is a new large-formatted computer reconstruction of Troy I-IX produced by ART+COM, Berlin and sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. This interactive projection brings the city's various historical phases and landscape to life in real time and integrates various exhibits on display.

The exhibition is accompanied by a comprehensive book – including color illustrations – which is available for DM 49,- / €25,- as well as an exhibition guide for DM 15,- / €7,50. In addition, a brochure explaining the exhibition 'Troy – Compact Knowledge. Legend and Archaeology' is available for DM 6,- / €3,-



The most recent research results on the relationship between Troy and the Hittites will be presented in the exhibition „The Hittites – People of a Thousand Gods“, which will be on view from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2002, for a time also parallel to the exhibition on Troy.

**Trojan Elegies. Accompanying Program to the Exhibition.**

In January and February 2002 scholarly lectures, literary readings, musical stagings and a historical film will treat selected aspects regarding Troy's reality and world of concepts. In cooperation with the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), a one-day symposium will be held on 'German Archaeology in Foreign Countries – Foreign Cultural Policy and Promotion of Science'. The actual dates and contents of all accompanying program events are published in a separate program brochure, which also contains the workshop program for children, youths and adults as well as school classes.

**The exhibition has been organized in cooperation with the Archaeological State-Museum of Baden-Württemberg at Stuttgart, the Troy-Project of the Institute for Pre- and Early History and Medieval Archaeology at Eberhard-Karls-University in Tübingen, the Regional Museum of Brunswick, the Duke-Anton-Ulrich-Museum, the State-Museum of Art of Lower Saxony at Brunswick, the City of Brunswick and the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany at Bonn.**

The exhibition is under the auspices of the Turkish President H.E. Ahmet Necder Sezer and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Johannes Rau.

It has been generously supported by the T.C. Ministry of Culture – General Management of Antiquities and Museums, Ankara

**The Press Conference will take place on Thursday, 15th November 2001 at 11 a.m. in the Forum of the Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany.**

**Further Information:**

Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
[Art and Exhibition Centre of the Federal Republic of Germany]  
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 4, 53113 Bonn

Press

Telephone +49 (0)228-9171-204/5/6 Fax +49 (0)228-9171-211  
www.bundeskunsthalle.de / e-mail: [majer-wallat@kah-bonn.de](mailto:majer-wallat@kah-bonn.de)