



The ANU (Canberra) Friends of the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens warmly invite you to an illustrated lecture by the 2025 AAIA Gale Visiting Professor

PROFESSOR ALEXANDER MAZARAKIS AINIAN

“Homer and Archaeology”: is the quest worth pursuing?

Thursday 28 August at 8.00pm

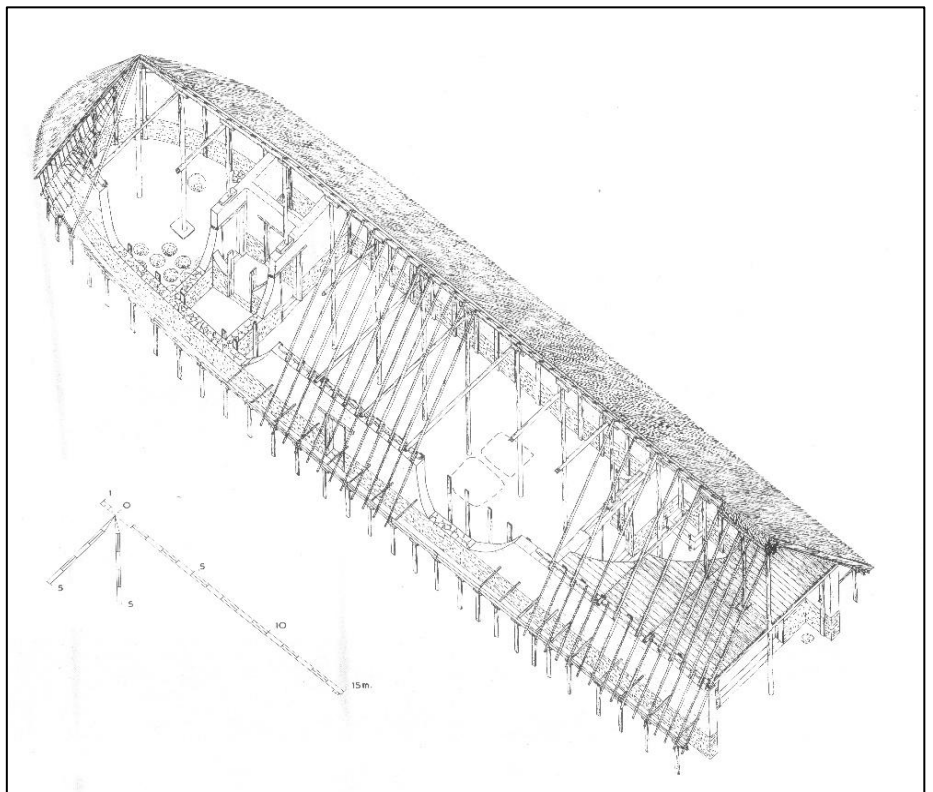
Apollo Room, Hellenic Club Woden

Since Heinrich Schliemann's excavations in the late nineteenth century at Troy and Mycenae, there has been a continuous quest to prove the presence of historical truth underlying the Homeric epics. From the mid 20th century onwards, thanks to new archaeological discoveries, this debate was greatly expanded by scholars who tried to link numerous aspects of the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age material culture with the poems, with opinions varying significantly. Homeric issues even became the focus of political manipulations within modern geopolitical views in the Aegean itself. This talk reviews these developments and assesses whether it is still worth pursuing a connection between objects and epics, or if it is pointless to continue posing such questions.

Alexander Mazarakis Ainian, was born in Athens in 1959. After studying at the Free University of Brussels and completing his PhD at the University of London, he taught at several universities in Greece and elsewhere. He is now Professor of Classical Archaeology at the University of Thessaly, based in Volos. He has worked on a range of Greek archaeological sites, including Skala Oropos, Marathon, Nea Makri and Vari (all in Attika), Kythnos (in the Cyclades), Soros (Magnesia), and Kefala (on Skiathos).

His extensive publications include 30 excavation reports, four books plus a number of edited collections, and 90 articles. Of especial relevance to this lecture is *Homer and archaeology* (Athens 2000; in Greek). He has organised numerous conferences and symposia, including a series on archaeological work in Thessaly and central Greece.

His main field of specialisation is the archaeology and architecture of Early Iron Age and Archaic Greece and Homeric Archaeology, as well as ancient Greek religion and sanctuaries of the Geometric through the Classical periods. In recent years he has also specialised in underwater archaeology.



J. Coulton and H.W. Catling, Lefkandi II.2, 1990