

The Heroon of Odysseus in Ithaca. Reconsidered
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In 2009 Professor Buchholz published a paper in the honorary volume for Professor Iakovidis “*Δώρον*” suggesting that the Heroon of Odysseus (Odysseion), the existence of which is known alone from an inscription of the Hellenistic period (208 B.C.), cannot have been the cave on the shore at the Polis bay (Louizos cave) but most probably at the site of School of Homer.¹

My aim is to reconsider his suggestion in the light and on the basis of the already known to him archaeological data from the pre-War British excavations and those deriving from the recent excavation project of the University of Ioannina in the island of Ithaca (1994-2011) and especially at the site of School of Homer. It is worthy to note that some of them and the most important came to light during the three digging seasons (2009-2011) and therefore after the writing of the Buchholz’s paper.

I argue, agreeing with the opinion of the British excavators and other scholars, and mainly on my longtime experience and knowledge of Ithaca, that the “heroon of Odysseus” or *Odysseion* is to be sought at the Polis bay and to my mind it cannot be elsewhere than this site. On the other hand, I consider, based on the presented here recent archaeological finds, that “School of Homer” covers an important and strategic prehistoric acropolis and administrative residence, commanding the most fertile area of the small and rocky island and inhabited throughout the Bronze Age until the Hellenistic and Roman times.²

¹ Buchholz H.-G., « Some remarks concerning the Heroon of Odysseus at Ithaca” in Daniilidou D. (ed.), ΔΩΡΟΝ. *Τιμητικός Τομος για τον Καθηγητή Σπύρο Ιακωβίδη* (Ακαδημία Αθηνών Κεντρον Ερευνής της Αρχαιότητος, Σειρά Μονογραφιών 6, Athens 2009, 127-142

² Benton S, *BSA* 35(1934)45ff., 39(1938) 1ff, 44 (1949) 307ff., .Heurtley H.W., *BSA* 40 (1943) 11.; .Stubbings F.H., *A Companion to Homer*, 418-19; Lorimer H.L., *Homer and the Monuments*, 499;.Desborough V.R.d’A, *LMTS*, 108, idem, *GDA*, 88; Hägg R., *OpAth*, 8, 1968, 51; .Hope Simpson R. and.Dickinson O.T.P.K, *Gazetteer*, 186; .Rutkowski B., *The Cult Places of the Aegean*, (1986), 210; .Μαζαρακης-Αιτιάν Α, *Όμηρος και Αρχαιολογία*, Athens, 2000, 58-60; Αλεξίου Στ, *Ποικίλα Ελληνικά, Μελέτες*, (Athens 2009) 25, Θανάσης& Λίσα Παπαδόπουλος, *Προϊστορική Αρχαιολογία Δυτικής Ελλάδας και Ιόνιων νησιών*, University of Ioannina 2003, 186-217.