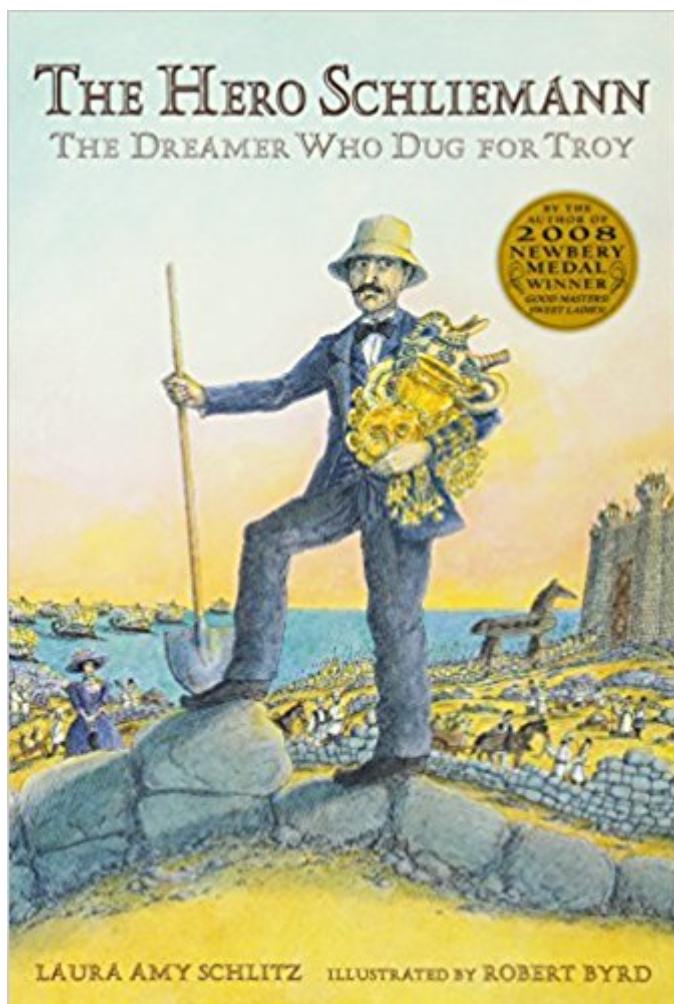


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# The Hero Schliemann: The Dreamer Who Dug For Troy



## Synopsis

Archaeologist? Mythmaker? Crook? This engaging, illustrated biography of Heinrich Schliemann — a nineteenth-century romantic who most believe did find the ancient city of Troy — reveals him to be a fascinating mixture of all three. From the time Heinrich Schliemann was a boy — or so he said — he knew he was destined to dig for lost cities and find buried treasure. And if Schliemann had his way, history books would honor him to this day as one of the greatest archaeologists who ever lived. But a little digging into the life of Schliemann himself reveals that this nineteenth-century self-made man had a funny habit of taking liberties with the truth. Like the famous character of his hero, the poet Homer, Schliemann was a crafty fellow and an inventor of stories, a traveler who had been shipwrecked and stranded and somehow survived. And Heinrich Schliemann was determined to become a legend like Homer — but in his own time. Following this larger-than-life character from his poor childhood in Germany to his achievement of wealth as a merchant in Russia, from his first haphazard dig for the city of Ilium to his final years living in a pseudo "Palace of Troy," this engrossing tale paints a portrait of contradictions — a man at once stingy and lavishly generous, a scholar both shrewd and reckless, a speaker of twenty-two languages and a health fanatic addicted to cold sea baths. Laura Amy Schlitz weaves historical facts among Schliemann's fanciful recollections, while Robert Byrd's illustrations evoke his life and times in wonderful detail. Along the way, **THE HERO SCHLIEMANN** gives young readers food for discussion about how history sometimes comes to be written — and how it sometimes needs to be changed.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 4-6  
Schliemann wished to make a name for himself in archaeology, and he succeeded to a point. He exaggerated the truth, avoided proper procedures for the digs he financed, and his discovery of the ancient city of Troy was fraught with errors and misconceptions. Schlitz paints a colorful picture of a selfish man who used his shrewdness and earned wealth to create a mythological and romantic legend. This intriguing, well-documented biography is made more compelling by information boxes on history and such literary figures as Homer. Byrd's ink-and-watercolor illustrations, both diminutive and full page, add to this captivating story.  
Rita Soltan, Youth Services Consultant, West Bloomfield, MI Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 4-6. In this slim biography, Schlitz introduces Heinrich Schliemann, a nineteenth-century "storyteller, archaeologist, and crook," who led a search for the lost cities of Homer's epic poems. In a colorful narrative, Schlitz follows her subject from his unhappy German childhood and successes as an international merchant to his middle-aged passion for archaeology and antiquities, which "was not unusual for a man of his time." The author is frank about Schliemann's unreliability, noting that he lied in his diary and that "it's hard to know what really happened and what he made up." The appended source notes only reference direct quotes, but Schlitz separates fact from Schliemann's lies in many instances, and the difference between the two may spark interesting class discussions about how history is made and slanted over time. Aspiring archaeologists will also be drawn by discussion of field techniques in the days before radiocarbon dating. Byrd's detailed drawings extend the dramatic story. Gillian Engberg  
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This is first and foremost a good story, well told, with a style lively and lucid enough to engage all readers, not just kids. It is well-researched, well-documented and just plain captivating. Both text and illustrations (Robert Byrd) have a gentle humor that almost make the reader unaware of how

much information is being presented. By portraying Schlieman honestly but with sympathy, Amy Schlitz very likely will inspire young readers to believe they too can follow their dreams wherever they lead. (My first review for , and I don't know either author or illustrator. I just admire the book.)

My daughter had this book on her summer reading list for 6th grade. She really liked this book.

Short, historical, easy to read! We enjoyed learning about this eccentric character through this book!

This is about an awful man, but what a man! He's devious, deceptive, lucky, pathetic, poor, brilliant, then rich--wow.His real life was amazing, but I want to read about heroes, and he's NOT heroic. There's nothing wrong with the author's writing ability, but she picked such a loser of a man to write about that I wasn't rooting for him.Can I recommend this book? Only if you're really interested in ancient Troy.

a childrens book. Very nice. I found the author a little too cynical about Schleimann who was a real romantic

Schliemann, Laura Schlitz notes wryly, had "lie" in the middle of his name. With wit and feeling, she brings to life his entertaining true adventures--and his entertaining lies. He is real, and very human: Brilliant. Arrogant. Maddening. Improbable. And very, very lucky. We get to see his triumphs and his flaws, to root for him and be appalled by him, to enjoy his life and be saddened by his death.This is for children with an interest in archaeology, history, Greek mythology--or just a great story. It is so well told that it may spark new interests: It tells a bit about Homer, the Iliad, and the Odyssey; it contains an easy, amusing explanation of "stratification"--the layers that archaeologists must dig through, and the history contained in each; and there are notes on the bibliography to guide readers who want to know more.Robert Byrd's fanciful illustrations capture the grandeur and humor perfectly.

A thoroughly entertaining book for ages 10-15 about Heinrich Schliemann. Schliemann is famous for championing the idea that Troy was beneath the mound at Hisarlik, but also infamous for his lying, stealing, and enormous ego. One of the famous archaeologists who ever lived, he spoke 22 languages and discovered famous relics all over Greece and Turkey. My 11 y o loved the book. The text is accompanied by illustrations and helpful timelines.

" The true measure of a career is to be able to be content, even proud, that you succeeded through your own endeavors without leaving a trail of casualties in your wake."Alan Greenspan-Dishonesty-----The "... hot headed, touchy, and dreamy..."[pg. 61] egomaniac, "Storyteller, archaeologist, and crook -- Heinrich Schliemann left his mark upon the world."[72] thanks to his vivid "... imagination changed archaeology forever." [pg.72] through misrepresentation of facts which paid off handsomely. "I have had more luck than foresight in my life," he admitted. It could also be said that he made his own luck."[72.] "... his enemies simply could not stand him. They were disgusted by his romanticism, his boasting, his hysterical excitement... a shrill and vulgar little man." [pg. 56.] He was offensive:-- with regard to the meeting of his second wife "The Engastromenos family was excited by the prospect of having a millionaire in the family..." [pg. 38]. "When Heinrich spoke to her alone he asked her point-blank, 'Why do you wish to marry me?' Sophia replied, 'Because my parents have told me that you are a rich man!'" [pg. 38]. Infuriated, he pondered that "truth hurts." In the marriage, the much younger Sophia was wise in thought "...Henry was a genius and that geniuses were not quite like other people."-- Instead of carefully sifting through the mound, layer by layer, he decided to dig out vast trenches -- rather as if he were removing slices from a cake... And so he dug, violently and impatiently. Frank Calvert advised him to proceed with care, to sift through what he was throwing away, but Heinrich was not a cautious man. He wacked away at the mound as if it were a piñata. Modern archaeologists do not dig like this. They remove the earth gently and keep detailed records of what they find. If they find an artifact that isn't what they're hoping to find, they don't discard the artifact: they change their ideas. Instead of looking for something, they examine whatever comes to light. Heinrich, of course, was looking for Homer's Troy. 'Troy.. was sacked twice,' modern archaeologists remark, 'once by the Greeks and once by Heinrich Schliemann.' It is generally agreed that Schliemann did more damage than the Greeks." [pages 40-41.]--"The admission 'I shared Frank Calvert's opinion' changed gradually to 'Frank Calvert, the famous archaeologist... shares my opinion...' Eventually Heinrich who admitted that he was 'a braggart and a bluffer,' made the discovery sound as if it were his alone." [pg. 35.] Had this book or one similar to it, accompanied my forced reading in middle school of The Iliad, it may have been less an ordeal. Teachers, think about including interesting extra reading material when having your students read The Iliad (and the like), lest you lose them! Graverobber mentality, scary man, scary book!

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