

The project, conceived as an investigation at the interface between Hittitology and Classical studies, aims to explore two interconnected topics: ethnical and political history of western Anatolia in the Late Bronze Age (15th-13th c. BC) and Early Iron Age (12th-9th c. BC) as derivable from historical sources, on the one hand, and their reflection in the poetic diction of Homer which one dates to ca. 8th c. BC, on the other. Depicting circumstances of the Trojan War in the Iliad, Homer describes both the composition of the Greek host which came to lay siege to Troy and that of the Trojan alliance embracing the peoples who came to help Priam; these are succinctly captured in the so-called Catalogue of Ships (Hom. Il. 2.484-759) and the Trojan Catalogue (Hom. Il. 2.816-877) respectively. However, the Trojan Catalogue, which presents in a nutshell the ethno-political structure of western Anatolia and a part of southern Thrace, has been given in the modern scholarship much less attention than its Greek counterpart. This is due to the fact that the extant Greek historical works preserve only scanty information on the earliest history of western Anatolia, and that west-Anatolian archaeology has produced hitherto much less pertinent material evidence than one has about the Mycenaean and Early Iron Age Greece (Troy/Hissarlık is practically the only notable exception). There is, however, a different source of information on the Late Bronze Age western Anatolia: Hittite cuneiform texts. Some evidence of this kind has been earlier drawn into the discussion of the historical background of the Iliad (most prominently in the recent works by J. Latacz); however, this concerned only a few particular issues, such as, for instance, the figure of Paris-Alexander, whose name is comparable with Alaksandu of Hittite texts, or the localization and significance of Troy-Ilion in the Late Bronze Age. Another point of debate is the problem of mention of the Mycenaean Greeks in the Hittite texts (the so-called 'Ahhiyawa question'). However, no systematic comparison of the Homeric picture with that emerging from the Hittite sources has been made, which results in a certain misconception about the preservation of the Anatolian material in the Homeric poems. One of the main goals of the project is to fill this gap, presenting a comprehensive study of all the cuneiform evidence concerning western Anatolia and performing its systematic comparison with the picture given in the Trojan Catalogue. The aim of this comparison is to establish to what extent the Iliad preserves authentic memories about peoples and lands of the Bronze Age Anatolia. However, some facts about the Trojan Catalogue (e.g., the presence in it of the Phrygians) clearly suggest that it cannot be, in its present form, a genuine document of the Bronze Age; some of its elements should root in later periods. For understanding the complex history of formation of the Catalogue, Greek sources on the history of western Anatolia in the Early Iron Age thus prove to be no less essential than the Hittite texts, and their systematic study is set as another important aim of the project. The investigation of the ethnic composition of early western Anatolia is further to be supplemented with linguistic analysis of the relevant toponymic and onomastic material, preserved both in Hittite and Greek sources (including the Iliad). It may be hoped that the results of the project will significantly contribute both to fuller apprehension of western Anatolia as a distinctive region pivotal for the Greek-Anatolian cultural interaction and to understanding the mechanisms of preservation and transmission of historical memories within an oral composition.